

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 31 1984
date entered NOV 29 1984

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

1. Name

historic Cherokee Plantation

and/or common Cherokee Plantation

2. Location

street & number 100 Cherokee Drive N.E. NA not for publication

city, town Fort Payne NA vicinity of 4th congressional district

state Alabama code 01 county DeKalb code 049

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Stephen Brewer

street & number 405 Alabama Avenue N.

city, town Fort Payne NA vicinity of state Alabama 35967

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. DeKalb County Court House

street & number 300 Grand Avenue S.

city, town Fort Payne state Alabama 35967

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Cherokee Plantation today is a two-story Greek revival home. The foundation consists of two types: the older portion (the portion containing the log cabin within the walls) consists of stacked stones laid flat on the ground with oak seal beams measuring 12' x 16' by the full length of the cabin and are hand hewed with square corners. The cross beams are pine logs with the bark still in place. Under the rest of the house the foundation consists of stacked stones laid flat on the ground with a 10" x 12" seal beam of hand-hewed oak and 3" x 10" floor joist. The house is built close to the ground with a crawl space averaging 12" x 24" with the exception of one small root cellar measuring 10' x 12' with a 6' ceiling.

In the older portion of the house the log cabin remains standing with exterior weather stripping nailed directly onto the logs and interior beaded pine paneling also nailed directly to the logs. The remainder of the house consists of 2 x 4 heart pine studs running one floor high with a double seal plate at each floor level. The wall studs are set on approximately 2' centers.

The exterior wall is wood weather board. There is a 1" x 10" board with a drip rail on top of it which covers each of the exterior seal beams. A similar 1" x 10" board is just below the cornice of the roof. The cornice is sealed and has decorative molding where it joins the roof and also where it joins the wall.

There are four porches attached to the house--the largest being the front porch which is of poured concrete--the support for the porch being closed-in brick. It is covered by a large gabled roof supported by four unfluted columns 2' wide at the base and 18' tall, each sitting on a 2' x 2' x 2' brick base. The front porch is located on the east wall center of the house. A second porch is located on the north wall of the house and leads from the center of the living room by way of two glass panel French doors. It has a small hip roof attached to the house with no column support. The floor is poured concrete with laid brick supports from the ground. A back porch is located on the west side of the house. It has a shed-type roof supported by 3 rectangular wooden columns. It's floored by tongue and groove 1" x 5" heart pine lumber and the porch support is laid brick. A fourth porch which is enclosed is found on the south side of the house. It has wooden floor which has been covered by linoleum tile and the enclosure is of wood weather board. It has a hip roof.

The first floor contains 19 windows and 7 doors (two being a set of French doors, and two being a set of sliding glass doors). The second floor contains 18 windows and 2 exterior doors.

The roof is of a hip roof with one gable end and is covered with asphalt shingles. Below the asphalt shingles are found wooden shingles of sawed pine.

There are four chimneys, all interior. Three of the chimneys were originally built as interior chimneys, the fourth being an exterior which has been enclosed in a recent addition. All are made of red brick. Two chimneys contain a fireplace on the first floor and second floor each; one chimney contains two first-floor fireplaces, and one chimney contains one first-floor fireplace. Three of the chimneys have no coverings over the top but merely open directly to the sky with three layers of stepout brick work culminating in the top layer. One chimney which was added in 1890 has a brick arch over the top of the chimney to prevent rainfall from entering with each open side enclosed with screen mesh.

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The main entrance has a single door with 15 cut-glass panes and side lights of 10 cut-glass panes each. The main entrance is located in the front center of the house with a small second-floor balcony over it.

A small 36" wide entrance is above the main entrance on the second floor level which has two French doors of 10 panes each. To the northeast wall of the living room is a second set of French doors on the first floor level with 15 panes each of plain glass. As a small roof over the entrance measuring 3' x 5'. A fourth exterior entrance is located to the southwest corner of the house and consists of an enclosed porch with a late model wrought-iron door with plexaglass full length and an exterior house door opening onto the enclosed porch from the kitchen consisting of a wooden door with two vertical glass panels with round tops extending in the upper half of the door. To the north of the house are two other doors both of new construction, one being 8' wide wooden sliding glass door and a second of 15 panes exterior wooden door with solid glass transom and side light.

All windows in older part of the house are double hung with two vertical panes in each sash. The trim around all windows on the exterior is 1" x 6" mill work. The new portion of the house, which is located on the second floor of the rear, contains new manufactured double-hung insulated windows, each sash with one large single pane. All older style windows are the same in the first and second.

There are 7 fireplaces in the home: The living room contains a wooden mantle painted white with two small columns to the right and left of the fire box. The den contains a cut-stone fireplace, the right side being a mirror image of the left with a cut keystone and the large stone mantle. The dining room contains a wooden mantle painted white of a simple design with vertical trim to the right and left of the box matching the door and window trim. The study contains a wooden mantle painted white with a simple design of vertical trim to the right and left of the box matching the door and window trim. The north bedroom contains a wooden mantle painted with a simple design of vertical trim to the right and left of the box matching the door and window trim. The south bedroom contains a wooden mantle painted white with simple design of vertical trim to the right and left of the box matching the door and window trim. The kitchen contains a large 6' 6" brick fireplace with a mantle consisting of an 8" x 8" hewed pine log 15' long set on brick of the firebox.

All interior door and window trim is of the same design which consists of a bevelled and lathe cut millwork with corner roses and base blocks for the doors. All doors and windows match upstairs and downstairs.

There is one stairway in the house which is located in the front center section foyer which the main entrance opens into. The stairway is in a square U-shape curving to the left on three levels with small landing platforms at each upper corner. A small stairway curves to the right from the first landing and gives you access to the back part of the house. The stairs are of closed string-type and the banisters are turned and painted white. The only decorative feature consists of large 5" square posts with balls on top at each of the corners of the stairs and a small decorative turnknob hanging from the underside of the stairs at the corner.

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The entrance foyer and dining room are of similar design with wainscoting cutting painted white and wallpaper above the chair rail. In the foyer, sheetrock has been added above the chair rail and painted. The living room consists of pine boards running horizontally with canvas and wallpaper over them. The den consists of 10' exterior siding stained walnut. The study consists of pine boards running horizontally with canvas and wallpaper over them. The bar consists of oak wainscoting stained walnut with sheetrock over beaded pine above the chair rail. The kitchen consists of hand hewed oak and heart pine logs laid in a log cabin fashion with clay from Manitou Cave used as dinking. Three of the bedrooms on the second floor consist of the same type of construction as the living room. Two more bedrooms on the second floor level are of new construction and are of sheetrock, one with a single chair rail, the other plain with wallpaper. The upstairs hall is sheetrock over beaded pine and painted. The ceilings are of two designs, one being hand plastered over sheetrock and the other being canvas and ceiling paper over beaded pine.

One bedroom upstairs has 2" wide tongue and groove pine floor; the kitchen has 4" and 5" tongue groove hard pine flooring; the new section of the house on the second floor level has 4" wide old maple flooring tongue and groove and the remainder of the house has 2" wide tongue and groove oak.

There are no original lighting fixtures in the house; all have been replaced with period fixtures of modern manufacture. The first-floor doorknobs are solid brass 2" round knobs with mortise locks which are of brass construction. Each doorknob has a plain brass rose and key emblem in the oval configuration. Two new doors to the rear of the house have modern style doorknobs with key lock. The second-floor doorknobs are the same configuration of the downstairs; however, instead of the round brass knobs they are crystal knobs with a flat front surface and brass trim similar to the downstairs. All hinges are 2" brass construction with no ornamentation.

The original house was a two-story log cabin measuring 18' x 24'. By 1834 a second log cabin had been added to the northeast end of the original cabin with a 10' wide two-story dog trot in between and a third cabin had been constructed to the back (north side) of the house and connected directly to the original log cabin. By 1890 the original log cabin remained; however, the two additions had been removed and new construction using sawmill cut 2 x 4's replaced the removed log cabins and the entire house was covered in lap board siding giving you a plain two-story house 58' across the front and 18' deep with a single-story addition coming off the back of one-story design which was 15' wide and 40' deep. At this point the house was in a L shape. In 1890 the Godfreys added a small section at the rear of the front right wing of the house which was to add the present den on the first floor and bedroom on the second level. A small back porch was also added along the northeast side of the one-story wing. In the 1930s the Kershaw family totally renovated the house leveling the floors, adding the bay window off of the dining room and replacing all windows. In 1979 the Brewer family made the house square adding a single room to the downstairs closing the L into a box and adding a second floor level over the previous one-floor addition, making the house 58' x 58', two-story. The new addition comprises approximately 1600 square feet and the roof design is similar to the original.

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The house sits on 16 acres of land and is in the approximate center of the land on the crest of a small hill. There is a large black Spanish oak in the immediate front of the house and to the front left of the house is the Alabama State Champion sugar maple tree. The entire property having been in pasture land for almost 200 years, it contains many extremely large hickory, black walnut, and oak trees. There is a small lake and spring at the foot of the hill at the northeast side of the property. The original landscaping consisted of nothing, but in the 1920s boxwoods were added to the front of the house. A boxwood garden opening off the French doors of the living room has been planted and is now under development. A New Orleans-style courtyard has been constructed of brick around a large box elder tree in the immediate rear of the house and landscaped with azaleas. The driveway to the house is on the old Ross' Landing Road which continues across the front of the property and was used originally as the Trail of Tears from the Fort Payne Stockade in 1838.

There are no outbuildings to be included in the nomination. There are two outbuildings which were constructed in the 1920s, but they are not of historic importance; one being a small garden house; the other being servants' quarters with adjoining garage.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 circa 1820; 1914-1931 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion B

Cherokee Plantation is significant for its association with Charles Gideon Kershaw (1868-1914). Kershaw was a pioneer railroad contractor, bridge builder and highway contractor in Alabama and the southeast and developed C. G. Kershaw Contracting Company, which he organized in 1904, into one of the largest heavy construction firms in the southeast at the time of his retirement in 1937. Kershaw had extensive modifications made on the house at Cherokee beginning in 1914 and completed in stages through 1931. These extensive modifications and additions, including the columned portico, altered roof line, added bay window, additional foundation supports and new doors have given the house its present basic exterior appearance.

Criterion D - Architecture

Cherokee Plantation is significant as a potential source of information on the culture of the Cherokee Nation in Alabama prior to the removal of the Nation from the Fort Payne - DeKalb County area in 1838. Although the two-story Cherokee log house, which is encased in the southeast corner of the present structure, is not readily visible, future study could reveal information pertaining to the design and construction techniques, such as notched log patterns employed by the Cherokees and if these patterns were obtained from European sources. The log house encased by the present structure at Cherokee may possibly be the only known documented house associated with the Cherokee Nation in Alabama.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 16

Quadrangle name Ft. Payne, Ala.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>
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G	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
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NA			
----	--	--	--

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Stephen Brewer and Michael Bailey and Bob Gamble

organization Alabama Historical Commission date 2/13/84

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

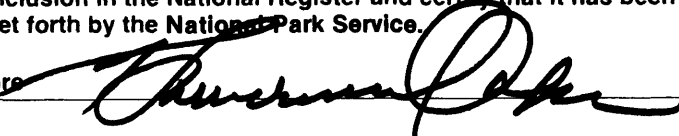
city or town Montgomery state Alabama

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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 25, 1984

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

Entered in the National Register

date 11-29-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Cherokee Plantation

Cherokee Plantation is reputed to be the oldest home in Alabama, dating to 1790. Oral history indicates that the house was built by Daniel and Molly Ross in 1790 when they moved from Turkey Town, near Gadsden, to Will's Town, now Fort Payne, with infant son, John Ross. The two-story log cabin they built fronted the Great War and Trading Path which traversed Alabama from north to south. In 1838 the Path became the Trail of Tears and was used when the Cherokee Nation in this portion of Alabama was removed from the stockade at Fort Payne. John Ross, who grew up in the house, later moved to the area around Chattanooga, founded Ross' Landing and Rossville, Georgia. Ross became one of the most famous and influential chiefs of the Cherokee Nation and was Chief of the Nation at the time of its removal in 1838.

In 1834 Andrew Ross, brother of John Ross, son of Daniel and Molly Ross and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cherokee Nation, resided in the house which had by that time been greatly expanded. Being 1/8 Cherokee, he was regarded as a full Cherokee and as such was required, under the terms of the Treaty of 1828, to make a valuation of all his property. Ross was evicted from the house in 1838 during the removal of the Cherokee Nation from the area.

Following the removal of Andrew Ross from the house, the next confirmed owners of the property were William W. and Letitia McFarlane who were granted the land in 1845 by President James K. Polk under land Patent #6292. When William McFarlane died, he left his property to his wife, Letitia, who in turn deeded the property to her daughter, Cornelia, who married William J. Haralson in 1855. The Haralsons lived in the house until 1875 when Captain Joe Nix, who was later mayor of Fort Payne, purchased the property from Cornelia Haralson and lived there for a short time and made no improvements.

Major C. O. Godfrey, who later became the first mayor of Fort Payne, bought the property in 1890 and later deeded it to his daughter-in-law, Mrs. H. R. Godfrey. H. R. Godfrey, Major Godfrey's son, and his wife made additions to the house at Cherokee including a water system which they installed by piping water from a spring on top of Lookout Mountain to a cyprus holding tank about 1/2 mile from the house and then to the house.

On June 20, 1902 H. R. and Mai Godfrey deeded the property to A. L. Campbell, who owned the property only a short time and sold it in 1902 to T. F. Steele.

T. E. Steele sold Cherokee on May 8, 1914 to C. G. Kershaw. Kershaw began modifications to the house in 1931. These modifications were most extensive and consisted of leveling all the floors, adding extra foundation supports, new windows and a bay window in the dining room, French doors in the living room opening onto a formal garden, a bathroom upstairs, a powder room, and new servants' quarters and garage. The Kershaws used Cherokee as a summer home until 1936 when it became their permanent residence until the death of C. G. Kershaw in 1946. Shortly after Kershaw's death the estate was sold to C. T. Skidmore. In 1950 Henry C. Christopher purchased Cherokee and resided there with his family until 1960 when Albert Hildebrant purchased the home. The Hildebrants sold the home to Pierre Noel in 1964 who resided there until 1969 when he sold the house to Royce Kershaw, son of C. G. Kershaw. The Royce Kershaws did extensive remodeling to the house and property but made no structural changes. The property was sold in 1974 to the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Brewer.

Historical Summary
Cherokee Plantation
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The house is utilized today as a private residence and is well maintained. There exists a current threat to the integrity to the property in that commercial real estate developers have developed a trailer park and apartment complex north of the property. The developers, in an effort to streamline traffic flow to their properties, are attempting to leave a 100' wide right-of-way road constructed through the Cherokee plantation which would destroy approximately 1000' of driveway, an undetermined portion of the original Trail of Tears Road, which is in a natural state; and would endanger or result in the removal of the Sugar Maple tree which was declared the Champion Sugar Maple by the Alabama Forestry Commission in 1977.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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- 1) Birmingham News, April 18, 1946. "Services Held for Bridge Builder"
- 2) Fort Payne Journal, Wednesday, April 24, 1946. "Charles G. Kershaw Called to His Reward"
- 3) "Fort Payne Figures in History of Cherokees" Martin, H. L., Landmark News, Fort Payne, AL Aug. 1983
- 4) Cherokee Valuations Under the Treaty of 1828 Emigrations 1833-1834
- 5) "Cherokee Removal" and "Indian Tribes and Towns in Alabama," Alabama Historical Quarterly, Vol. 12. 1950

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The property was purchased in 3 sections from different owners, hence the 3 boundary descriptions, all are continuous with each other and part of the original plantation.

Commencing at the Northwest corner of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27, Township 6 South of Range 9 East of the Huntsville Meridian, run North 87°57' East 1324.3 feet and to a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of Alabama Great Southern Railway; thence along said right-of-way line North 38°34' East 2470.1 feet and to mile Post No. 47 on said railroad; thence continue North 38°34' East along said right-of-way line 632.9 feet and to the center line of a county road; thence along said center line of said road South 48°56' East 1520.8 feet and to a point on the Old Crystal Lake Road; thence North 66°43' East 35.15 feet and to the point of beginning; thence North 41°21' West 30.13 feet; thence North 42°02' East 420.8 feet; thence North 29°10' West 425.0 feet; thence North 36°08' East 585.0 feet; thence South 56°27' East 611.04 feet; thence South 28°30' West 189.8 feet; thence South 44°50' West 180.62 feet; thence South 67°40' West 344.98 feet; thence South 41°52' West 557.31 feet and to the point of beginning.

Said parcel of land lying in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 27 and the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 26, all in Township 6 South, Range 9 East, DeKalb County, Alabama.

Commence at a fence post at the Northwest corner of Section 26, Township 6 South, Range 9 East of Huntsville Meridian; thence run along section line and wire fence a distance of 1138 feet to a 3/8" iron pin; thence run South 38°10'34" West a distance of 1693.76 feet to a 6" x 8" rock corner for a point of beginning; thence run North 54°11' West a distance of 683.40 feet; thence South 32°56' West a distance of 406.70 feet; thence South 54°39' East a distance of 234.10 feet; thence North 36°08' East a distance of 90 feet; thence South 56°27' East a distance of 419.57 feet; thence North 38°10'34" East a distance of 308.51 feet to the point of beginning.

Lot No. 7 of Cherokee Heights Addition to the City of Fort Payne, Alabama, a plat of said addition being recorded in the Office of Judge of Probate of DeKalb County, in Plat Book 5, Page 123