

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Carteret County Home

and or common

2. Location

street & number Highway 101 not for publication

city, town Beaufort vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Carteret code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Pandora, Inc.

street & number 123-D Yester Oaks Way

city, town Greensboro vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Carteret County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Beaufort state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in Beaufort on Highway 101, the Carteret County Home faces east and is flanked by five large, old cedar trees which run parallel to the highway. Although structurally sound, the home has been neglected and is in need of repair.

Constructed in 1914, the home originally consisted of four rooms used as caretakers quarters and six dormitory-type rooms for residents. Four additional rooms were added in 1917 and an extension was made off the back porch of the central section which housed two small rooms used as an infirmary. At present the home is a gable-front frame structure with a two-story center section patterned after the hall and parlor plan. This central section is two rooms deep with a straight stairway rising to the second floor in the entrance hall. Risers are straight 12" pine boards. Square balusters support a beveled rail. The first and second floor newels have square bases rising into round posts topped with 4" solid wood domes. The two downstairs rooms in the center section have brick fireplaces with solid wood mantels supported by angle irons. The entire structure rests on a brick pier foundation.

Dormitory rooms extend from either side of the center section, eight to a side. A porch runs the full length of the front of the house, wrapping around the center section. The porch is framed by two rows of flat railing. The hip roof, with exposed rafter ends, is punctuated with nine interior brick chimneys. The dormitory rooms, which open onto the porch, originally had a four panel outside door, two over two vertical sash windows, plastered walls, pine floors, and sheathed ceilings.

The County Home was altered considerably when sold to private individuals. The single dormitory rooms were combined into three-room units with bath and kitchen facilities added, and were rented as apartments. Another three-room section was added to the north end of the building. A small section of the front porch was enclosed to make an additional room. Lattice work was placed on the porch to separate the units. The infirmary was remodeled and used as a kitchen.

Stark simplicity characterizes the appearance of the Carteret County Home. Built to be a solid, serviceable institution for the poor, the design of the home is practical and reflects its intended function.

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REFERENCE

Doug Swaim, editor. Carolina Dwelling (Raleigh: The Student Publication of the School of Design: Volume 26, 1978).

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1914 **Builder Architect** Clarence Simpson, **Builder**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Article XI of the 1868 Constitution of North Carolina provided the moral and philosophical basis for the establishment of county-supervised institutions to care for the indigent, a practice which continued into the twentieth century. The Carteret County Home, constructed in 1914 to house the county's poor, aged, and infirm, is one of a number of such homes which were established in the state through the early 20th century and is one of but a few which survive today. Though it is no longer in use, the sprawling frame building retains a simple yet utilitarian character which clearly reflects its intended function, and survives as physical evidence of a period of social reform and humanitarian efforts in North Carolina in the early twentieth century.

Criteria Assessment

- A. The Carteret County Home is associated with the movement towards social reform in North Carolina in the early 20th century. The establishment of institutions for the poor was a popular manifestation of this movement.
- C. The County Home is fairly typical of the vernacular building traditions in rural eastern North Carolina, reflected in the starkly simple style and finish. Its unadorned appearance clearly reflects its intended use and purpose.

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The Constitution of North Carolina, 1868. Article XI, Section 7 provided for the "Beneficent provision for the poor, unfortunate, and orphan, being one of the first duties of a civilized and Christian state. . ." and established the groundwork for the building of homes or institutions to care for the indigent.¹ The actual supervision and administration was entrusted to the counties through a Poor Fund that meted out allowances to those in need, This system proved to be a heavy burden on local funds.

To alleviate the burden of the poor, the Boards of Commissioners petitioned the General Assembly of North Carolina to allow them to issue bonds for the purpose of purchasing sites and erecting buildings for the care of the poor, aged, and infirm. The Carteret County Board of Commissioners presented their petition which was ratified on March 3, 1911. A committee appointed to select a site reported to the Commissioners on October 2, 1911 that they had found a site and moved to buy the W.G. Kirkman place³ for a sum of \$1,000.00² The 90-acre parcel of land was purchased on November 2, 1911.

In session May 5, 1913, the Commissioners endorsed issuing and selling coupon bonds to be known as Carteret County Home bonds. These bonds were to be sold in sums of \$500.00 each, for a total amount of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of buying the site and erecting the building.⁴

Bids taken for the construction of the home were opened on January 5, 1914. The contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, Clarence Simpson, for a sum of \$3,387.30, with the building to be completed by April 1, 1914.⁵ On April 6, 1914, the Board visited the county home, inspected the buildings, accepted the same, and ordered payment for the balance of the contract.⁶

Rules governing admission to the Home were read and passed as follows at the May 4, 1914 County Commissioners meeting:

"1st Any person, owning property, who expects to enter the County Home will be required to transfer the title of his or her property to the County Commissioners, and will use proceeds and income for the county home. If such person or persons shall leave county home, their property or proceeds of such property (minus income) will be reconveyed to such former owner. In the event of death of such person, while an inmate, the property or proceeds of sale of such property will be used by the home for the maintenance of said home (all income on property of inmate will be used by the county home for its maintenance, after property has been conveyed to county commissioners). Provided further, that no person will be eligible to enter county home if he or she has disposed of real or personal property within two years preceeding such application without showing the legitimate disposition of such property or proceeds.

2nd All applicants shall be examined by the county physician, and if found by him physically unable to support himself or herself, then they shall be eligible to enter the county home.

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3rd All persons becoming inmates of the county home shall be subject to the discipline and regulations of the home and shall render any service that they may be physically or mentally able to perform for the maintenance of the home. The county physician being the judge to pass upon their ability to perform the duties placed upon them.

4th The home will be opened for inmates on June 1st."⁷

As stipulated, the home was to be opened to residents on June 1, 1914. Applications were to be filed with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners on the first Monday in June and every first Monday thereafter. Each person was to present a petition for entrance from at least three reliable citizens of the county. Notice was given to all those receiving aid from the Poor Fund that after July 1, 1914, no more aid would be forthcoming except to those persons being cared for at the County Home.

George Lewis was the first superintendent of the county home. He, along with his wife and a cook, attended to the well-being of the residents. The county physician attended to those in need of medical attention. Mr. Lewis served as superintendent for three years after the home opened and returned to maintain the home for ten more years prior to its closing in 1943. Superintendents were paid a salary by the county. The Grand Jury of March, 1943 commended the Lewises for the good care given the residents. The Lewises were also allowed to remain in the home as caretakers until the property was sold.

In reviewing the Minutes of the County Commissioners, it appeared the County Home adhered to a strict "shape up or ship out" policy. One resident was returned to Sea Level for disrupting the routine of the home and one lady was put on a train to Florida with the admonition not to return to Carteret County.

The Carteret County Home operated until 1943, at times housing many more people than the sixteen for which it was originally designed. Some long-time residents of Carteret County can remember seeing the home residents sitting on the porch, singing in church groups to them, and some remember as children being afraid of the home because the cemetery for the poor was across the road.

The administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the programs of the New Deal revolutionized public welfare in North Carolina. Care of the poor was to be administered by the state with assistance from the federal government. The introduction of the social security system relieved the counties of the obligation of taking care of their poor. The Social Security Act enacted by the federal government in 1935 was not ratified by the state of North Carolina until 1937.¹⁰ This legislation led to the closing of the Carteret County Home. At the time there were fourteen residents living at the home and

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it was not practical to place them elsewhere, When the number dwindled to seven, making the expense per person economically unfeasible, the Carteret County Home became the thirty-fourth home in the state to close its doors.¹¹

The Carteret County Home closed its doors to the poor in June, 1943, but the County Commissioners voted to allow its use for 150 farm laborers to help harvest crops desperately needed for the war effort. The use of the building was to last no longer than six weeks.¹² Again George Lewis was called on to oversee the care of the laborers.

On July 12, 1943 the County Commissioners passed a resolution to sell the property known as the County Home at public auction to the highest bidder, at which time D. F. Merrill acquired the property for \$3,100.00.¹³ On October 28, 1949, Merrill sold the property to Manly F. and Sallie B. Springle.¹⁴ The building was altered, remodeled, and turned into three-room, individual apartments used as rental property. The property has been vacant since the mid 1960s.

In her will of June 9, 1975, Sallie Springle bequeathed one half undivided interest in the County Home property to two of her daughters.¹⁵ On February 26, 1981 Mamie Springle Chadwick deeded her interest to her sister, Grace Springle Herbert.¹⁶ The property was sold to its present owners, Pandora, Inc., on November 1, 1983.¹⁷ The current owners are in the process of renovating the five-room center section.

The Carteret County Home remains as a reminder of an earlier, and harder, time when counties took responsibility for caring for their own. It stands as physical evidence of early attempts at social reform and humanitarian concern in this state.

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FOOTNOTES

¹John L. Cheney (ed.), North Carolina Government 1585-1975: A Narrative and Statistical History. (Raleigh: N. C. Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 866.

²Minutes of Carteret County Board of Commissioners, Book 4, p. 110.

³Carteret County Deeds, 1911, p. 50.

⁴Minutes of Carteret County Board of Commissioners, Book 4, p. 34.

⁵Ibid., p. 165.

⁶Ibid., p. 175.

⁷Ibid., p. 185.

⁸Beaufort News, June 3, 1943, p. 1.

⁹The Eastern Weekly, (Beaufort, N. C.), December 15, 1982, p. 5A.

¹⁰Anthony J. Badger, North Carolina and the New Deal (Raleigh: N. C. Department of Cultural Resources, 1981) 40-41.

¹¹Beaufort News, June 3, 1943, p. 1.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Carteret County Deeds, Book 100, p. 590.

¹⁴Carteret County Deeds, Book 102, p. 588.

¹⁵Carteret County Wills, Book 88E, p. 122.

¹⁶Carteret County Deeds, Book 449, p. 222.

¹⁷Carteret County Deeds, Book 472, p. 17.

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8531 SE
WILLISTON

347 348 349 2 710 000 FEET 76°37'30" 34°45'

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