



IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 501 Commerce Street
 Map and Parcel: 32-122
 Census Track & Block: 1-322
 Present Owner: Trustees of the Church of Christ
 Address: 501 Commerce Street
 Present Use: Church
 Original Owner: Bethel Baptist Institutional Church
 Original Use: Church

BASE DATA

Historic Name: Bethel Baptist Institutional Church
 Date/Period: 1922
 Style: No Identifiable Style
 Height to Cornice:
 Height in Stories: 1
 Present Zoning: R-3
 Land Area (sq.ft.): 50' x 70' (3500 sq. ft.)
 Assessed Value (land + imp.):

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This building, with its full-height Corinthian portico and shingled upper walls, is an interesting vernacular interpretation of the Colonial Revival style. It is a tall, square, stuccoed frame building, set on a high foundation, with a full-height portico on the facade and low wings projecting from the other three sides to give it a cruciform shape. The tall central block is covered by a medium-pitched truncated hip roof covered with composition shingles, with a boxed cornice. It has the appearance of a two-storey building with two tiers of windows and the walls covered with composition shingles above the roofline of the lower wings. A cornice marks the division of the wall. There are two small chimneys, an interior one in the right front corner, and an exterior one with cap and string-course in the right rear corner. The building is set above the street, and a broad flight of eight concrete steps (painted in broad bands of maroon and light gray) leads to the entrance portico. Four wooden Corinthian columns set on square concrete pedestals (probably after the original bases had rotted) support an entablature and shingled pediment with a small rectangular stained glass window. The Corinthian capitals are painted gray. The facade is three bays wide. The double glass doors and rectangular transom in the central bay are not original. The wings cover the 3rd and 4th bays of the 5-bay side elevations. Their nearly flat hip roofs are covered with composition roofing and have boxed cornices. The eastern wing has an exterior door. The original windows at the first level were fixed-sash, stained glass, with rectangular stained glass transoms and architrave trim. All but one or two

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

have been replaced with plain double-sash, 2-over-2 light windows. About half the original transoms remain. Windows at the second level are very short, double-sash (the upper sash half the height of the lower), originally stained glass, with plain trim. About half have been replaced with plain glazing. All of the plain glazing is covered with imitation stained glass contact paper. Inside, there is a small room on either side of the vestibule with a two-flight corner stair in the western one giving access to a balcony above. The sanctuary was originally cruciform in shape before bathrooms and a kitchen-study were built in the chancel, probably when the building was converted for use as a day care center.

The Bethel Baptist Institutional Church of Charlottesville, which had been organized on July 24, 1919, purchased two lots at the corner of Commerce and Fifth Street NW in 1920 and built this church the following year (City DB 35-324,

GRAPHICS

325). The congregation was unable to pay a construction loan (DB 40-77), however, and the building was sold to William Irving in 1937 (DB 94-116). He leased it to the Abbott Funeral Home, probably as a funeral chapel, for nearly a decade. The building then housed the Janie Porter Barrett Day Care Center in the late 1940's and 1950's. It was probably at that time that two bathrooms and a kitchen were built in the chancel. The Bible Way Church occupied the building for several years in the early 1960's. The Charlottesville Church of Christ, which had leased the building since the mid-1960's, purchased it from the Irving family in 1974 and renovated it (DB 355-182). The congregation has now outgrown this building and is erecting a larger one outside the city.

Additional References: City WB 5-3, 6-402

SIGNIFICANCE

This church building is a unique vernacular interpretation of the Colonial Revival Style.

CONDITIONS

Fair

SOURCES

City Records
 Elder Rufus Hayes
 Sanborn Maps - 1920
 Charlottesville City Directories



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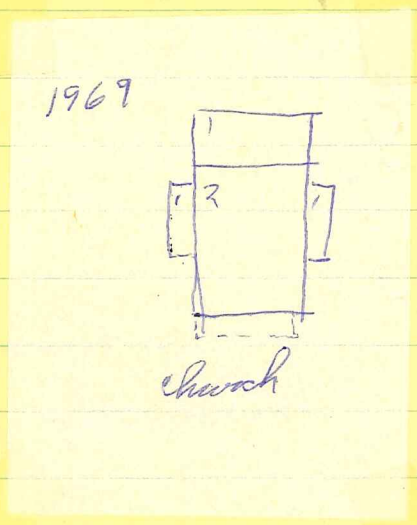
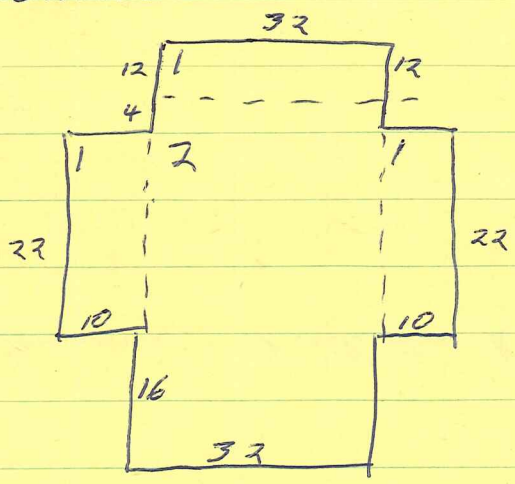
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501 5th St NW - Commerce St

355-182

Daniel Johnson, Edna Johnson, Chas Barbour, Rufus & Betty Hayes,
Trustees of the Church of Christ 3/26/74 \$10,000 see notes
Mabel Dwing, et al 3/2/51

CB found, stucco over wood, comp shingle hip roof
O basement?



Bethel Church	1922-1937 = 15-16 yrs
Dwing	1937-1974 = 37 yrs
Ch's Church of Christ	13 yrs there, owned 5 yrs

built after 1920, prob 1922 loan

1945 City Dir - Bethel Ch n l
201 5th - Robt Drakeford - also 1953, 1962, 1970
501 Commerce - Abbott Funeral Home

1953 City Dir - 501 Commerce - Jamie Porter Barrett Day Nursery
718 West St - Pryor & Abbott Funeral Service

1962 City Dir 501 Commerce - Bible Way Church

1970 City Dir 501 Commerce - Ch'ville Church of Christ

Commerce + 5th

~~47-25-47, 30-47-39~~
 355-182
 3/26/74

Oscar F. Carter, spec commor in Robt A. Dwing et al vs Elsie Dwing, Samuels, et al → Trustees of Church of Christ \$10,000
 lot w/ impts NW corner Commerce + 5th

same as 94-116

consists of 2 lots, see plats 30-207 + 27-55

Wm H. Dwing (WB 5-3) + wife Ellen Dwing (also dec);

^{sign.} ~~Wm H. Dwing~~ Mabel Dwing

Evelyn D. Zoller, later Evelyn D. Johnson, dec 1949 (WB 6-402)

1 child, name unknown

Elsie D. Samuels

94-116
 12/1937

Trustees of Bethel Baptist Institutional Ch of Ch's,

dec
 W.E. Fowler, trustee, under deed of trust for 1922

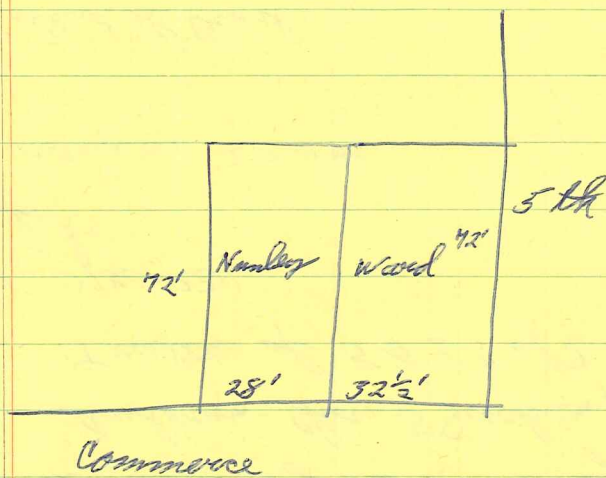
→ Wm Dwing

\$2450

lot w/ bldgs + impts NW corner Commerce + 5th

same as a) 35-324, 1920, for E L Nunley, see plat 30-206

b) 35-325 " for Florence Wood, " " 27-55



300

35-324 E L + Emma Munnally -> Tr of Beth, Pop. Inst, Ch. of Ch v
4/6/1920 set
same as 30-206

35-325 Florence + D J Ward -> Pryor Slaughter, Bernard Cary, J A
4/9/1920 Anderson, Chas B Jackson, + Reuben Walker, + their successors,
Trustees of B B I C of C appointed under order of Court
1/30/20 # 400
set
same as 27-88

40-75 deed of trust
4/7/22 indebted for ^{King} lumber ca \$9,500
'set of bldgs + insts'

~~Rev. Daniel Johnson with wife Mary ... church ... to ...
Rev. R. J. ...
Pelican ...
Puffin ...~~

Elder Hays
973-7563

1974
- 13
1966

used as church now?

8pm 8pm
Wed pm, Tue, Sun am
usually Fri

how long they been there?
when congregation formed? 13 yrs

Bible Way Church
them?

move or disband? extinct, minister back to DC

years there

Bethel Church broke off from Zion (some members)
still around?

stone 1921

3 churches, day care, funeral
mostly short, not remodeled

they've done much remodeling - whole place - paneling
building & will sell

5th St extd

worked on arch review board & Fed. Comm Survey Bd

1939,40 2nd Wm Dewing

Bethelch

$$500 + 2500 = 3000$$

~~334 #10~~
CMA

501 Commerce

roughly square, 2-story on high ^{found} basement, w/ full-tit portico & sm flanking 1-story wings & 1-story wing across rear

brick found, stuccoed 1st story, asphalt-shingled 2nd story, asphalt shingled, med-pitched, ^{Repointed} hip roof, boxed cornice

portico: concrete floor & 5 steps painted in vert. bands maroon & lt gray
4 wooden columns, ^{sq} concrete bases, Corinthian capitals painted gray to match shingled walls
plain arch, frieze, cornice
pediment shingled too; ^{rect} stained glass window w/ plain surrounds

~~to~~ 3-bay facade

2 1/2 windows, arch trim, stuck on "stained glass", real stained glass rect. transom

new alum double ent. doors (wider than orig), stuck-on "stained glass" rect. transom

2nd story windows casewidth, short ^{upper sash shorter} 1/1 under roof, stuck-on "stained glass"; double windows in central bay; plain surrounds

^{int} ^{plain} skim rt fr corner; ^{2 string courses} at rt rear corner

5-bay side

side wings cover 3rd & 4th bays; rt has a front door ~~flat roof~~, simple boxed cornice; nearly flat hip roof w/ rolled roofing
all windows & transoms were orig stained glass; c 1/2 remain

cornice bet 1st & 2nd stories

~~24/3/23~~

22
21
20

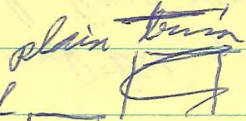




→ anterooms flank ent,
 sidepiece incl in sunk, rear not
 sun
 pulpit projects into room
 balcony over, Sunday Sch, corner stairs
 rear = baths & study

B B 1 c

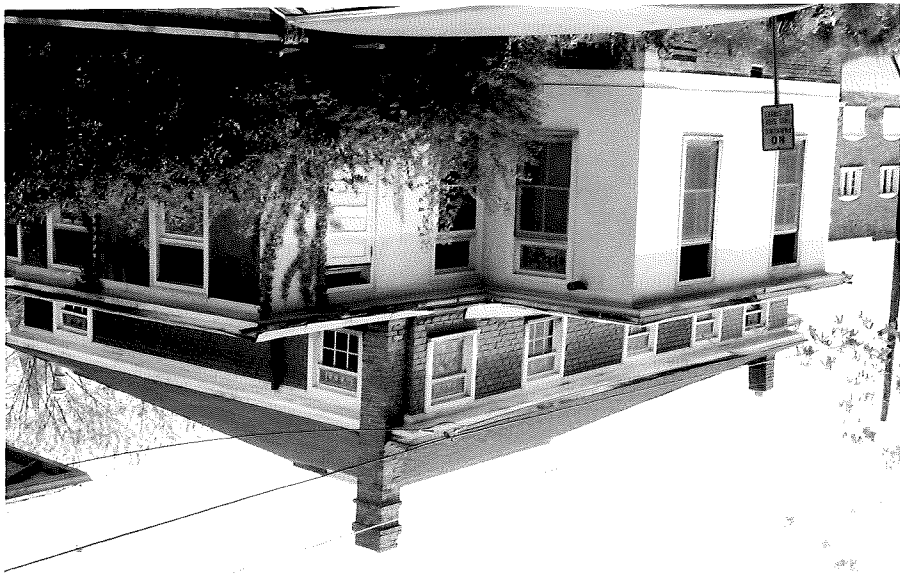
org 7/24/19

erected 1921

Rev C W T Bomer A B, Pastor

windows: 2nd    double sash, old & new
 1st  2/2 new
 arch transom  stationary old

east door in rear wing; 4 bay rear, 2 - 2nd
 → basement
 black shingles on roof, gray on walls



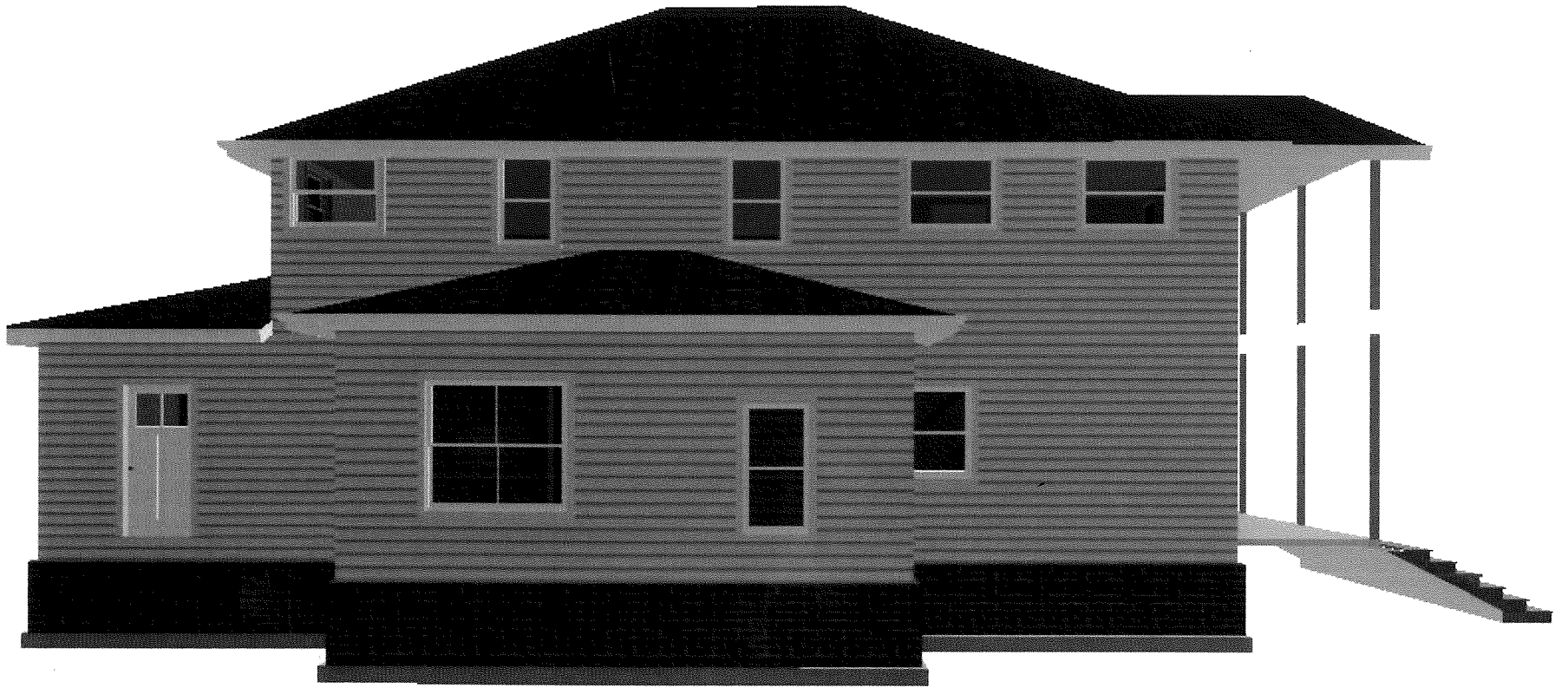


BETHLEHEM CHURCH
LUTHERAN
W. 10th St. & 1st St.
MAY 1910









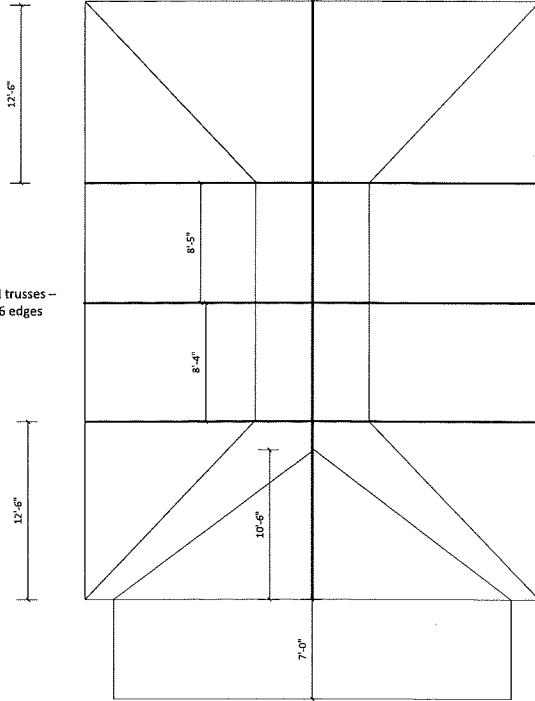
Roof structure

Ceiling joists run East-West and are true 2x8 on 24" centers. All attic wood is probably oak.

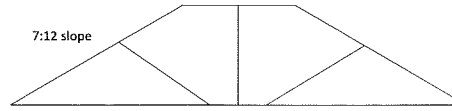
Double spaced 2x6 (2x8?) beam supported by trusses in the middle

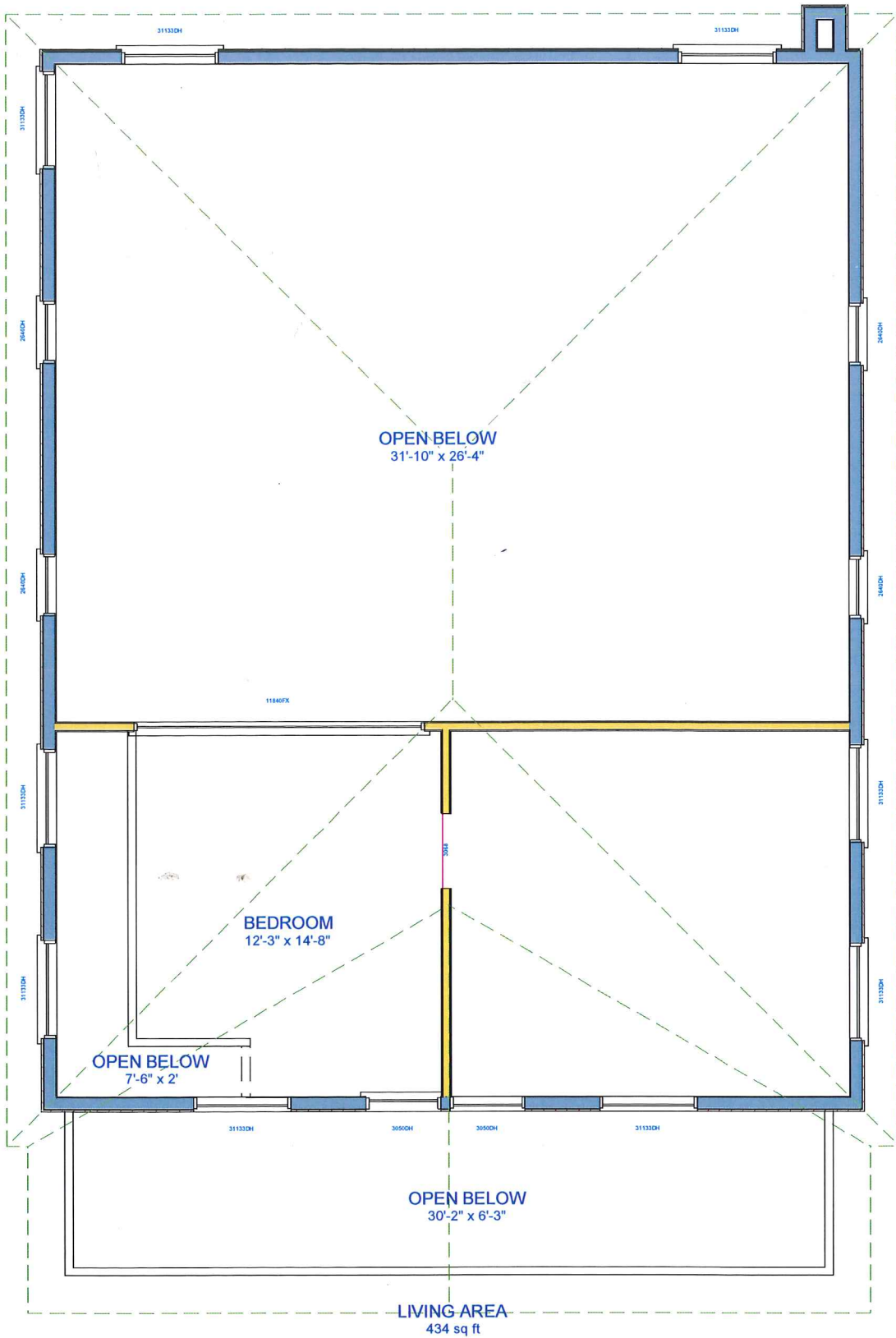


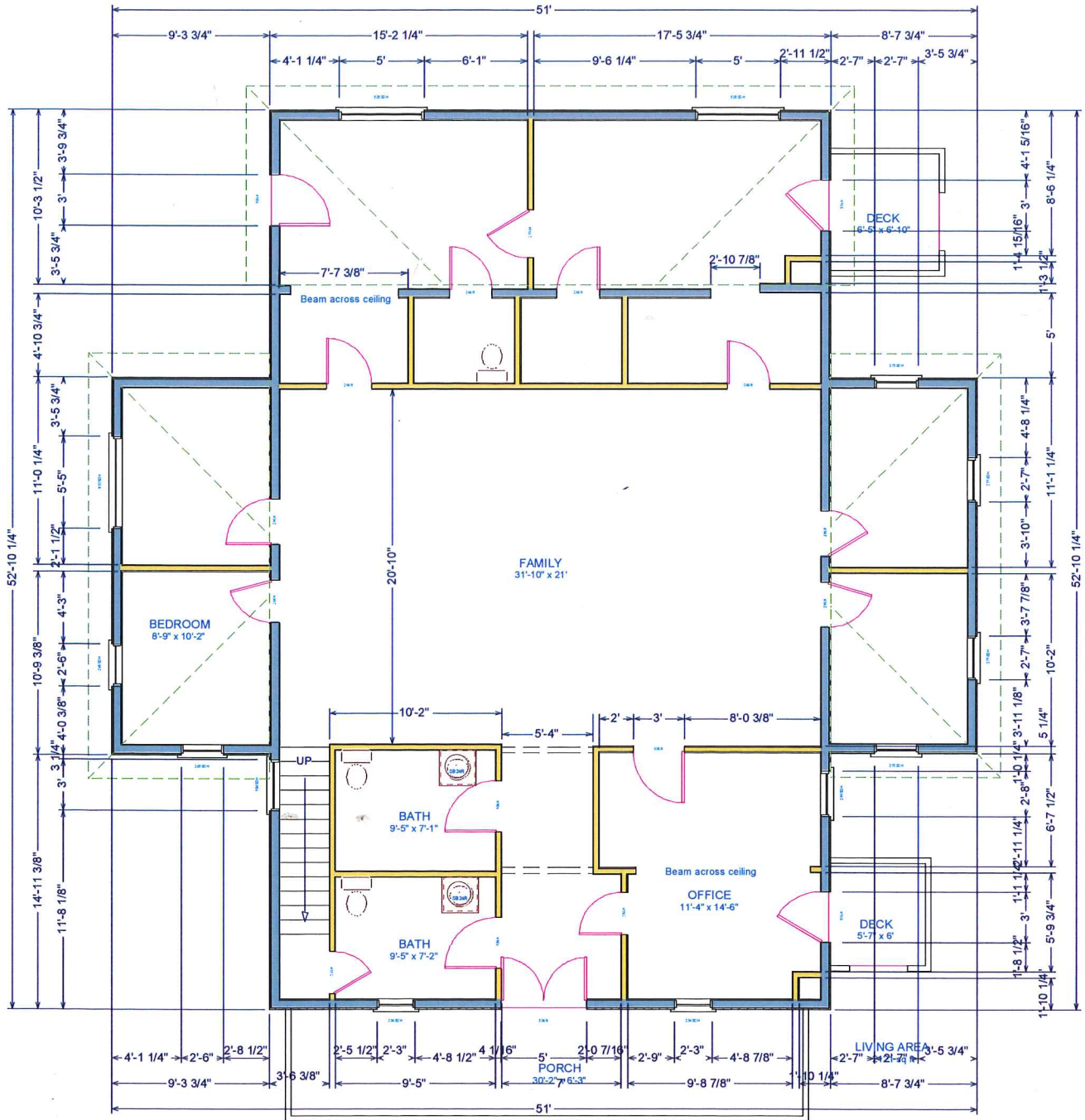
Three flat topped trusses - double true 2x6 edges

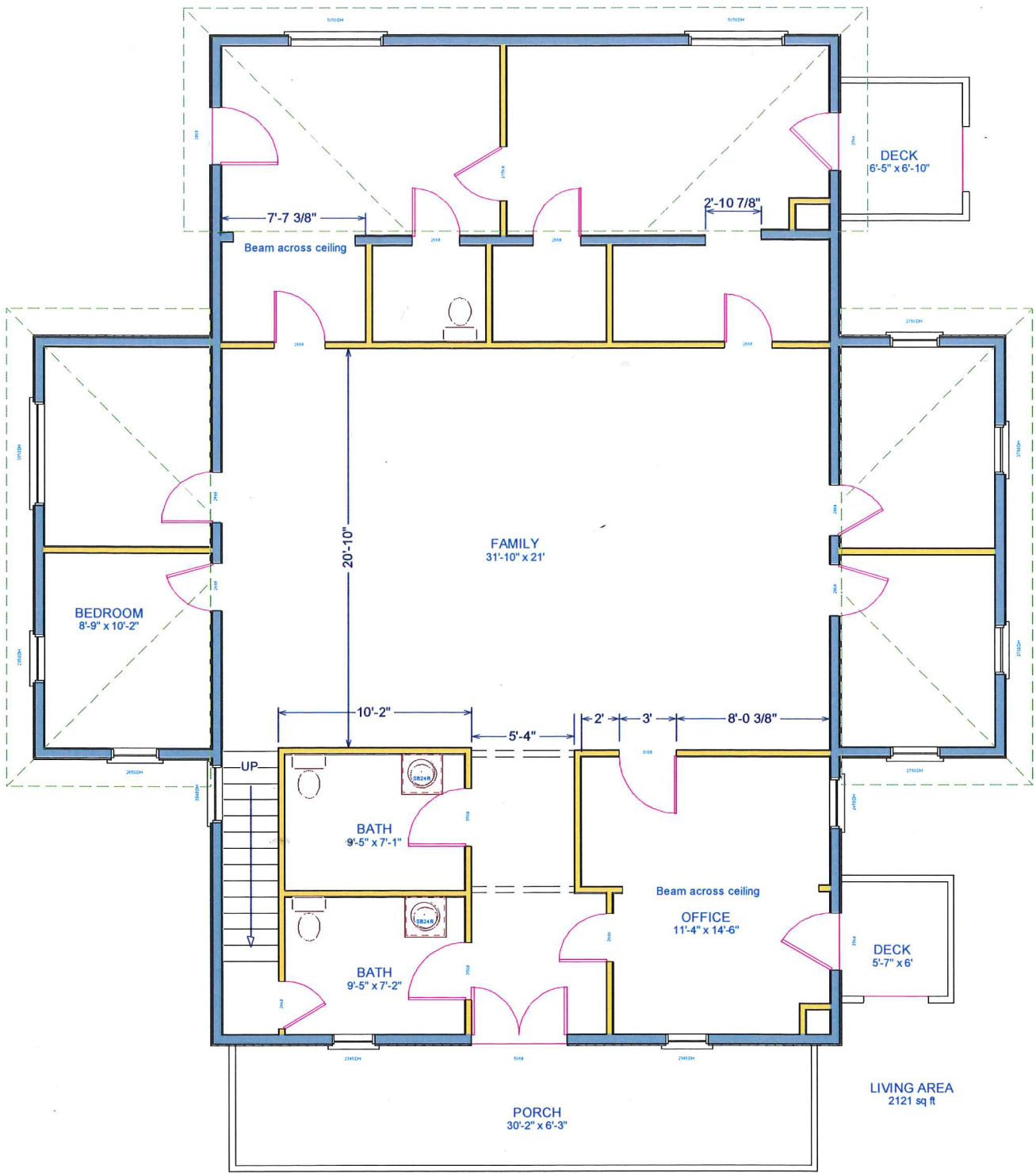


Truss shape









LIVING AREA
2121 sq ft

