

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Attmore-Oliver House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Chapman-Taylor House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
513 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern (First Congressional District, Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Craven	CODE 19
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 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:
New Bern Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
513 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: New Bern	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Craven County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
302 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: New Bern	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:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 Attmore-Oliver House is a two-and-one-half story frame structure covered with beaded weatherboards. It has a gable roof with a shed extension on the rear which covers a double-tier porch. A single-bay porch protects the central entrance of the five-bay front (north) facade. The structure is raised on a Flemish bond foundation and has on each side a pair of single-shoulder chimneys built of brick laid in the same bond.

Archaeological evidence has determined that the house had two major periods of construction. Begun late in the eighteenth century, the original structure seems to have been only one-and-a-half stories high with three chimneys. About 1835 it was raised, given a fourth chimney, and enlarged to its present size and appearance.

These facts account for the varied fenestration, the front having five bays, the rear four, the west side four, and the east side four windows at the first level, one at the stair landing, and three at the second level. On both facades three gable dormers framed by simple pilasters pierce the roof; those on the front having round-headed windows, and those on the rear having trabeated ones. All windows except the rear dormers have louvered shutters. On the first level of the main facade, the windows, framed by fluted architraves with corner blocks, are constructed in such a manner that when the sash is raised a short double-door panel below each can be swung open, giving access to ornamental cast-iron balconies that extend from the front porch to the ends of the facade. Two attenuated Tuscan columns support the flat roof of the porch, which rests on an academic Doric entablature. The entrance, framed like the front windows by a fluted architrave with corner blocks, contains a door of six panels beneath a transom ornamented by a geometric network delicately rendered in wood to resemble leading.

Although having asymmetrical fenestration, the rear facade does have a central entrance on each floor of the porch. The entire facade is protected by the porch and is sheathed with horizontal flush siding. The porch, supported at both levels by simple square posts, is enclosed with a rounded handrail carried on square balusters.

The interior follows a modified center-hall plan two rooms deep, but only three rooms open on to the hall. A secondary hall, containing the stair and opening into the fourth room, occurs in the southwest corner of the house and connects with the main hall to form an L. A molded transverse arch with a keystone springs from pilasters at the junction of the main and secondary halls. Since the foundations indicate that the front door opened directly into the east room, this part of the plan appears to be a result of the circa 1835 renovations. The Federal stair, which rises in two flights separated by a landing, features a tapered newel post, square balusters, and a ramped handrail.

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The interior finish dates from three distinct periods: that installed originally, that added when the house was enlarged later in the nineteenth century, and that installed when the house was restored in the mid-1950s. The earliest elements on both floors are confined to the rooms on the eastern side of the house. The northeast parlor features a simple Adamesque mantel, two-part architraves, a molded chair rail, and a small wooden cornice which is the only early cornice in the house. Similar trim, with cornice and chair rail dating from the restoration, is repeated in the other east room on the first floor as well as in those on the second floor. In the hall and the northwestern parlor on the first floor, symmetrically molded architraves with rondel corner blocks were installed, apparently over the earlier trim, and are contemporary with the Adamesque mantel in the southwest dining room. Curiously, though, this southwest room exhibits the earlier variety of architrave. The mantel in the northwest parlor, also in the Adam style, is a replacement for a marble mantel and was taken from another house during the restoration. Fine gas chandeliers which have been electrified hang in the front parlors and in the dining room. The chair rail and cornice were installed during the restoration.

On the second floor two rooms occupy each side of the house. The woodwork in those on the west side dates from the enlargement period. Each window, surrounded by corner-block architraves, features a paneled apron beneath the sash. Both rooms have identical Adamesque mantels supported on paneled pilasters of which the panel field is slightly convex in horizontal section. Sliding paneled doors separate the rooms. Here, as in the rooms below, the chair rails and cornices date from the restoration.

The L-shaped hall of the two main floors is repeated in the attic, where there are three rooms instead of four. The only fireplace, located in the eastern room, is a very simple one with a molded shelf.

An early brick smokehouse still remains at the rear of the lot. A gambrel-roof house, the Bright-Bishop House, has recently been moved to the lot and is in the process of being remodelled to serve as a historical society gift shop. The appearance of the lot and the building is enhanced by the fine pecan trees, pomegranate bushes, and boxwoods.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Broad Street site on which the Attmore-Oliver House stands, lot number 102 in the plan of New Bern, was transferred to William Wickliffe and his children in 1775, and by Elizabeth Wyckcliffe to Samuel Chapman in 1790. Chapman became clerk of the superior court of Craven County in December, 1788, a position he held until his death in December, 1806. Chapman had served in the Revolution as a lieutenant under General George Washington. After settling in New Bern he became a leading merchant and acquired a large amount of real estate. He was a leader of St. John's Masonic Lodge of the city, and when President Washington arrived in New Bern for a two-day visit in 1791, Chapman, senior warden of the lodge, was on the ceremonial committee appointed to "wait upon" the President.

Chapman probably began construction of his house shortly after his purchase of the lot, so that a date of circa 1790 for the house is reasonable. Certainly the house had been completed by 1806 when Chapman died and his daughter Carolina was given "The House lot & improvements number one hundred and two, on the South side of Broad Street in New Bern, and whereon I now live. . . ."

That house was a story-and-a-half one which has been incorporated into the structure now known as the Attmore-Oliver house. Archaeological work carried out by Stanley South in 1962 established the size and general appearance of the Chapman house. The architectural evidence of alterations to the house in raised chimneys, enlarged and strengthened foundations, and changes on the interior is obvious. It was originally a story-and-a-half cottage with two exterior chimneys on the west end, and only one on the east end and a lean-to addition to the rear. The Chapman estate inventory indicates that the house was well furnished, but tends to bear out the above as well. There were, for example, only "three pr. andirons," and "1 pair of shovels & tongues" in the house.

Carolina Chapman Waring and her husband, Henry, evidently occupied the house until 1834 when it was sold to Isaac Taylor. The architectural and archaeological evidence indicates that the house assumed its present configuration about this time.

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Even though Isaac Taylor purchased the house and held it until his death in 1846, when it went to his daughter's family, he never lived there. His daughter, Mary, had married George Sitgraves Attmore in 1834, and the house and lot were probably a wedding gift to the couple. Taylor, whose own house on Craven Street was one of the handsomest brick residences in the town, would have been able to provide the taste, knowledge, and funds to change the house to its present appearance. Attmore was also a man of distinguished background, being the son of William Penn Attmore, the diarist of Philadelphia, and of Sally Sitgraves Attmore of New Bern. Her father had been a member of the Continental Congress, one of the original trustees of the New Bern Academy, and a judge. Whoever was responsible for the final design and finish of the house, and whether it is attributed to the taste of Attmore or of his wife, it is a handsome building.

The Attmores gave the house and lot to their daughter, Hannah T. Oliver, in 1860, but as noted in an 1885 deed of the property to her children, the 1860 deed had "been misplaced doubtless caused by the removal of the records during the War." The use of the structure during the Civil War years is unknown, but the discovery of much medical and other material of that era during the archaeological investigation in 1962 indicates a possible hospital or U. S. Sanitary Commission use.

The property remained in the family until 1953, when the house was acquired by the New Bern Historical Society. At that time the society undertook the restoration of the house, which required a minimal amount of work. The major change had been the enclosing of portions of the rear porch area for kitchen and bathroom use. Much of the original fabric of the porches remained, however, including posts and some balustrades and much of the flush siding beneath the porches.

As restored, the circa 1834 remodeling of the circa 1790 house is a graphic example of the taste and capability of early nineteenth century builders in New Bern. Its classical street facade, with fine porch and balconies beneath full-length window openings, is totally different from and provides an unusual contrast to, the two-story porch on the rear. In addition, the chimneys, both in placement since they are exterior, and in number since there are four, are unusual in New Bern and notable.

Though furnished with items from the chronological period of occupancy of the house, including an excellent Victorian room, the Attmore-Oliver House now serves as more than a museum, since it is a meeting place for the New Bern Historical Society and for other groups and houses the files of the historical society. Open to the public and frequently used as a visitors' center, the house provides an excellent introduction to the history and architecture of New Bern.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Craven County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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

Moore, Elizabeth. Attmore-Oliver House, leaflet published by the New Bern Historical Society, 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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35	06	19
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77	02	34
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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 9 September 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

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

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 9 September 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

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9.

South, Stanley. Examination of the Chapman-Taylor (Attmore-Oliver) House.
Brunswick Town State Historic Site, State Department of Archives and
History, February, 1962, 30 pps. plus drawings and photographs.



Attmore-Oliver House
 513 Broad Street
 New Bern, North Carolina

Map of New Bern, North Carolina and Vicinity
 by Gilfredo Gonzales, New Bern Chamber of Commerce
 Scale: 1"/1200 feet
 no date

degrees	minutes	seconds
35°	06'	19"

degrees	minutes	seconds
77°	02'	34"



