

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Overcarsh House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 326 West Eighth Street

not for publication

city, town Charlotte

vicinity of

state North Carolina

code 037

county Mecklenburg

code 119

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Calvin E. Hefner

street & number 326 West Eighth Street

city, town Charlotte

vicinity of

state N. C. 28202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mecklenburg County Courthouse

street & number 800 East Fourth Street

city, town Charlotte

state N. C. 28202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

The Overcarsh House in Charlotte's Fourth Ward is one of the few remaining Queen Anne houses in Charlotte. Laid out in a basic rectangular plan, the structure has various architectural features which give it the appearance of irregular massing generally associated with the style--specifically extended bays on the west and southwest elevations, a tower on the southeast, and decorative gables. Originally a small, two-room dwelling, the structure was added on to until around 1900 when it attained its present appearance. It has long been a landmark in Charlotte's Fourth Ward.

The house sits on a brick foundation and is sheathed in plain weatherboards with the exception of the tower which is covered with scalloped shingles. The main body of the structure has a hipped roof, but gable roofs cover the extended bays and the wings while the tower has a conical roof.

A shallow porch shelters the main south entrance and carries around the east side a short distance and continues across the south front of the one story east ell. The tin roof is supported by square columns with intermediate chamfered edges and carved brackets. The porch railing is a geometric pattern with turned, widely spaced posts connected with alternate molded and fluted rails. The porch ceiling is covered with narrow beaded boards.

On the west elevation is a two-story gable-roof bay with angled corners containing windows on each floor. The center segment of the bay contains flat oval windows set at eye level. In the gable face is a pattern of vertical, horizontal, and diagonal boards. Above this is a pattern of fan-shaped woodwork.

At the southwest corner of the house is a tower sheathed in scalloped shingles capped with a conical roof. Intermittently along the tower the shingles flare out to form distinctive patterns. The tower rises above the roofline of the main house and has small attic windows above two tall full-length windows which occur on the levels below. The slate roof rises above carved brackets.

A third extended bay occurs on the second story of the house's southeast corner. It contains one full-sized window and is topped by a diagonally set gable roof.

The east one-story wing is covered with a slate gable roof. In the gable end are scalloped shingles. The roofline has a wide bargeboard with decorative carved ends. Access to the wing from the outside is through a door which opens off the porch. The door has a unique patterned glass transom.

Windows are two-over-two in the main block with plain, flat, or crossetted surrounds, six-over-six in the east wing with molded surrounds, and six-over-nine in the rear section with flat and crossetted surrounds.

The house is entered through heavy panelled oak doors with glass inserts at eye level. The surround is molded with elaborate corner blocks above a pineapple motif. The center hall contains tongue and groove wainscot above a low baseboard. The floor is constructed of narrow pine boards. Access to the back stair hall is through a doorway with Eastlake surrounds. The stair is anchored by a square newel post topped with a ball ornament. A molded handrail is carried on turned and carved balusters.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 1

Two rooms open off either side of the center hall. The living room is in the southwest corner and tower. The room is wallpapered, and like the hall, has narrow pine floors and Eastlake surrounds. A Colonial Revival mantel is on the north wall.

Behind the living room is the dining room, a wallpapered room with an Eastlake mantel. A bar and pantry are located between the dining room and the kitchen. The kitchen, located in the oldest section of the house, contains a two-panel exterior door.

Beside the kitchen is a den which was originally a back porch. It was converted in the 40s or 50s and contains vertical white pine sheathing and a new six panel door. A laundry room and a bathroom can be reached from the den.

South of the den--opposite the dining room--is a room used as an office. This room has molded surrounds. South of the office and opposite the living room, is a parlor. It has narrow pine floors, molded surrounds, and a Colonial Revival mantel.

The east wing, which opens off of the office, has wide pine floors and fluted surrounds and contains a built-in book case.

The upstairs hall is one continuous space sheathed in tongue and groove wainscot with a beaded chair rail. Four simply-finished bedrooms open off of the hall, three of which retain their original mantels.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1898 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

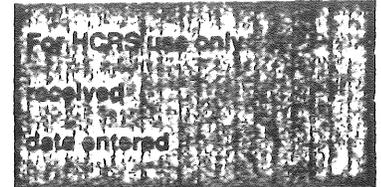
The Overcarsh House, a handsome Queen Anne style house in Charlotte's Fourth Ward and one of only a few significant surviving Queen Anne style houses in the city, carries the name of the Overcarsh family who occupied it for three generations from their acquisition of the property in 1879 until 1966. The house is a grand enlargement of a small two room house--now the rear shed of the present house--which was the residence of tinsmith Daniel H. Byerley. It would appear that Elias Overcarsh began the expansion of the house shortly after 1879 and that it arrived at its present appearance, through a series of efforts, by his death in 1898. Elias Overcarsh, a native of Rowan County, was licensed as a Methodist minister in 1870 and served as a minister until his death, achieving prominence in Mecklenburg County where he ministered to eight congregations. The house was afterward the residence of his son Bryan Jefferson Overcarsh, a businessman and his son Bryan J. Overcarsh, Jr., for a number of years head cashier of North Carolina National Bank. In 1966 the house was sold out of the family. It was designated as a local historic property by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission in 1976.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

- B. The Overcarsh House is associated with the lives of members of the Overcarsh family who occupied it from 1879 until 1966. Elias Overcarsh (1821-1898), the builder of the house, was a prominent Methodist minister. His son and grandson Bryan Jefferson Overcarsh, Sr. and Jr. were members of the Charlotte business community.
- C. The Overcarsh House, erected in a series of efforts between 1879 and 1898, is one of the few significant surviving Queen Anne style houses in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Its handsomely finished tower, porch, bays and gables, as well as its interior woodwork is representative of the better vernacular houses erected in the late 19th century in the Carolina piedmont.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 1

The Elias Overcarsh House is located at the corner of Pine and West Eighth streets in Charlotte's fourth ward. The house is believed to have been built by Overcarsh shortly after his 1879 purchase of two adjacent lots from Daniel H. Byerly. The house has been added to by the Overcarsh family a number of times since. It is possible that Overcarsh utilized all or part of a smaller house already on the lot when it was purchased from Byerly.

Byerly was a tinsmith by trade. He appears in Branson's Business Directory throughout the 1860s and 1870s, dealing in tinware, stoves, and hardware. The 1870 census lists Byerly as a resident of the fourth ward, along with his wife Jane, four children, and an apprentice tinsmith. He was credited with a personal estate of \$2,500. An 1877 map published by F. W. Beers shows Byerly living in a house on the lot he owned.⁸ However, Elias Overcarsh only paid \$750 for the two lots, which indicates that most, if not all, of the large Queen Anne house was built by Overcarsh.¹

Elias Overcarsh was a native of Rowan County, where he was born in 1821. His parents were Jacob and Katherine Overcarsh. He was of German ancestry and was a grandson of Franz Oberkirsh, who helped found Rowan County's Organ church. Elias was educated locally. In 1849 he married Matilda Susan Mayhew, daughter of William and Ann Mayhew of Iredell County. She was a Methodist and converted Elias to that denomination from the Lutheran faith of his youth. He taught school in Hickory Grove and Prospect before moving to Charlotte in 1866, where he continued to teach. Overcarsh was also a grocer in Charlotte.²

In 1870 Overcarsh was licensed as a Methodist minister by the Quarterly Methodist Conference Meeting. He remained a minister until his death in 1898. He served eight congregations: Fair Prospect, Calvary Mission, Hebran, Big Springs, Hickory Grove, Harrisons, Trinity, and Dows. He was regarded as one of Mecklenburg's best known ministers, and had some local recognition as a poet.³

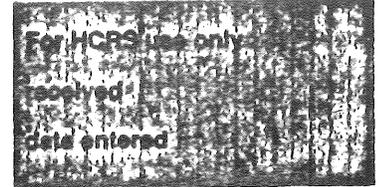
Elias and Matilda Overcarsh had seven children, three of whom died in infancy. The four who survived to adulthood were William, Catherine, John, and Bryan. In 1896 the Reverend and Mrs. Overcarsh deeded their house and property to their son Bryan Jefferson Overcarsh for \$1,000. Mrs. Overcarsh continued to live with her son and his family. Her daughter Catherine Overcarsh, who apparently never married, also continued to live in the house.⁴

Bryan Overcarsh was a businessman. As early as the 1880 census, at age 18, he was listed as a clerk in a store. He was associated with three Charlotte firms during different periods of his life: Wittkowski and Baruch, the Little-Long Company, and Statens. For many years he was a manager of Little-Long, a general merchandising store. In his latter years he was superintendent of the General Independence Building. He had a reputation as an inventor and innovator. He designed and built the prize winning float in a 1909 parade honoring President William Howard Taft. In November of 1892 he married Sarah Bathania Creasy, a Charlotte native and daughter of a Methodist minister. They had five children: Creasy, Edith, Matilda, Bryan, Jr., and William. He died in 1948. Three years prior to that he and his wife deeded the Overcarsh House to their son Bryan, Jr. for ten dollars.⁵

Bryan Overcarsh, Jr., was born in 1903 and lived in the Overcarsh House until ill health forced him to move out shortly before his death in 1965. He was employed by the

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page

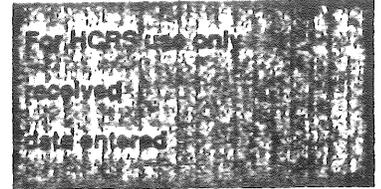
North Carolina National Bank in Charlotte for over 40 years, many of them as head cashier (treasurer). He was also treasurer of the Charlotte Merchants Association. Like his father he was an active member of Charlotte's First Methodist Church. He married Mildred Hartman in 1938. They had no children.⁶

After her husband's death Mrs. Overcarsh sold the house to C. C. Dees in 1966. Mr. Dees rented the property. In 1976 it was purchased by Calvin E. Hefner and Dennis Cudd. Hefner bought out Cudd shortly thereafter and is now the house's sole owner. He is an interior designer.⁷

The Overcarsh House has important historical associations in the fields of religion, business, and civic affairs.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8

Page

NOTES

¹Levi Branson (ed.), North Carolina Business Directories (Raleigh: Various publishers, irregular intervals from 1866 to 1897), 1867-1868, p. 73; 1869, p. 98; 1872, p. 143; 1877-1878, p. 194, hereinafter cited as Branson, North Carolina Business Directory, with appropriate year; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; F. W. Beers, Map of Charlotte, published for the Southern and Southwestern Surveying and Publishing Company, 1877; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 22, p. 436.

²Charlotte Observer, March 30, 1930.

³Charlotte Observer, March 30, 1930; Branson, North Carolina Business Directory, 1884, p. 446; 1890, p. 437; 1897, p. 412.

⁴Charlotte Observer, March 30, 1930; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 110, p. 179.

⁵Charlotte Observer, July 26, 1948; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Mecklenburg County Marriage Index; Telephone interview with W. C. Overcarsh, August 26, 1982, notes in file, hereinafter cited as Overcarsh interview; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1157, p. 204.

⁶Charlotte Observer, October 31, 1965; Overcarsh interview; Mecklenburg County Marriage Index.

⁷Telephone interview with Calvin E. Hefner, August 23, 1982, notes in file.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Charlotte East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	5	1	4	4	2	0	3	8	9	8	6	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See tax map; property being nominated is outlined in red.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Architectural Description prepared by Jo Ann Williford; Statement of Significance and name/title Criteria Assessment by Davyd Foard Hood; Historical Research by Jim Sumner

organization Division of Archives and History date

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

city or town Raleigh state N. C. 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Fica, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

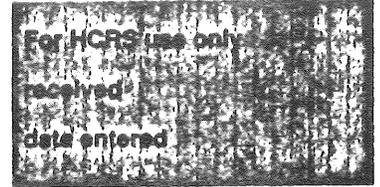
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

Page 1

Beers, F. W. Map of Charlotte, published for the Southern and Southwestern Surveying and Publishing Company, 1877.

Branson, Levi, ed. North Carolina Business Directories. Raleigh: Various publishers, published at irregular intervals from 1866 to 1897.

Charlotte Observer. March 30, 1930; July 26, 1948; October 31, 1965.

Hefner, Calvin E. Telephone interview with. August 23, 1982. Notes in file.

Mecklenburg County Records. Deed Books, Marriage Index. Microfilm copies.
Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Overcarsh, W. C. Telephone interview with. August 26, 1982. Notes in file.

United States Census Office. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

ES
E INTERIOR
IRVEY

513000m E. 514 STATESVILLE 40 MI. 1.8 MI. TO INTERSTATE 85 515 50' 516 4 MI. TO INTERSTATE 85 4854 IV SE (DERITA)

Overcarsh House
Charlotte East Quad.
Zone 17 Scale 1:24000
17 514420/3898660

