

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Rowan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Maxwell Chambers House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 South Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salisbury (Eighth District, Hon. Earl Ruth)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Rowan	CODE 159
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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Trustees of First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
308 West Fisher

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salisbury

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Rowan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
102 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salisbury

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37
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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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina	COUNTY: Rowan	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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Maxwell Chambers House is an interesting two-story frame town house showing several of the stylistic characteristics peculiar to the noted local architect and builder, Jacob Stirewalt. It is covered with weatherboards and has three interior end chimneys, two located at the north end and one to the rear of the south end. The east (main) facade is three bays wide with flush siding under a one-story shed porch that extends the length of the facade. The porch has fluted Doric columns and a balustrade consisting of a molded handrail and simple balusters square in section. Each bay under the porch is divided by fluted pilasters. The main entrance, in the left bay, has flat-paneled reveals and a flat-paneled double door. The remaining bays under the porch and those in the second story contain large windows with six-over-six sash. The molded cornice is quite delicate, featuring a Wall of Troy motif.

The house, which now faces east, originally presented its south gable end to Jackson Street. It was moved several hundred feet down that street from the intersection with Innes Street. This explains the elaborate detail on the south side. The two-bay south gable end, pedimented by the extension of the main cornice, features in the flush-sided tympanum a central round-headed window with geometric tracery. Surrounding the arch is a molded architrave with a small keystone. The window is framed by fluted pilasters supporting an open pediment accented by dentils. The south end of the front porch is adorned by a dentil cornice. In contrast, the north side of the house is treated in a less elaborate fashion. Though it is pedimented, the tympanum contains only a plain rectangular window with six-over-six sash, and the porch has no side cornice.

The rear facade has been altered by the addition of a one-story wing perpendicular to the main block. Originally this facade featured a full-length shed porch similar to that on the front. The south portion of the porch remains, and a newer one has been constructed on the south side of the addition.

Although not seen outside, the work of Stirewalt is readily apparent on the interior of the Maxwell Chambers House. The plan consists of a hall and parlor with two smaller rooms beyond. The hall is dominated by one of the well-executed curving stairs for which Stirewalt is best known. It rises from the left side of the hall and winds across the rear wall. It has a rounded handrail, balusters square in section, a scroll newel, and the characteristic Stirewalt tulip brackets, which he appears to have copied from Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant, published in 1810.

The main (northeast) parlor, like the hall, has walls plastered above an unpaneled wainscot with a dado composed of two wide horizontal boards. This room is the most elaborately finished in the house with a heavy plaster cornice consisting of a narrow foliated border, a wide grapevine band, and an egg-and-dart molding. Beneath each window is a flat panel framed by an extension of the window architrave and the baseboard. The most impressive feature of the parlor is the fine Stirewalt mantel. Essentially it is a three-part Federal mantel with fluted colonnettes supporting a dentil-cornice shelf. Its unusual ornamentation, consisting of small urns on the end blocks and a large oval panel with radiating foliage carved in high relief in the center tablet, is the perfect embodiment of Stirewalt's style, if not actually the work of his own hand.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE North Carolina	
COUNTY Rowan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description

Each of the two smaller rooms on the rear contains a simple Federal mantel and walls plastered above a wainscot similar to that in the parlor. The southwest room, slightly more elaborate, has flat panels below the windows.

The room arrangement on the second floor is most unusual. It consists of four rooms, with the two rooms on the south side divided by a narrow stairwell and hall. The hall serves as a landing for the winding stair that continues to the attic. The stairwell is divided from the hall by a wide semi-circular arch, which springs from molded impostes supported by acanthus consoles. Light is provided for the area by the large round-headed window in the south gable of the attic. The window is framed by a molded architrave and fluted pilasters. In the center of the stairwell ceiling is a large plaster medallion featuring radiating veined acanthus leaves encircled by a border of bellflowers. The largest (northeast) bedroom has walls plastered above a plain wainscot with a flat panel under each window and a heavy reeded plaster cornice. The mantel is adorned with a row of dentils below the molded shelf and has plain end blocks supported by reeded pilasters. The other rooms are similarly finished.

**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)

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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lewis Utzman, a cabinet maker, bought Salisbury town lot 33, the site of the Maxwell Chambers House, from Charles Fisher in 1814 for \$100. In 1819 Utzman sold the same property for \$1,026 to Judge James Martin. The price increase indicates that Utzman built the house while he owned the property.

Like several other houses in the Salisbury area, the Maxwell Chambers House bears evidence of having been built by Jacob Stirewalt. Since his work in general adhered to the usual local building forms, it is identified primarily by the finer interior finish and by the repeated use of certain identifiable motifs.

Judge Martin, originally from Surry County, was the son of James Martin, an officer in the Revolution, and the nephew of Governor Alexander Martin. When Judge Martin in 1836 moved to Mobile, Alabama, he advertised his house for sale together with his household furniture.

The Reverend Thomas F. Davis, Jr., rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, purchased the house in 1840 for \$2,500. This purchase included the entire block on which the house now stands. Maxwell Chambers, a wealthy merchant from whom the house takes its present name, bought the property in 1847 and offered it to his friend, the Reverend Archibald Baker, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, as a manse. The house served this purpose until 1913 when it was moved from the intersection of Innes and Jackson streets to its present location on Jackson Street. The house was later used as a school and then as a Sunday school until 1954 when it was leased for twenty-five years to the Rowan Museum, Inc. This organization has furnished the house and opened it to the public.

The Maxwell Chambers House is an outstanding example of a Federal town house in piedmont North Carolina. Of particular interest is the work of Jacob Stirewalt, a master builder whose distinctive style is evident in its especially well-executed mantels and graceful stair.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carolina Watchman (Salisbury, North Carolina), March 5, 1836.

Rowan County Records, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, North Carolina.  
Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).

Rowan County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh,  
North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills)

**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°	40'	08"	80°	28'	22"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

June 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name

H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date June 8, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

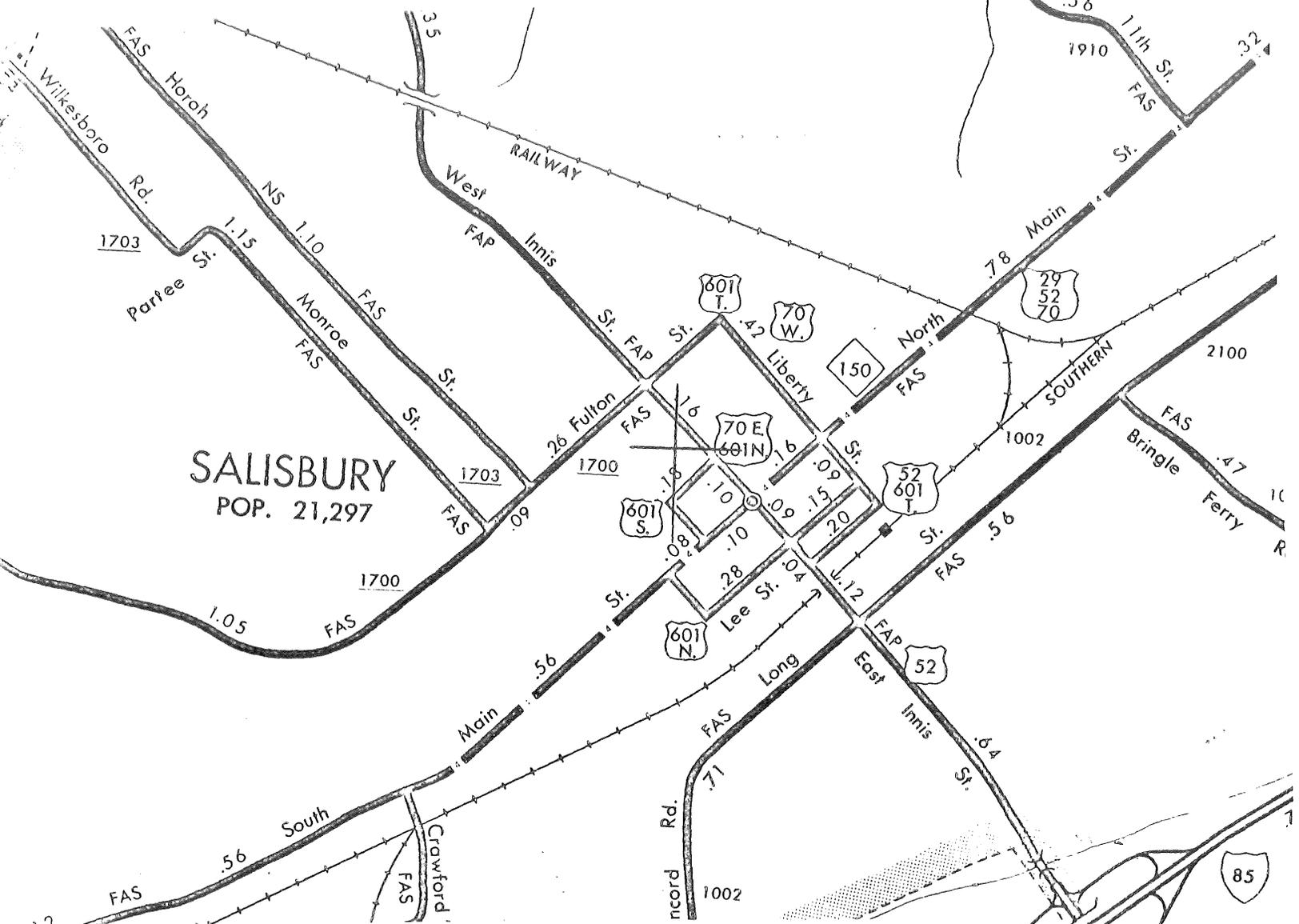
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

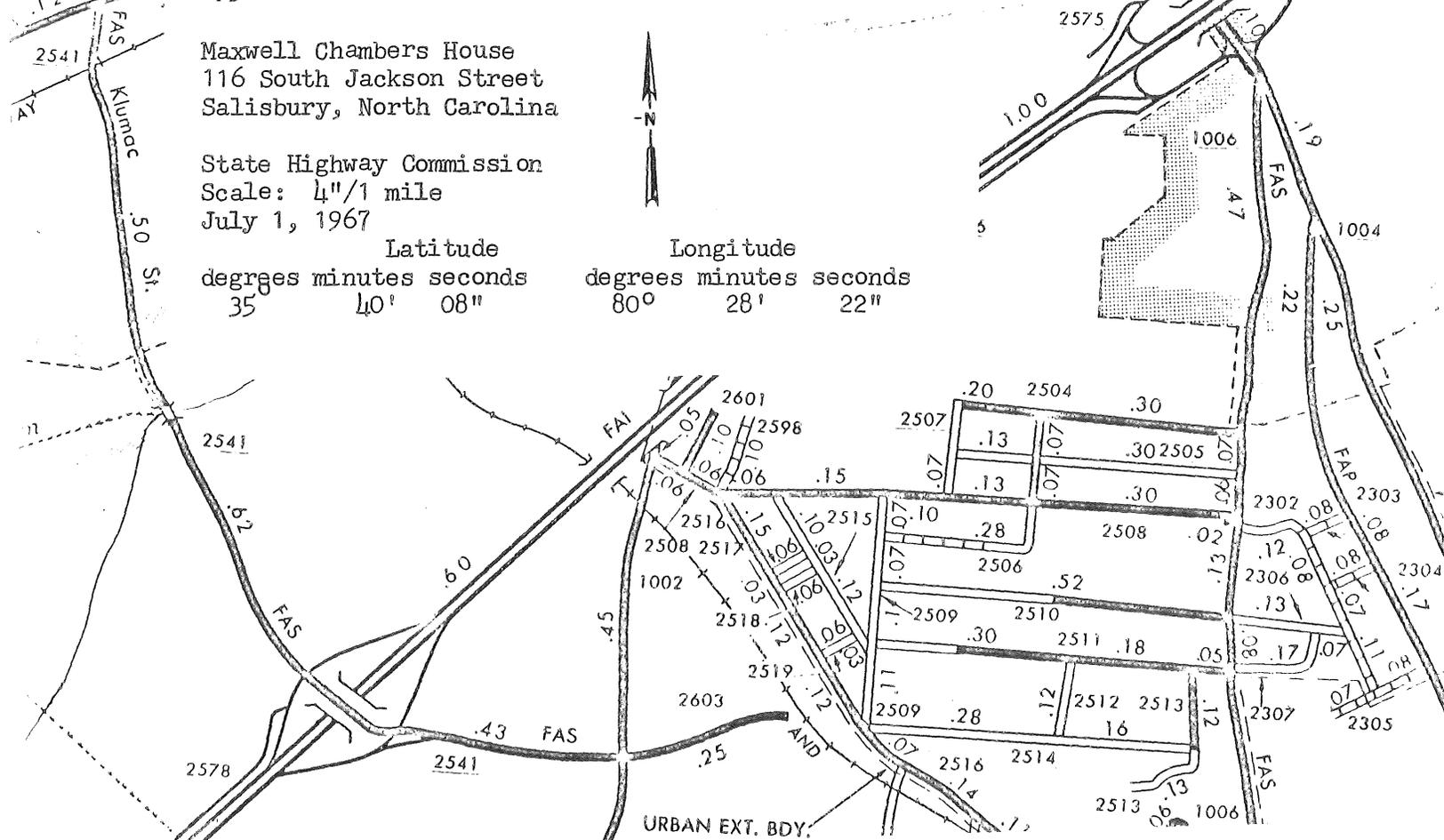


**SALISBURY**  
POP. 21,297

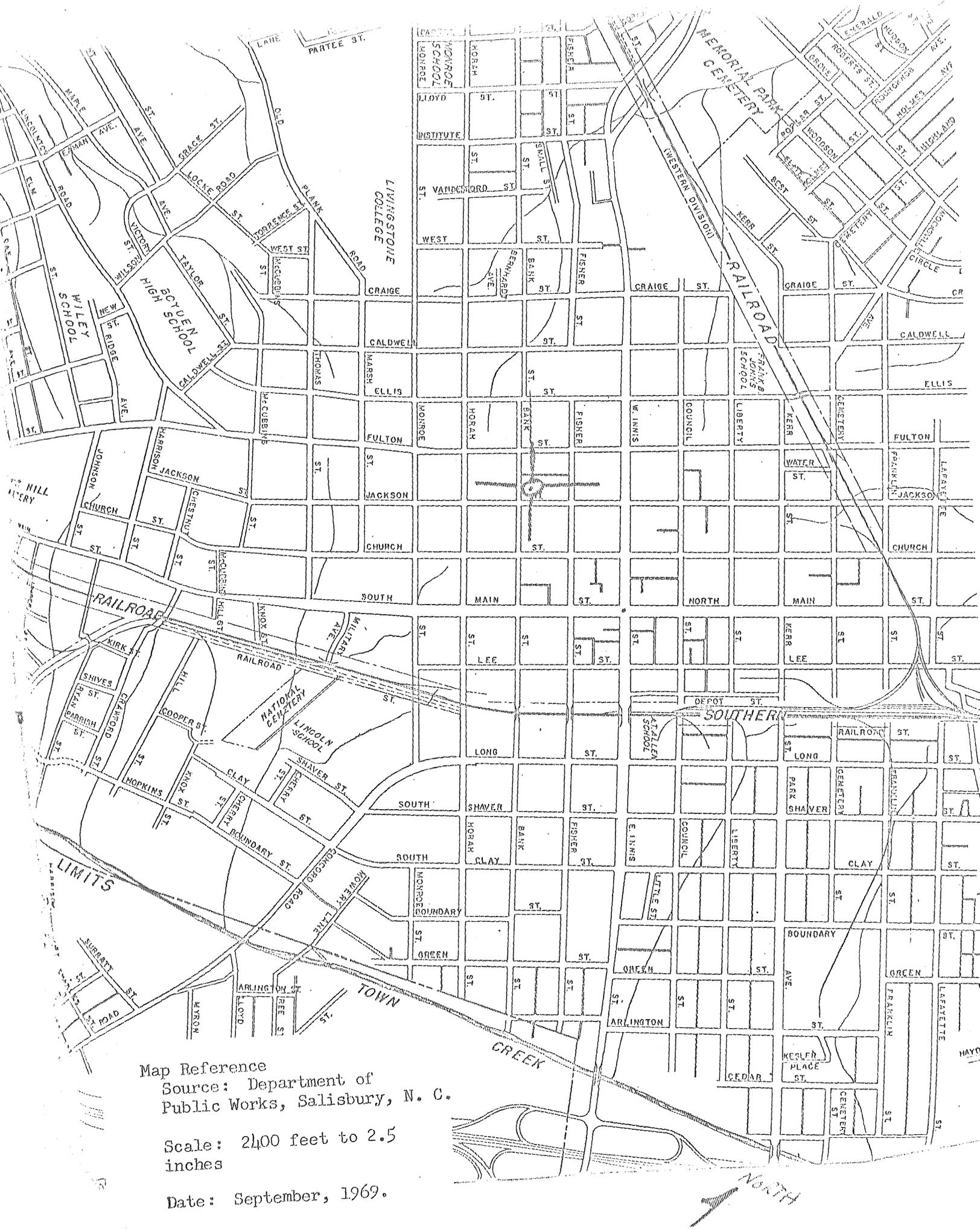
Maxwell Chambers House  
116 South Jackson Street  
Salisbury, North Carolina

State Highway Commission  
Scale: 4"/1 mile  
July 1, 1967

Latitude                      Longitude  
degrees minutes seconds    degrees minutes seconds  
35      40'   08"              80°   28'   22"



URBAN EXT. BDY.



Map Reference  
 Source: Department of  
 Public Works, Salisbury, N. C.

Scale: 2400 feet to 2.5  
 inches

Date: September, 1969.

