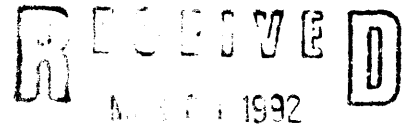


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shelburne, Perry, House

other names/site number Sue Perry Shelburne House; SP-T-48

2. Location

street & number West side of Railroad St. north of Red Row Alley N/A not for publication

city, town Taylorsville N/A vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Spencer code 215 zip code 40071

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date 2-25-92 State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- X entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Helmut Zygar

Entered in the National Register:

4/2/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Other:

Modified saddlebag plan

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/ limestone

walls METAL/ aluminum

WOOD/ weatherboards

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
BLACK ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance  
c. 1880 - 1941

Significant Dates  
ca. 1880

Cultural Affiliation  
NA

Significant Person  
NA

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately one-half acre

UTM References

A 

1	6
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6	4	5	5	2	0
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4	2	1	0	5	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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Taylorsville, Ky. Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is indicated on the accompanying Spencer County Property Identification Map T-2. It includes all of Lot T2-23-14.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Section 7, Continuation Sheet 3.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 15, 1991  
 street & number 1288 1/2 Bassett Avenue telephone 502 456-2397  
 city or town Louisville state KY. zip code 40204

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

## DESCRIPTION

The Perry Shelburne House (SP-T-48) is a two-story wood-framed house with a gable roof and Turn-of-the-Century vernacular detailing. The original c. 1880 portion of the house has a two-door modified saddlebag plan and a central cross gable. A rear wing and a wrap-around front porch probably date from the early years of the 20th century. The house is sided with aluminum on the front and sides and retains its original weatherboards on the rear. It is in need of a number of repairs but appears to be basically sound. The house is located on a long narrow half-acre lot in the eastern part of Taylorsville which fronts on Railroad Street. Access to the house is from the rear along a long driveway that hugs the south property line. The flat, grassed property is landscaped with a number of shade, fruit, and flowering trees. The property is located in an area of Taylorsville historically associated with the black community and earlier which contained a number of small historic houses connected with that community. In recent years a number of these have been demolished due to their deteriorated condition. The Shelburne House is flanked on the north by a vacant lot where a historic house (SP-T-46) once stood and on the south by Red Row Alley, a street laid out in the early 1900s to access a row of small rental houses which today are vacant and in extremely deteriorated condition. To the west, behind the property, are the black community's two historic churches: Second Baptist Church (SP-T-108), located on property associated with the Shelburne House until the 1930s, and Minor Chapel, A.M.E. Church (SP-T-107). The nominated property includes the one-half acre presently associated with the house. It includes one non-contributing car port/shed. The nominated property retains excellent integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, and associations. Although integrity of design and feeling have been somewhat compromised by the addition of aluminum siding, the major portion of the historic exterior and interior detailing that serves to identify the building's style and date remains in place.

The main body of the Shelburne House has a plan identified in the Taylorsville survey completed earlier this year as a modified saddlebag. Two rooms with a central chimney have a front door opening into each room. The house sits on a dry-laid limestone foundation. Its original weatherboard siding is sheathed with aluminum. The front facade has four bays on the first floor with two central doors flanked by two windows and three symmetrically placed windows on the second floor. The ends of the house do not

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

have windows on the first floor. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. The gable roof is detailed with a central cross gable aired by an attic vent. Vents are also located in the side gable ends.

Additions to the house include the wrap-around front porch, the two-story rear wing, and two rear porches all of which date from about 1900 to 1920. The flat-roofed front porch rests on historic rough-cut concrete-block piers. It has a wooden floor and Tuscan columns. The rear wing has an interior end chimney on the back wall. A large one-story porch at the back of the wing has been filled in and now serves as the kitchen. A second porch attached to the rear wall of the original house has also been enclosed and has a small second-story room added over one portion. This room dates to the 1950s or 1960s.

The interior of the house retains a considerable amount of its early simple finish including narrow board floors, and plaster walls and ceilings. Door and window surrounds are plain wood boards. Doors have four panels. Both front rooms have fireplaces opening from the central chimney. The south room has a non-historic brick mantel; the north room has a simple, historic "folk" mantel constructed of a wooden shelf, a wide unadorned breast, and side posts trimmed with a second vertical member that terminates at breast level with ends finished in a V shape. An open straight-run stair to the second floor is located along the rear wall of the north room. The stair is finished in pine with turned balusters and a newel and narrow horizontal boards in the stringers. A large cedar-lined closet in the west corner of the south room is a non-historic construction. The first floor of the rear addition contains a large room, now a bedroom but probably a kitchen earlier on, and a bathroom. A narrow rear stair to the second floor runs along the east wall of the large room.

Upstairs in the main body of the house are two bedrooms that open off a small passage at the top of the stairs. A third bedroom in the addition is accessed from the front north bedroom and from the rear stairs. Historic finishes consisting of plaster walls and ceilings and simple board window and door surrounds are still in place in all three rooms.

The house sits on a long narrow half-acre lot that faces Railroad Street, the site from 1880 until 1956 of the railroad tracks that sliced through Taylorsville. The house sits back about

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

fifty feet from the street. The front of the property along Railroad Street, which forms a gully, has been allowed to grow up with underbrush creating a screen from the busy road. The majority of the property, including an area in front of the house is grassed. Two large shade trees are located to the front of the house. Many flowering trees are informally grouped along the south boundary near the front of the house. To the rear is a large vegetable garden and a row of fruit trees that line the driveway. Between the garden and the house is a combination car port/shed building which has both historic and non-historic elements. The gable-roofed metal-clad shed is probably a historic 20th-century structure. The attached open car port was added by the present owners since the 1960s. Because the overall impression is of a non-historic structure this outbuilding has been identified as non-contributing in the inventory count.

## Boundary Justification

The Shelburne House fronts on Railroad Street, where from 1880 to the 1950s the railroad track sliced through Taylorsville. Much of the area between Railroad Street, Main Street, Jefferson Street, and Reasor Street, where the house is located has been associated with the black community since at least the 1880s. A number of historic residences in the area have been torn down in recent years. Remaining structures include a few historic residences, some so deteriorated that they are vacant, two historic black churches, and a some non-historic houses. Directly to the north of the Shelburne House is a vacant lot that until recently contained a historic house. Across Red Row Alley to the south of the house are a group of abandoned c. 1920s houses. Behind the Shelburne House to the west are the 1936 Second Baptist Church (SP-T-108) and the Minor Chapel, A.M.E. Church (SP-T-107). The area lacks the historic integrity to be nominated as a district, but the Shelburne House and the Minor Chapel A.M.E. Church have been identified as buildings that are individually eligible for the National Register.

The boundary for the nominated property includes the entire, approximately one-half acre lot presently associated with the house. The long, narrow lot represents approximately half the original property which until 1936 extended west to Jefferson Street. The Second Baptist Church presently is located on the west half. The lot provides the historic setting with its landscape features which contribute to the property's integrity of setting. It documents the type of residential property associated with one member of Taylorsville's black community.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Perry Shelburne House (SP-T-48) is significant under National Criterion A in the area of Black Ethnic Heritage. It was evaluated within the context **Black Ethnic History in Taylorsville** that was prepared as part a comprehensive survey of Taylorsville completed earlier this year. Within the Black Ethnic History context the house was identified as the only remaining residence associated with an important history of early black land ownership in Taylorsville dating from the 1880s. In addition, this large two-story house was singled out as by far the most substantial of the historic residences associated with the black community in Taylorsville and as a property that documents an unusually prosperous life style for a black family of the late 19th and early 20th century in the area. The period of significance for the property is 1880 to 1941, the historic time period during which members of the Perry Shelburne family occupied the property.

The approximately three-quarter acre property originally associated with this house was deeded to Perry Shelburne, a black man, in 1880 for \$1 by Sarah Cox, a widow who owned large tracts of land in the east portion of Taylorsville. The construction date of the house is somewhat unclear, but it is thought that Shelburne probably built its central core shortly after he acquired the land. It is also possible that the house already existed in 1880, although building materials and stylistic evidence would suggest it does not predate 1880 by much. A rectangular-shaped house conforming in plan to the main block of the present house is indicated on this site in the 1882 An Atlas of Nelson and Spencer County, Kentucky. Ecker Allen, Jr., grandson of Perry Shelburne, recalls that family history credits Perry Shelburne with building the house.

Major additions to the house including the two-story rear addition and the wrap-around porch were made by Perry Shelburne, probably in the early 1900s. They were definitely in place by 1929 when the house appears on a Sanborn map for the first time.

In 1936 Perry Shelburne deeded the west half of his lot to the trustees of the Colored Baptist Church (now the Second Baptist Church). Maps and oral history indicate that a small wood-framed church was located on this same site from as early as the 1870s. The present church (SP-T-108) was built in 1936 to replace the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

first church. Any possible association between the Shelburne House and the church remains unknown.

Information about Perry Shelburne has been pieced together from a number of sources. According to a grandson, Ecker Allen, Jr., he was born a slave. The 1870 census lists him as a farm hand living in the Taylorsville precinct. In 1870 his name is grouped with those of three other males with differing last names, suggesting that he was residing at a boarding house or a tenement. The 1900 census indicates that he was born in 1849 in Kentucky. It lists him as a day laborer with a wife, Amanda, and four children. Perry and Amanda Shelburne worked for many years as custodians at the Yoder Poignand High School, later the Taylorsville High School. In addition Shelburne served as custodian for the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches that served the white community in Taylorsville. (Watson, Tom. "Spencer Heritage" (article on Perry Shelburne family based on interview with Eva Shelburne Allen, Perry Shelburne's daughter) in The Spencer Magnet, February 25, 1982.)

In the 1900 census Shelburne and all his family are listed as literate, which is not true of many of the other black families in Taylorsville in this same census. His three children of school age are listed as attending school. The eldest daughter, Sue Perry Shelburne, who lived at home all her life and inherited the house from her father, was a school teacher in Spencer County for 42 years, many of them at the black Culpepper School. His second daughter, Eva Shelburne Allen, also taught in Spencer County for many years. The house remained in the Shelburne family until after Sue Perry Shelburne died in the 1960s. The present owners are related to the Shelburne family. The occupations of the Shelburne family document a close association with important Taylorsville and Spencer County educational and religious institutions and help to explain the relative affluence of the family and their ability to build such a substantial house.

## Black Ethnic History in Taylorsville

Spencer County has had a black population from the time it was first settled. As in much of the rest of Kentucky, the first inhabitants, many from the slave owning areas of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina, brought slaves with them as they moved west. The state was admitted to the Union in 1792 as a slave

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number       8       Page       6      Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

state, and in a county that established itself early on as agricultural, the slave population quickly grew. In 1830, the first year that Spencer County appears in the census, there were 1513 black slaves reported, comprising 22% of the county's population of 6812. In addition, 18 free blacks were listed. By 1860, in the last census before emancipation, the slave population of 2205 represented 36% of the county's 6188 people. At this date there were only 9 free blacks listed, down from a high of 32 in 1850. Free blacks who had the chance must have chosen to move, probably to urban areas such as Louisville.

After the Civil War, census figures show an immediate drop in the black population to 1479, followed by a period of relative stability. Another dramatic drop between 1900 and 1910 saw the black population decline from 1251 to 758. This was followed by years of slow out-migration leaving the county with only 480 blacks or 7% of the population by 1940.

The black population of Taylorsville is more difficult to track due to a lack of specific figures for most census years. The 1830 census lists 81 blacks out of a total town population of 286 which represents 28% of the population. One free black male also was a resident. Of the 39 households in town all but 10 had slaves, ranging in number from 1 to 8. Ten years later in 1840, the black slave population had grown to 107 out of 391 or 27% of the population. There were also 5 free blacks living in town.

Nothing is documented about how or where these early slaves lived. It is assumed that, as in other Kentucky town settings, they occupied all or portions of various outbuildings such as kitchens, stables, or small, rough dwellings at the rear of their owners' property. None of these buildings remain with the possible exception of one brick cottage probably dating from the 1830s or 1840s (SP-T-22). This cottage, associated with the Ralph Lancaster House, a fine brick house demolished in the 1980s, could have been a slave cabin although its solid brick construction suggests that it was originally built as a small house, perhaps for Lancaster himself.

The occupations of the slaves are also undocumented, but it is presumed that in a town such as Taylorsville they served principally as domestic servants and as laborers in the various trades run by their owners.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

Following the Civil War many blacks left the county. Whether as many blacks, proportionally, left Taylorsville is unclear. The 1870 census lists 491 blacks out of a total of 1873 people in the district that includes Taylorsville. Just how many of this group lived in Taylorsville is impossible to determine. What is clear is that blacks in Taylorsville began to form a community. Many blacks may have remained with their former owners, continuing to work and live much as they had before, but others in Taylorsville began to buy land and build houses.

The Second Baptist Church, formed by the black members of the First Baptist Church, was organized about 1866 according to a cornerstone on the congregation's present church. By 1882 (when the building appears in The Atlas of Nelson and Spencer County, Kentucky), the congregation was worshipping in a small frame building located on Jefferson Street. That building was demolished and replaced by the present wood-framed church (SP-T-108) in 1936.

In 1869 Lots 100 and 101 on the south side of Garrard Street near Point Street were deeded to Merritt Beard, Westley Minor, and Nathaniel Matthews, "men of color," to be held in trust "for the use of the colored population for the purpose of erecting a school house." By 1882 a small wood-framed school was in place on this lot. This school was doubled in size between 1901 and 1909. About 1920 a new wood-framed school (SP-T-116) was built on Jefferson Street near the Salt River bridge.

The schoolhouse on Garrard is reported to have been the original meeting place of Taylorsville's second black congregation which split off from Taylorsville's Methodist church. Probably about 1895 they built their present sanctuary, Minor Chapel, A.M.E. Church (SP-T-107) on Jefferson Street.

The two churches and the school are the only known extant historic institutional buildings associated with the black community in Taylorsville. These structures no doubt doubled as meeting halls and social spaces. According to long time residents and information gleaned from the Sanborn maps, the black population never established any stores in Taylorsville.

Blacks seem to have become property owners in Taylorsville quite early on and in larger numbers than in many Kentucky communities. It seems reasonable to suppose this was related to Taylorsville's slow development, the low price of land, and the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

relatively low standard of living of the entire community.

By the 1880s blacks had begun to congregate on the east side of town in the area adjacent to the railroad tracks and along Jefferson Street in the vicinity of the black Baptist church. The 1882 map from the Atlas of Nelson and Spencer County, Kentucky indicates three home owners in the area known to be black (S. Thomas, Squire Huston and W. Minor). Perry Shelburne obtained title to some land on the west side of the tracks in 1880. J.W. Minor, one of the original trustees of the black school who is believed to have been also the pastor for whom the A.M.E. Church was named, purchased a one-half acre lot on the east side of the railroad in 1886. Unfortunately almost all the houses associated with these early land acquisitions have been lost. The one exception is the Perry Shelburne House (SP-T-48), a substantial two-story house of unusual size for a black family of the period, believed to have been constructed in part about 1880. This house is the most important remaining residence associated with Taylorsville's black community.

Blacks are known to have owned land and built houses along the east end of Reasor Street (SP-T-104 and SP-T-105) and along the south end of Jefferson Street (SP-T-115) in the early 1900s. Red Row Alley, running parallel to and north of Main Street east of Jefferson Street was built up with houses for blacks sometime before 1916. These houses are presently abandoned and in ruinous condition. For many years these were rental properties. Somewhat later, in the 1940s, a cluster of black ownership developed along the west end of present day Garrard Street, then Water Street.

Because the town was so small blacks and whites lived in very close proximity, but clearly within the town there were tiny neighborhoods perceived to be black or white. Turn-of-the-century deeds for several of the properties located on the east end of Main Street prohibited selling the land to blacks.

Today, blacks still tend to live in the peripheral areas they have inhabited historically, although some now also live in several units of low-income housing located in the center of Taylorsville. School integration began in 1958 and was completed by 1962 or 1963. The 1990 preliminary census lists only 63 blacks in Taylorsville. In spite of the very low black population in recent years, Taylorsville had a black mayor, Bobby Irvine, from 1980 through 1985.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number       8       Page       9      

Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

Black churches is the only property type that can be associated with the context of Black Ethnic History in Taylorsville. The two surviving black churches are substantially smaller and less finely finished than the churches associated with Taylorsville's white congregations. They are very small, plain wood-framed structures that contrast with all the historic white churches which are much larger brick buildings with much more elaborate detailing.

The remaining historic houses associated with Taylorsville's black population are a very diverse group of structures whose designs are not unique to the black community. They range in date from the 1880s to 1929 and in size and plan from several small two-door, two-room cottages (SP-T-115) to a commodious and well-finished one-and-one-half story Bungalow/Craftsman house (SP-T-127), a two-story T-plan house (SP-T-105), and a substantial two-story house with a wrap-around porch (SP-T-48). They are addressed in terms of their architectural significance in the context, **Domestic Architecture in Taylorsville: 1818-1941**. Historically, the most important is the Perry Shelburne House which documents the early years of an important history of black land ownership in Taylorsville as well as a scale of housing not usually associated with the black community in Taylorsville or Spencer County.

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National Park Service

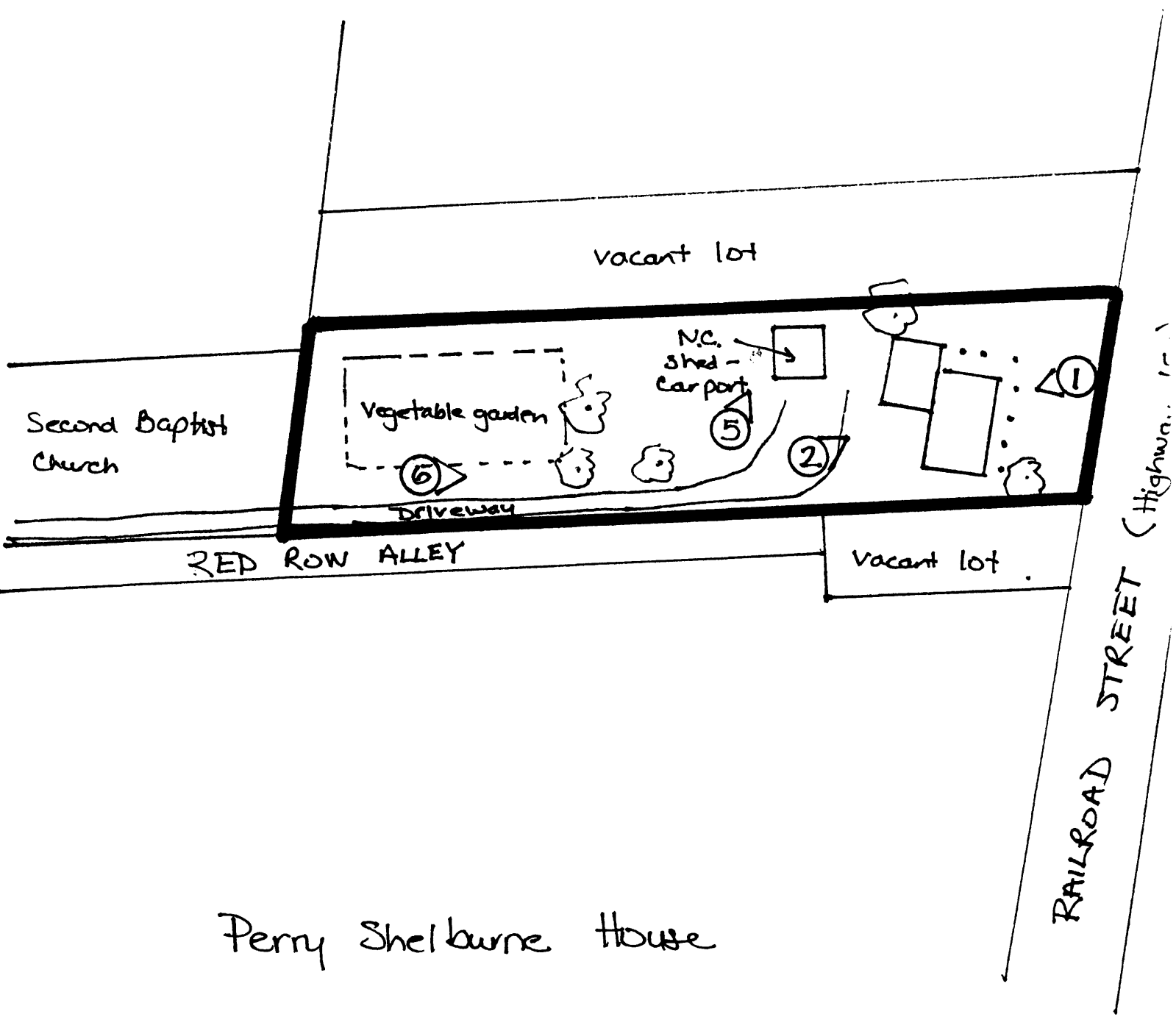
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 10

Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

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- United States Census, Spencer County, Kentucky. 1900. ED 82, Sheet 3, line 64.



SKETCH MAP

Not to scale.

Property Boundary: **—————**

North: ↑

Photo Number & Direction of view: ① ▷

First Floor Plan

Not to Scale

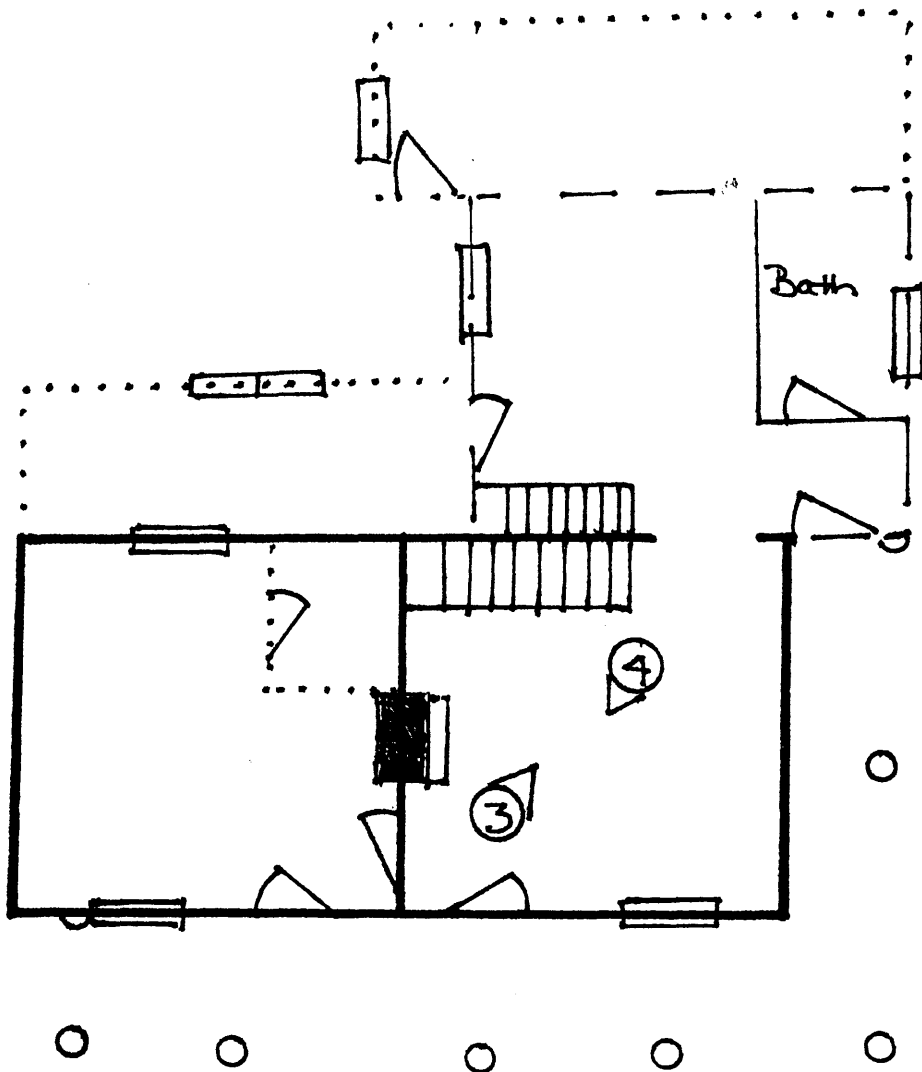
North: ↘

Historic Addition: - - - -

Non-historic additions: .....

Photo No. 7 and

Direction of View:



Perry Shelburne House

Sp-T-48.



Scale:

0 210'

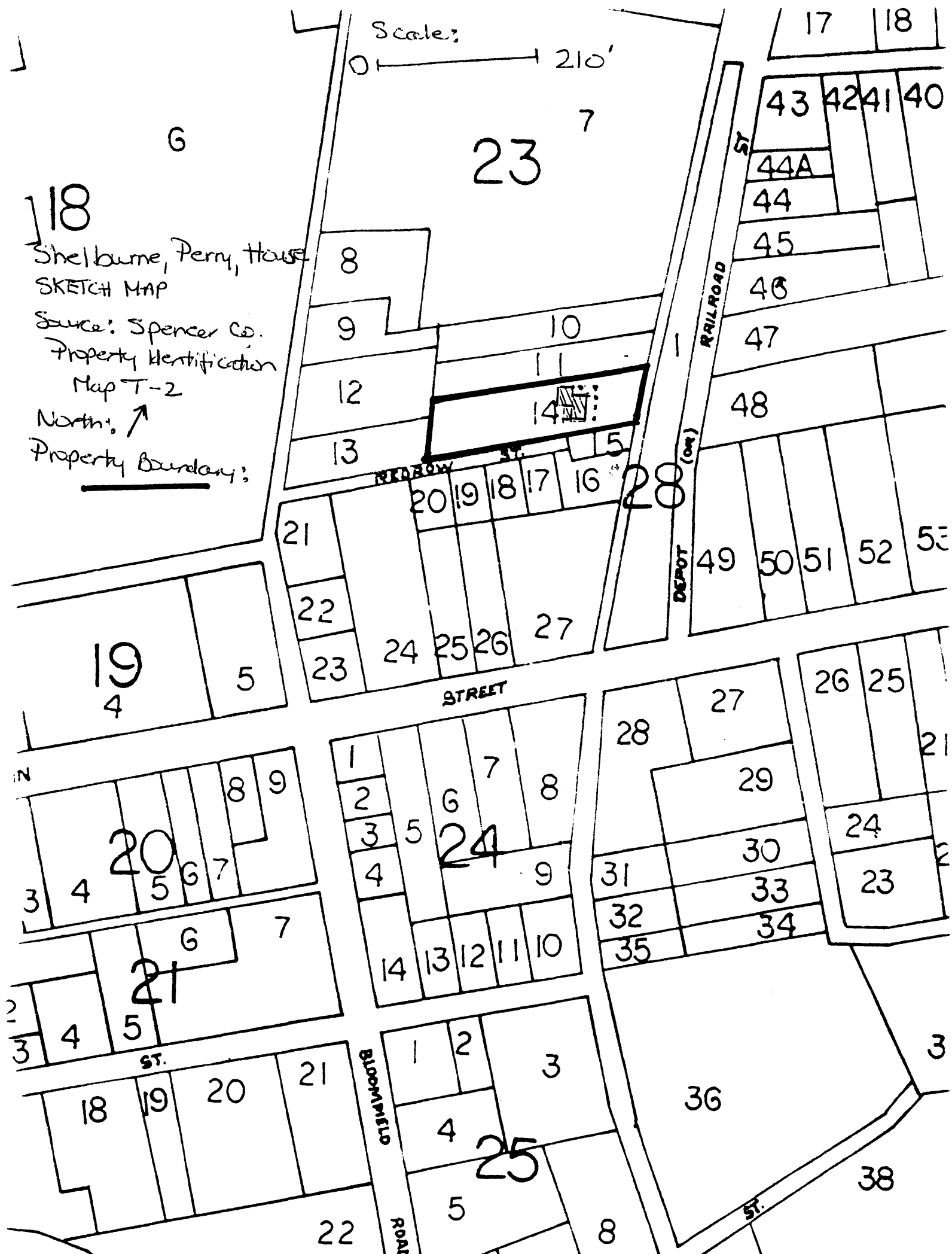
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Shelburne, Perry, House  
SKETCH MAP

Source: Spencer Co.  
Property Identification  
Map T-2

North: ↑

Property Boundary:           



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photos 11

Shelburne, Perry, House  
Spencer County, Ky.

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Shelburne, Perry, House  
Taylorsville, Spencer County, Ky.  
Photographer: Carolyn Brooks  
Date: June, 1991  
Negatives on file at Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Ky.

(The above information is the same for all 6<sup>8</sup> photographs submitted with the nomination. Below the photographs are listed in the order of their photograph numbers and each view is described.)

1. Front facade and north side; photographer facing southwest.
2. Rear facade; photographer facing northeast.
3. First-floor north front room; photographer facing northeast.
4. First-floor north front room; photographer facing southeast.
5. Shed/car port; photographer facing northeast.
6. View of rear of property with house in background; photographer facing northeast.