

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
William Hollister House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
613 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern (First Congressional District, The Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Craven CODE: 49

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Helen H. Swan

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 423

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Craven County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Hollister House, built during the years 1840 and 1841, is perhaps the latest of the outstanding group of traditional New Bern side-hall plan dwellings. The archaic character of the exterior gives little indication of the interior finish which, though it is of traditional Federal design, shows a handling of materials and many details of trim characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century, including marble mantels, corner block architraves, and plaster medallions. The Hollister House is situated on a slight knoll which is cordoned off from busy Broad Street by a brick wall capped with a cement coping. Sandstone steps lead from the sidewalk to the yard which is planted with pecan, magnolia, cedar, and holly trees; ivy blankets much of the yard.

The two-and-a-half-story frame structure is covered by a gable roof and is raised on a one-to-five common bond brick foundation. Joined to the west side of the house is a single-story, one-room wing which also has a gable roof. This wing long was thought to be a later addition; however, exterior and interior evidence points strongly to its having been built as part of the original house. A passageway which appears on a 1908 insurance map connects a square kitchen to the rear wing. The front (north) facade of the side-hall portion of the house is three bays wide and the east side four bays deep. The front entrance in the west bay features a one-bay porch which is topped by a paneled balustrade. The door contains six raised panels framed with a wide flat molding characteristic of the Greek Revival style; however, the ornamental transom is rendered in the traditional New Bern fashion where a carved wooden interlaced fret is used in imitation of leading.

All the windows on the first two floors contain six-over-six weighted sash and have louvered shutters with original hardware. The attic is lighted by two well-detailed Palladian windows, one in each gable end, and by four gable dormers, three of which are original. The original dormers contain round-headed windows and are flanked by pilasters. The main cornice, supported on corner posts treated as pilasters, combines undercut modillions and dentils, and runs across the front and rear, returning slightly into the gable ends. On the east end the stuccoed stacks of two interior chimneys rise high above the gable end and, at the ridge, support a captain's walk.

The two-bay wing repeats the cornice and corner posts of the main block. The wing also has an interior end chimney and windows with six-over-six weighted sash.

The first floor of the Hollister House follows a side-hall plan, two rooms deep. The entrance to the wing is between the transverse hall arch and the stair which rises toward the rear along the west wall. The interior, much more than the exterior, evidences traditional Federal design combined with features in vogue in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. The two focal points of the hall, the transverse arch and the stair, are both quite Federal in design. The molded elliptical arch with the keystone springs from paneled pilasters. The stair rises in three flights with two square landings between. Balusters square in section and tapered posts carry a rounded ramped handrail terminating on the curtail step in a spiral which encircles a tapered newel. A wave-pattern bracket adorns each step. Through-

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out the first floor, the doors are identical to that of the entrance and in addition are wood-grained and still bear the original brass hardware and slide locks. Showing the influence of the Greek Revival style, all the door openings in the hall have symmetrical pulvinated architraves with faceted paneled corner blocks, each enriched with cable molding. The window is similarly treated and features a panel beneath. This treatment is an element common to all windows on the first and second floors of the Hollister House. The plaster walls have molded plaster cornices and wide molded baseboards. A cast-iron gaslight fixture (now electrified) is suspended from the center of a foliated plaster medallion.

As in the hall, traditional and new elements appear in the double parlors which are connected by sliding doors. Each of these twin parlors is dominated by a bold marble mantel of typical mid-nineteenth century design. The entire chimney breast in each room is sheathed with black marble and spanned by a simple shelf. Below, a green marble frieze is supported on pilasters of the same material. A beautiful cast-iron grate cover fills the fire opening and a hearth skirt bows out in front. The door and window openings of the parlors are flanked by paneled pilasters, the fields of which are pulvinated and outlined with a cable. The caps of the pilasters are plain and support a full entablature with unadorned end blocks and frieze and a cornice combining bands of scallops, dentils, and undercut modillions. The walls are plastered and feature a very elaborate cornice of molded plaster above a band of pressed tin. They have a wide molded baseboard like that in the hall. A narrow plaster molding is used on the ceiling to mark its perimeter and in the center is a cast plaster medallion.

The wing room, seemingly always intended as the dining room because of its proximity to the kitchen, features a wooden mantel which follows Federal lines. Reeded pilasters flank the square fire opening into which is set a cast-iron grate cover similar to those found in the parlors. The plain frieze and end blocks support a broken cornice shelf adorned with a course of dentils. In this room, bold fluted architraves with paneled faceted corner blocks surround the door and window openings. The plaster walls terminate in a deep molded plaster cornice and the path of the cornice is echoed on the ceiling by a more delicate molding. In the center of the room hangs a gas chandelier which has been electrified.

The best evidence supporting the contemporaneity of the wing with the main block is found on the second floor of the main block where all the elements exhibited in the wing are repeated--architraves, mantel (except for the grate cover), cornice, and doors. A slight variation of the plan is found at this level and in the attic where a small third room was enclosed in the front of the hall.

Two of the attic rooms exhibit mantels reminiscent of Georgian design. They are of wood and each features a molded architrave around the square fire opening, above which an unbroken cornice shelf is supported on a plain frieze and end blocks. Beaded baseboards occur throughout, and wall gas fixtures remain in several places.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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

Although the William Hollister House is of traditional Federal design, its construction was not actually begun until 1840 by William Hollister. Hollister was born in Lyme, Connecticut, in 1777 and came to New Bern at the age of twenty-four. His New Bern account books, which begin in 1801, were meticulously kept until August 1, 1843, ten days before his death. These account books, ledgers, and journals, still in the possession of the family, provide detailed information about Hollister and the building of his house.

Hollister was certainly one of the most successful merchants of early nineteenth century New Bern. At various periods during his life he owned all or the chief interest in fourteen ships, including the brigs Jason and George Deveraux and the schooners Julia, Cygniet, James Monroe, Betsey, and Fanny. They were engaged in the coastal and West Indies trade and formed the major part of his business. He also was involved in the operation of a salt works, a distillery, and a store, and in his later years invested heavily in banking and railroads. The account books reveal William Hollister's involvement in other business ventures, including silk making. Although the mulberry trees and silk worms which he purchased never led to a silk industry, he was able to recoup his investment through the sale of mulberry cuttings and silk worms to others who also wanted to try.

Lot 202 at the intersection of George and Broad Streets was purchased by Hollister from John Stanly in 1818. Though it was unimproved property, its elevated site at a major street intersection offered a desirable site for a residence. Hollister's account books do not reveal the name of an architect or designer (and there probably was none), but they do cover most other facets of the construction of the house. Under the heading of "Improvements on Lot 202," the accounts begin on August 26, 1838, with the purchase of 1,650 shingles and 18,500 bricks. On February 7, 1840, he paid Blackwell and Hawks \$160.83 for "sawing frame" for his residence and on April 8, paid John Blackwell \$36.68 for "sawing floors." On the same date he entered 18,650 lath, 850 "Syprus timber," and \$17.00 to "labourers digging out cellar." Also on April 8, two laborers were paid for laying brick, one for five days and the other for six days. This probably marks the actual beginning of construction in early 1840.

On April 23 he recorded the first of several shipments from New York. On the schooner Register he received nails and brads from Adam Treadwell and Son. Beginning on May 26 the first entry "for sundry materials bought

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by me in New York for dwelling house errctg, \$429.42," is recorded. From that time until the completion of the structure "sundry materials" are listed periodically, each in the amount of several hundred dollars, and withro other explanation. It seems likely that the marble mantels, lighting fixtures, much of the furniture, and some of the finish were included under this heading.

By August 31, 1840, the house was nearing completion, for on that date Ben Wade was paid for "tarring roof of new house," an unnamed laborer was paid for "glazing sash" and another for "priming sash and painting house 1 coat." On September 21 he paid Jim Brown for "plastering" and settled bills for paints, oil, lime and "heart Syprus shingle." He also paid \$3.75 to "negro woman, scouring."

The house accounts continue for almost another year before Hillister actually moved to the new structure. On February 28, 1841, Sam Oliver was paid for nails and locks and Robert Handcock "for building kitchen \$158.25." On June 10, H. Morris was paid for "additional sash weights," and on October 18, \$8.00 was paid for "wire screens for cellar windows," and \$15.64 for "tin gutters and pipes."

In August of 1841 the account books reveal the expenditure of a considerable amount of money for "carpenters for repairs on Lot 259 . . . labourers . . . cleaning woman & scrubbing paint . . . repair locks . . . painting house corner Broad & Metcalf. . . ." This was the house that Hollister had occupied while the new dwelling was being built. He probably already had moved into the new house in August of 1841, and the old one was being prepared for rent or sale. This is borne out by a later entry which noted that in February, 1842, he "recd of Mrs. Pearce the balle [balance] due on the purchase of the house at the corner of Broad & Metcalf Streets."

It is interesting to note that despite his use of a traditional style, Hollister used elements of construction, such as weighted sash windows, wire screen on windows, and tin gutters and pipe, that in 1841 would have been as modern in New Bern as the overall style of the house was archaic in other areas.

The exterior kinship of this house with Connecticut houses--of Hollister's youth--and with several of the earlier New Bern houses of this mode is emphasized by the elevated captain's walk between the end chimneys. Because of the position of the house on one of the highest points of land in New Bern, this feature must have given Hollister, the merchant-shipper, much pleasure, and a considerable visual advantage over his neighbors.

Throughout the history of the house it has remained in the Hollister family and is lived in today by the fifth generation of the family. Hollister residence was interrupted only during the Civil War, when the family moved to High Point during the 1862-1865 occupation of New Bern by Union forces. In that period the house was used by various Federal units on duty in New Bern, and was still occupied by Union forces when the family returned in 1865 to reclaim the house.

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The William Hollister House is indicative of the tenacious hold the traditional side-hall plan had on New Bernians. Despite the modernity of some of the elements in the house, which probably reflects his trade contacts with advanced cities like New York and Boston, Hollister chose to recall for his house the basic form used in New Bern dwellings for a half a century. It probably marks the last full application of the Federal style in New Bern. The significance of the William Hollister House is further enhanced by its virtually unaltered condition and the extraordinarily complete and detailed documentation of its construction.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Craven County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 William Hollister Account Books, Journals and Ledgers, 1801-1843, originally in the possession of Charles Hollister, Jr., New Bern.
 Interview, Charles Hollister, Jr., and Rose McCulloch, October 29, 1971.
 Waterman, Thomas Tileston, and Johnston, Frances Benjamin. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941.

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	35°	07'	29"
NE	0	'	"	77°	02'	53"
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

3 February 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 3 February 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

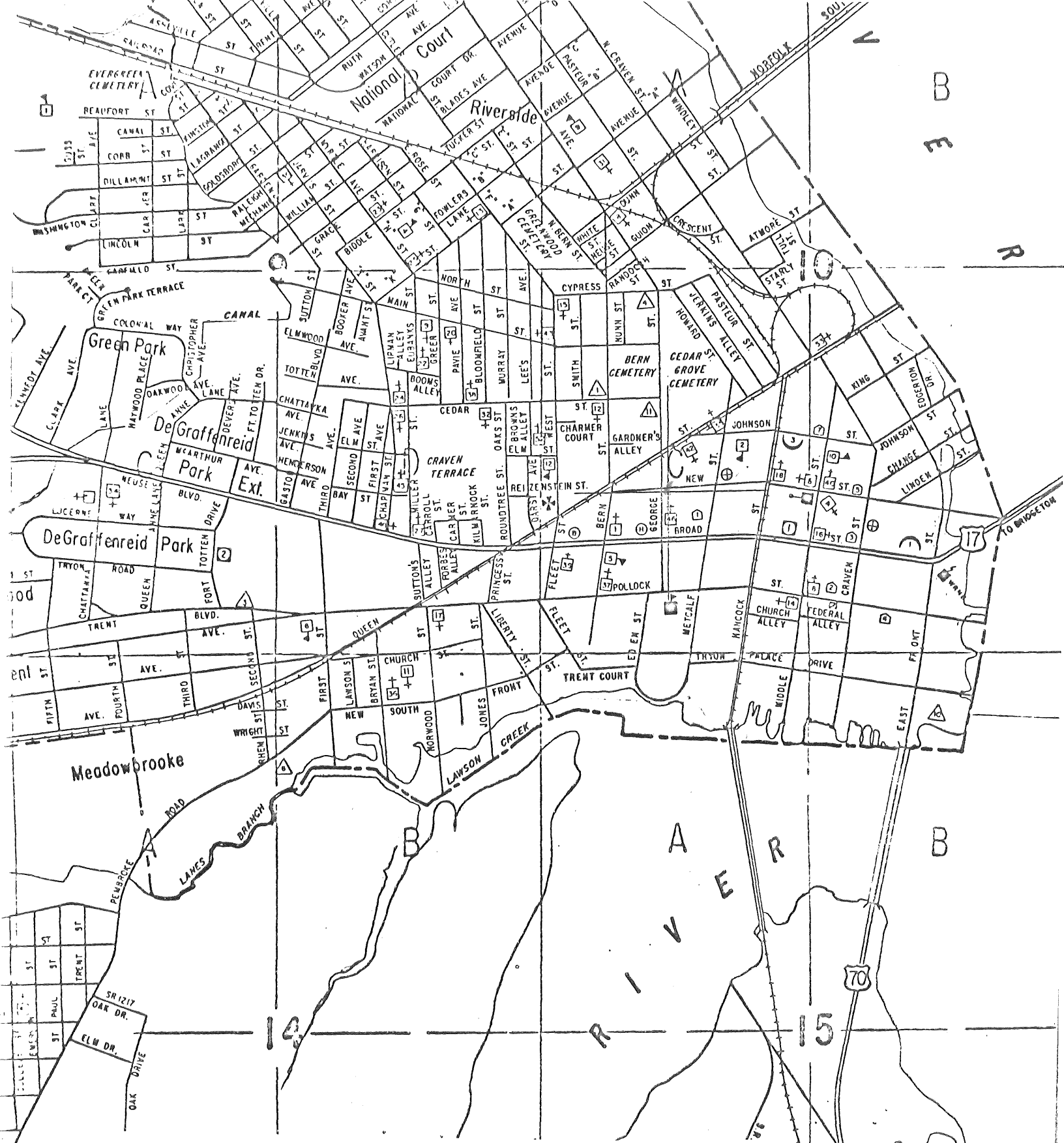
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



William Hollister House
 613 Broad Street
 New Bern, North Carolina

Map of New Bern and Vicinity, New Bern Chamber of
 Commerce, drawn by: Gilfredo Gonzalez
 Scale: 1"/1200 feet
 no date



James City