

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bath Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Bath 27808

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Beaufort CODE: 013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Public and Private

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Beaufort County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Second and Market Street

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

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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 present town of Bath is located almost entirely within the boundaries of the original town plan. It is situated on a flat point of land bounded on the east by Back Creek and on the west by Bath Creek. The historic district which encompasses the "old" town is on the west side of the point. It is enclosed by King Street on the east, Bowen Avenue to the north, and Bath Creek on the south and west. During the early eighteenth century the town included a courthouse and gaol, several taverns, a fine brick church, and more than twenty residences.

With the exceptions of St. Thomas Church, the Palmer-Marsh House, and the Van Der Veer House, all structures important in the eighteenth century apparently have been destroyed. Today Bath is a charming, small, rural community with few modern encroachments. The village is devoid of such detracting features as motels, shopping centers, or large commercial structures of any kind. Main (or Water) Street, without curbing or sidewalks, remains as a quiet, tree-lined lane flanked by a number of simple vernacular nineteenth-century houses. Four of the six significant structures that survive from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are located on this street. The six structures are:

1. St. Thomas Episcopal Church (ca. 1734) is a simple brick, Flemish-bond building measuring approximately thirty by fifty-two feet. It appears to be a rectangle in plan but is actually several feet out of square. The gables on the east and west ends have been rebuilt. The western end features the main doorway surmounted by a simple jack arch. Above this is an odd segmental band of moulded brick which may have framed a lunette or formed a part of a primitive pediment.

2. The Palmer-Marsh House (ca. 1750) is an excellent example of a two-story townhouse designed for both business and residential use. The house is approximately fifty-four by thirty feet with its west (narrow) end facing Main Street and the main seven-bay facade facing south. It has a gable roof. At the east end rise two great English-bond chimneys united by a two-story brick pent-roofed closet. The combined chimney is seventeen feet wide and four feet thick at its base. On the north side, near the west corner, rises another massive double-shouldered chimney with flat surfaced weatherings constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. This chimney contains a massive kitchen fireplace in the basement, with ovens in its back and side walls. The building was recently designated as a National Historic Landmark.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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3. The Williams (Glebe) House (ca. 1830) is a simple two-story, frame dwelling with a gable roof, a single story wing on the north, and a lean-to addition in the rear. The main block consists of a side hall and one room. The hall doorway with transom and sidelights is sheltered by a simple entrance porch.
4. The Bonner House (ca. 1835) is a two-story dwelling with gable roof, having a one-story wing to the east and lean-to addition in the rear. It is quite similar to the Williams (Glebe) House. The main block is four bays wide and features a one-story shed porch.
5. The Van Der Veer House (ca. 1790), a frame dwelling with gambrel roof, is to be restored in the near future by the Historic Bath Commission.
6. Swindell's Store, a two-story brick structure, is typical of a rural general store prior to the advent of the modern supermarket.

B. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

Political and commercial needs of the early settlers in the Pamlico region of North Carolina necessitated the formation of a town. Bath, incorporated in 1705, was established to fulfill these needs. Geography dictated both the location and the plan of the town. Bath was located on a point of land between Bath Creek and Back Creek, facing a small, sheltered bay opening into the Pamlico River and Sound. The site was ideal for English shipping and a convenient point from which local goods could be gathered and relayed to the Mother Country.

John Lawson, Surveyor-General of the colony and resident of Bath, probably laid out the original plan which divided the David Perkins Plantation into seventy-one lots, containing one-half acre and four poles each, and five streets. In the plan, King Street formed the town's eastern boundary, Bowen Street formed the northern boundary, and the shoreline of Bath Creek marked the west and south extremities. This plan formed a roughly triangular village fronting on Bath Creek.

Lots five through thirty-two faced the waterfront, but were separated from the all important shore by the main street (Water Street), which ran the length of Bath Town. This thoroughway was planned as the business area of the village and was 100 feet in width. The waterfront properties on the west side of Water Street were sold separately, evidently for commercial activities. In 1715 Bath was designated by the Lords Proprietors as Port of Entry. It continued to be the colony's principal mart until 1730, when the Port was moved to Beaufort. During the early period of Bath's prosperity as Port of Entry, Edward Teach, the notorious pirate called "Blackbeard," frequented the area and terrorized coastal shipping.

Bath was also a center for political and religious activity. A struggle involving the governorship of the colony, known as Cary's Rebellion (1708-1711), took place in the vicinity. In 1744 and 1752 the colonial assembly held sessions in Bath and the Governor and his council met there several times. Three of North Carolina's governors lived near Bath at various times: Robert Daniel, Thomas Cary, and Charles Eden. North Carolina's first Chief Justice, Christopher Gale, and Edward Moseley, Speaker of the Colonial Assembly, also resided there.

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Construction of the oldest extant church building in continuous use in the state, St. Thomas Church, was begun in Bath in 1734. The Parish glebe was laid out in 1705 as 300 acres of "good land" and was the only specifically designated glebe ever established in North Carolina. The parish was also the recipient of a 176-title library in 1701, which was the first library in North Carolina.

During the late eighteenth century, Bath rapidly declined as a political and economic center. With the establishment of the town of Washington, vessels could take their cargoes twenty miles farther inland, nearer the ever-increasing western population. In 1785 the General Assembly shifted the Beaufort County Courthouse from Bath to the new port.

Today, all structures important in eighteenth-century Bath appear to have been destroyed except three: St. Thomas Church, the Palmer-Marsh House, and the Van Der Veer House. Most of the present town is enclosed within the original town boundaries. It contains numerous simple nineteenth-century commercial and residential structures along quiet tree-lined streets with almost no unsightly modern encroachments. Six structures of particular interest are:

1. St. Thomas Church (ca. 1734). St. Thomas Parish was created in 1701 as one of the first in the colony. By 1711 services were being held in local residences by lay readers. Construction of the brick church was begun in 1734, under the direction of Reverend John Garzia and was finished by 1762. The church has been used continuously since its completion. It is the oldest remaining church building in the state of North Carolina.
2. Palmer-Marsh House. Michael Coutanch, a Boston mariner, built the present house between 1739 and 1761. In 1764 the house was sold to Robert Palmer, Surveyor-General of the colony and Bath's most important businessman at that time. Palmer served as Bath's representative to the colonial assembly and as Governor Tryon's special assistant. The house was purchased by Jonathan Marsh in 1802, and continued in the Marsh family until 1915.
3. Williams (Glebe) House (ca. 1830). The house was built between 1827 and 1832, during the ownership of Samuel Lucas. It was acquired by Dr. John F. Tompkins in 1847. Tompkins was a noted North Carolina agricultural reformer and founder of the State Fair. He edited the Farmer's Journal in Bath from 1852 to 1853. Granbery B. Williams bought the property in 1877 and commenced 60 years of ownership by the Williams family. In 1937 Ella Williams sold the house to the

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(July

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Reverend Dr. A. C. D. Noe who transferred the property to the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina in 1945 for use as a rectory.

4. Bonner House (ca. 1835), built on property owned by Joseph Bonner, on the site of an earlier house initially occupied by Isabella Lawson, daughter of John Lawson, first Surveyor-General of the colony. The Bonner family ownership continued until the 1950s when it was acquired by the Oscar Smith Foundation, Inc. for inclusion in Historic Bath.
5. Van Der Veer House (ca. 1790), built on land owned by Jonathan Whitmore. Jacob Van Der Veer acquired the house in 1824. He made several additions to the dwelling and occupied the house until 1836. Van Der Veer bought several tracts of land adjacent to the house lot and made the dwelling the center of the Van Der Veer farm. The name was changed to the Beasley Plantation in 1876, when the farm was bought by William H. Beasley. Charles W. Brown acquired the plantation and house in 1919 and the Brown family has retained ownership for over 50 years.
6. Swindell's Store. The store was built on property owned by the Marsh family who inhabited the Palmer-Marsh House. It is typical of small rural general stores found in many parts of the South during the last sixty years.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beaufort County Records, Beaufort County Courthouse, Washington, North Carolina. Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

Beaufort County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

Paschal, Herbert R. A History of Colonial Bath. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1955.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	35° 28' 52"	76° 48' 58"		0	0	
NE	35° 28' 52"	76° 48' 42"				
SE	35° 28' 14"	76° 48' 42"				
SW	35° 28' 14"	76° 48' 58"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 80 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
J. G. Zehmer, Asst. Adm. Research & Restoration; John B. Wells, Survey Spec.

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: September 18, 1970

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 Dr. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date September 18, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

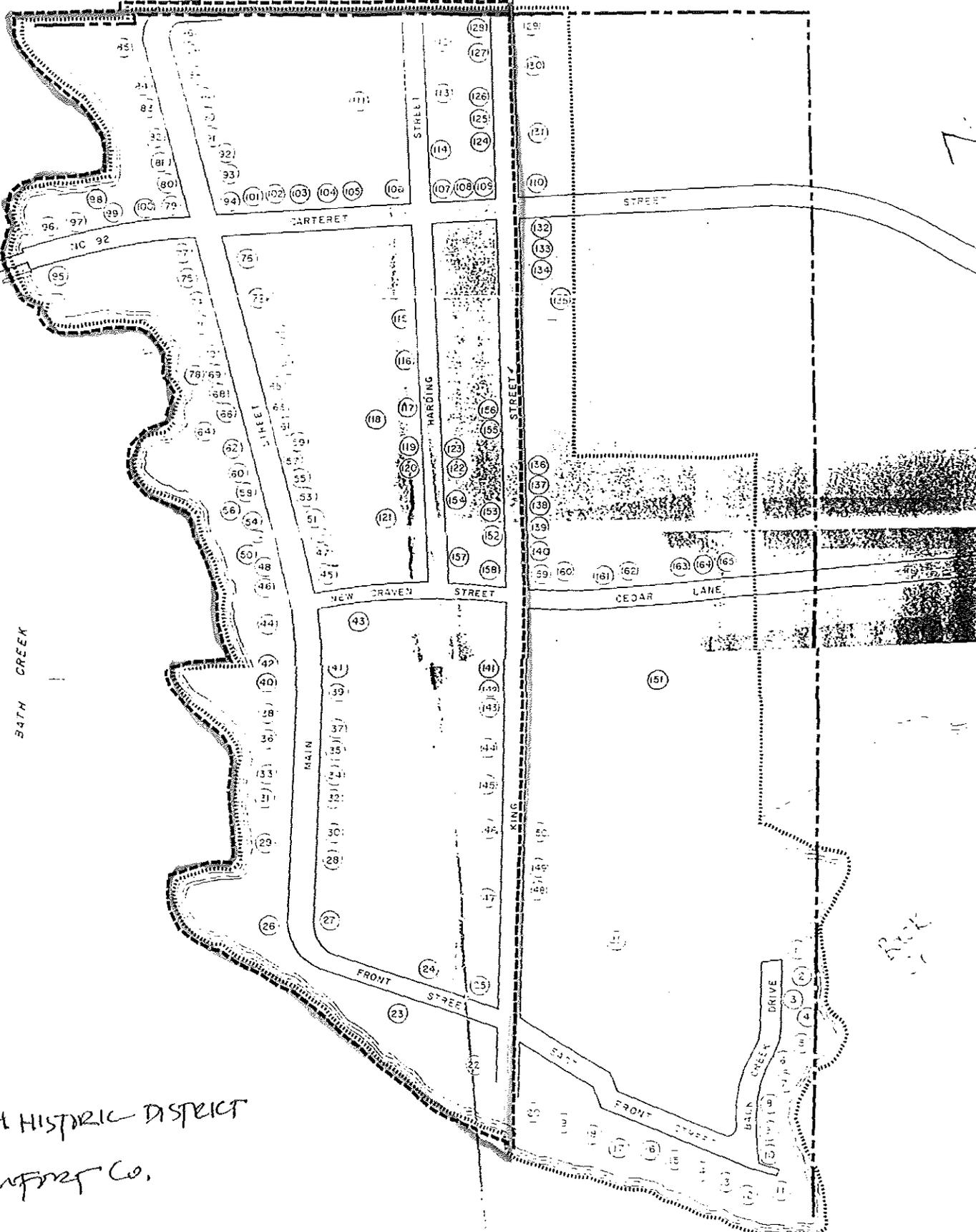
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1875
1880



BATH HISTORIC DISTRICT
 BEAUFORT CO.

NR Boundary —

1875
1880