

The Maynard-Pearson House
1101 Olive Chapel Road



Built c. 1870

Owner: Apex Historical Society

Built by: James Jackson Maynard





The Maynard-Pearson House

Cross references in the above genealogy will indicate the connection between persons, places and events. The purpose of this narrative is to provide as much background as possible concerning the Pearson and Maynard Families who have resided in the Maynard-Pearson House, 1101 Olive Chapel Road.¹ Stephen Pearson had obtained 400 -plus acres along Beaver Creek prior to Sept. 26, 1845 when he deeded this same property to his son,² James Marshall Pearson. After eight years of marriage, James and Nancy had four children, all of whom were born on this farm. In his will James Marshall made provision for the 435 acres to be divided equally among his four children.³ John Phineous was left the mansion and all outbuildings on his 108.75 acres. His property would have included the family cemetery. Also in James Marshall's will⁴ Civil,⁵ Stephen H. and⁶ James J. were left 108.75 acres each to be received when they became of age. John Phineous remained at the homeplace; even after he married⁷ Ida Colon Maynard, Jan. 5, 1888. Both of his parents were deceased at the time. Civil D. Pearson married⁸ James Jackson Maynard April 8, 1872 at her Mother's home. Civil having become of age and engaged to James Jackson Maynard received her 108.75 acres as was provided in her Father's will. On this acreage along Olive Chapel Road Mr. Maynard and Miss Pearson had constructed the house which we now call Maynard-Pearson. The house originally consisted of the two story portion with a breezeway to the dining room and detached kitchen, "cookroom". One son⁹ Exum Earl was born. Exum was three years old when his Mother died Sept. 11, 1889. On January 11, 1893, Mr. Maynard married Julia Ann Olive. She and their child died Dec. 1, 1893. Mr. Maynard married his third wife, Parthenia C. Womble, of New Hill, on Nov. 20, 1895. They were married at Mr. Maynard's home, and John P. Pearson was a witness at the marriage. Shortly after the marriage the J. J. Maynard family relocated to a Maynard Family Farm on what is now Davis Drive 1.5 miles North of Salem Baptist Church. The house in which we now have interest then became the home of John P. and Ida Colon Maynard Pearson (Deed Book 151, p. 636, dated Dec. 8, 1898). Ida Colon was the sister of James Jackson Maynard. John P. and Ida Colon had occupied the Old Pearson Mansion where their four older children were born. Their two younger children were born in the Maynard-Pearson House.

The family cemetery contains an unknown number of graves; however, two graves remain marked. One of these is James J. Pearson marked May 22, 1855- March 11, 1888. Civil D. Maynard, (July 15, 1850 - Sept 11, 1889) is buried in the other marked grave. The cemetery is located in what is now the Dogwood Ridge Subdivision.

In regard to the house ownership, it is interesting to note that a Maynard son married a Pearson daughter and a Pearson son married a Maynard daughter (Maynard brother and sister married Pearson brother and sister). The house remained in the Maynard-Pearson Families until the sale in 1994 to M. J. K. Development. The picture which hangs in the house, taken in the early 1900's, shows the original porch across the front and rooms to the rear. The original roof was wooden shingles but now is tin. Some side and back porch additions have been made since 1900; however, the latest remodeling was done about 1944 over 50 years ago.

May, 5, 1995 two members of the Apex Historical Society called attention to the possible demise of the property on Olive Chapel Road. Teamwork and generous contributions of time, effort and money proved to be successful in saving the home and property. The property was deeded to the Maynard-Pearson House Trust, a 501c3 nonprofit entity. It now serves as home for the Apex Historical Society. It is being used as a museum of rural living in the past, educational tours with historic emphasis and an example of restoration and preservation.

The house is pictured and described in The Historic Architecture of Wake County NC by Kelly A. Lally, @ 1994. Wake County Landmark Designation was given the property in 2001. It is the desire to have the house soon listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In conclusion we would be remiss not to mention some of the persons who have lived in this house. John Phineous Pearson served in the 1901 North Carolina State Legislature.¹⁰ Dr. Paul L. Pearson, the last family member to reside in the home, was a prominent dentist in the Apex area. Dr. Pearson in his will dated May 8, 1961, recorded in the Estates Division 73-E-545, wrote on p. 6: "It is my wish that my homeplace, which was the estate of my father, the late John P. Pearson, be saved from sale or any part there of if possible." As this is read please join with the Maynard-Pearson House Trust and the Apex Historical Society in gratitude that it was possible to fulfill Dr. Pearson's final wish.

Woodrow Wilson Maynard "Woody" whose Father was the first child born in the house, spent a brief period of his early life after his Mother's death at the Maynard-Pearson House living with his Great Aunt and Uncle Ida Colon Maynard Pearson and John Phineous Pearson. It was not until the endeavor to restore and preserve the house that Woody felt a kinship to his Father's family and the home. The peace Woody found at 1101 Olive Chapel Road will always be an inspiration to continue his contributions and dedication to this historic and serene setting.