

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:
New Bern City Schools Administration Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Tisdale-Jones House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
520 New Street

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

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Craven	CODE 119
-------------------------	------------	-------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 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:
New Bern Board of Education

STREET AND NUMBER:
520 New Street

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:
302 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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Craven

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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 Tisdale-Jones House is a two-and-a-half-story frame structure one room deep with a center-hall plan. A large two-story rear ell has been added on the northwest end. The two parts of the house appear to have been built as separate entities or parts thereof, and joined sometime after their completion. The center-hall portion, currently considered the main block, is five bays wide, two bays deep, and raised on a basement of brick laid in Flemish bond. The wing, which is two bays long and two bays deep, is raised on brick piers (now filled in) indicating that the main block is on its original site, and that the wing was situated elsewhere and later moved and connected to the main block. At the connection, the level of the foundations of each section vary, with the wing being about a foot lower than the main block. The interior demonstrates the reason. The ceilings of both stories of the main block are abnormally low, while those of the wing are of fairly standard height. By placing the floor of the ell about a foot lower than that of the main block, the ceilings at both levels were made to correspond.

Further evidence of the original independence of the main block and the wing are expressed in the roof. A hip roof with its ridge on an east-west axis covers the center-hall portion and is intersected at right angles by the gable roof which covers the the wing. Two gable dormers appear on the front of the main block. A single-shoulder chimney of Flemish bond brick occurs at each end of the main block and at the rear of the wing. A series of small additions, enclosures, and porches at the rear, plus the replacement of most of the original weatherboarding, has somewhat clouded the original form of the building. Two bays of flush siding at the second level of the rear of the main block apparently indicate the former location of a double-tier porch. The southernmost bay of the existing one-story porch across the east wall of the ell has been enclosed and the entrance from the porch into the wing closed. A similar door on the second level now leads into a storage room built into the angle, but probably originally provided access to the second level of the porch across the main block. It would seem probable that these doors were cut into the ell as a result of the coupling of the two buildings.

The main entrance, located in the central bay of the front (south) facade, is protected by a one-story porch with an open pediment roof supported on slender colonnettes set on pedestals. Treated quite formally, the wall surface protected by the entrance porch is flush-paneled and has a molded chair rail and baseboard. The six-panel door appears to be a modern replacement.

Although many changes have been made to the interior of the house, the original floor plan is easily discernible. The rooms that flank the central hall are of unequal size, with that on the west being larger. The area behind the east room is divided equally between the stair, which is adjacent to the center hall, and a small room situated in the northeast corner of the house and therefore accessible only from the east room. The wing is entered from a right-angle passage which cuts into the corner of the west room from the rear of the hall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

7. A

The interior finish in the Tisdale-Jones House combines extremely sophisticated elements found frequently in New Bern buildings with vernacular forms that are rare or entirely unique. The narrow hall is treated with a transverse arch and a flat-paneled wainscot. Occurring at the rear end of the hall, the arch springs from paneled pilasters which have pierced gouge work in the caps. The elliptical arch has a paneled soffit and a molded keystone. On the six-panel doors and the dado, the fields of the panels are framed by strips of delicate applied molding--quite a sophisticated treatment. A molded plaster cornice completes the hall. The stair situated at right angles to the hall rises in the three flights with two square landings between. Georgian elements are seen in the closed string, turned balusters, square newel and posts, and molded handrail.

In the west room, the flat-paneled wainscot breaks out below each window to form pedestals. The Adamesque mantel in this room is fairly academic, but has some distinctively vernacular overtones. The fire opening is flanked by pilasters with pierced gouge work in the caps. In the three-part frieze, sunbursts appear in the center tablet and in the end blocks. That in the center is traditional, but those in the end blocks are carved with a low axis. A course of dentils occurs below a molded shelf that breaks over the end blocks and bows above the center tablet. A transitional Georgian-Federal mantel is found in the east room. In this case a molded architrave frames the rectangular opening, and supports a paneled frieze with delicately fluted end blocks. A band of pierced dentils runs beneath the molded shelf which breaks over the end blocks. The flat-paneled dado is bounded by a molded chair rail and baseboard.

The large room that forms the rear ell is treated very differently from those discussed above. Among its features are a flat-paneled dado, molded chair rail and baseboard, and an elaborately carved cornice consisting of undercut modillions outlined by an astragal band with a bold cable molding below. Although acoustical ceiling tile has been installed, the cornice was carefully avoided. Two features on the early Federal mantel have kinship to elements found on mantels in the Harvey Mansion--the terminus pilasters and the applied composition ornaments. The pilasters which flank a square opening are pierced and fluted on the top halves with the lower halves tapered. Pierced gouge work appears in the caps and across the architrave. The three-part frieze has a plain center tablet and the end blocks are embellished with cast composition acanthus leaves. A molded shelf breaks above the end blocks and bows out over the center tablet. Below the shelf runs a dentil course, in which each dentil is augmented by a tiny vertical strip of astragal molding.

Although the spaces on the second floor have been altered considerably, all of the architectural features are intact. The rooms of the main block are consistently finished with beaded baseboards and molded window sills. Both mantels are extremely vernacular in character. That in the west room has a rectangular opening flanked by thickly reeded pilasters. Pierced gouge work appears in the caps. The frieze is plain, as are the end blocks, but the former is augmented with strips of applied molding which lend a paneled effect. Occuring between

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

7. B

the lower border of the frieze and the fire opening surround is a rectangular panel, which resembles a center tablet that was misplaced. Between the frieze and the shelf, which breaks above the end blocks, is a scallop band. The mantel in the east room resembles its counterpart on the first floor. Quite simply treated, the mantel consists of a molded architrave fire opening surround with a flush frieze above and a reverse scallop band beneath a molded shelf.

The rear wing is finished in a more sophisticated manner with a molded chair rail and baseboard and a standard Federal mantel composed of plain pilasters, end blocks, center tablet, dentil course and a molded shelf that breaks over the end blocks.

8. 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 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 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

Lots 314 and 320, on Metcalf Street between New and Johnson streets, had already been improved by 1769 when the commissioners of the town of New Bern secured the lots to Robert Palmer "having been built on and saved agreeable to law and the tenor of the Commissioners." He had purchased the lots in 1767, and evidently built the first structure there (part of which may be the present rear ell). Palmer had served as surveyor general in the Beaufort County area, and as collector of duties for the port of Bath before coming to New Bern as a judge with jurisdiction in Craven, Carteret, Johnston, Beaufort, and Hyde counties. Later he disposed of his property in New Bern and returned to Bath.

Martin Howard bought the Metcalf Street property in March of 1771 and held it until the beginning of the Revolution. Howard, a loyalist from Rhode Island who had been appointed chief justice of the province of North Carolina in 1766, arrived in New Bern in 1767. He was active in the formation of St. John's Masonic Lodge, and served as the first grand master. Because of his position as chief justice, he presided at the June 9, 1771, Hillsborough trials of the Regulators taken at the Battle of Alamance. This earned him widespread enmity which, coupled with his refusal to renounce his allegiance to the crown, led to the confiscation of his property and his exile to England in 1777.

In August, 1776, Howard sold his New Bern property to William Tisdale and moved to Richmond, a country house just outside New Bern, where he resided until the 1777 confiscation, when he left for England. Tisdale was a silversmith who was evidently already well established in 1777 when he took Bond Veal as his apprentice to learn the trade. Active in local affairs, Tisdale represented New Bern at the provincial congress in Hillsborough on August 21, 1775, and later represented Craven County in the House of Commons.

In 1778 he was ordered to engrave the great seal of the state of North Carolina, and in 1780 was one of the commissioners appointed to superintend the printing and numbering of bills of credit for the new state. If Tisdale's shop was in his house, which is likely, the first seal of the state of North Carolina was engraved in the structure which still stands.

Tisdale owned the house from 1776 to 1796 during which time it probably reached its present configuration. Certainly all of the finish of the structure would seem to fit stylistically in that period. Before his purchase, the house is normally referred to as being on Metcalf Street, and after that

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

8. A

time as being on New Street, which may correlate with the apparent changes in its orientation. The rear wing of the house, on Metcalf Street, is certainly different enough in form and exterior finish from the front, or New Street, portion to have been earlier, and may be the pre-Revolutionary structure. When Tisdale sold the property to Francis Xavier Martin on September 3, 1796, it was identified as the property "whereupon I now dwell . . ." Apparently by that time the house reached its present size and finish.

Martin, like the two owners who had immediately preceded him, was a prominent member of the Masonic Lodge, and would have known Tisdale through their mutual involvement in the affairs of St. John's Lodge. Martin came to New Bern about 1782 from France, and although his knowledge of English was limited he secured employment with the North Carolina Gazette. Martin quickly became the editor of the Gazette and by November 22, 1785, had formed his own company and applied for the job of accomplishing the public printing of the state. Concurrently Martin undertook the study of law, and was appointed to the bar in 1789. William Gaston studied law under him, and John Wheeler in his 1851 Historical Sketches of North Carolina called him

. . . one of the most learned Jurists of his age. With a mind naturally acute; an erudition surpassed by none, equalled by few; with an unspotted integrity, his decisions are regarded the respect they merit.

Wheeler went on to say of Martin,

His labors as an Author were considerable. He was the compiler of the Statute Laws of North Carolina; author of a work on Justices of the Peace; and of the best History, according to the means he possessed, ever published of our state.

Martin owned the house for slightly more than two years, selling it to John Louis Taylor on September 7, 1798. Taylor was also active in Masonic affairs and a jurist. He was a master of St. John's Lodge, and grand master of the North Carolina Masons. He moved to Raleigh about 1811 to become the first chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. He sold his New Street house to Asa Jones on May 26, 1812. The property remained in the Jones family until 1958 when it was acquired by the New Bern City Board of Education. Asa Jones was a wealthy planter and shipper who resided in town. Stephen F. Miller in his "Recollections of New Bern Fifty Years Ago" (1874) noted that "Newbern could boast no worthier citizen." The only surviving tax list for New Bern, those for 1816-1819, listed Jones as the owner and occupant of the present structure. Beginning with the 1816 list and following through the other three years, lots 314 and 330, Metcalf Street, between New and Johnson streets, were listed as the property of Asa Jones, "where he resides," while lot 315, directly across Metcalf Street from the house was also shown as the property of Jones "on which stands a stable."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

8. B

When Asa Jones died in 1840 he left the New Street house to John M. Roberts, who had married his niece. The will, in addition to mentioning the dwelling, also mentions "the office in the upper part of my garden," "lot and house near my stables," and another "house and grounds," so that evidently the lots owned by Jones were quite well developed by 1838 when the will was written.

During the ownership of the Jones family, 1812-1958, the house evidently underwent few changes, the most notable one being the substitution of two-over-two sash for the earlier sash in the New Street section. Since 1958 the New Bern City Board of Education has used the building as offices.

No other house in town was so intimately associated with the founding of St. John's Masonic Lodge, or housed more of its early leaders. Most of these were also involved in law and politics, playing significant roles in eighteenth century Craven County and North Carolina history. Today, as the headquarters of the New Bern City Board of Education, the structure serves as a good example of adaptive use of a historic structure.

The post-Revolutionary house contains extremely fine Federal interiors which are the earliest of that style in New Bern. Stylistically the house probably influenced the carpenters who worked on the outstanding group of Federal houses constructed in New Bern during the first decades of the nineteenth century.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carraway, Gertrude S. Years of Light. New Bern: Owen G. Dunn, 1944.
 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).
 Miller, Stephen F. "Recollections of Newbern Fifty Years Ago," Our Living and Our Dead. New Bern, 1874.
 Wheeler, John H. Historical Sketches of North Carolina. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co., 1851.

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° 06' 36"	77° 02' 33"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{4}$ Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 30 December 1971

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 30 December 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

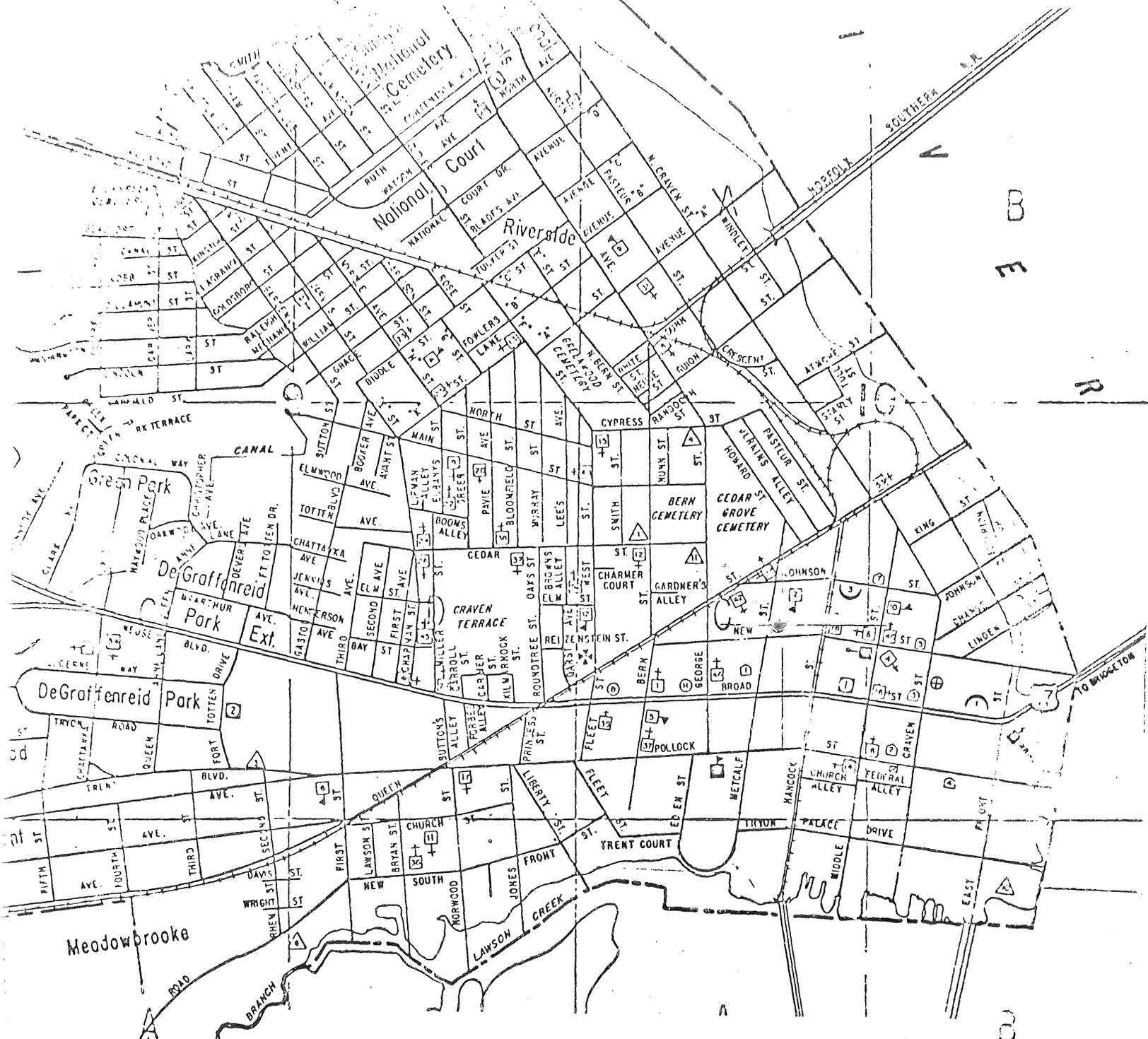
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

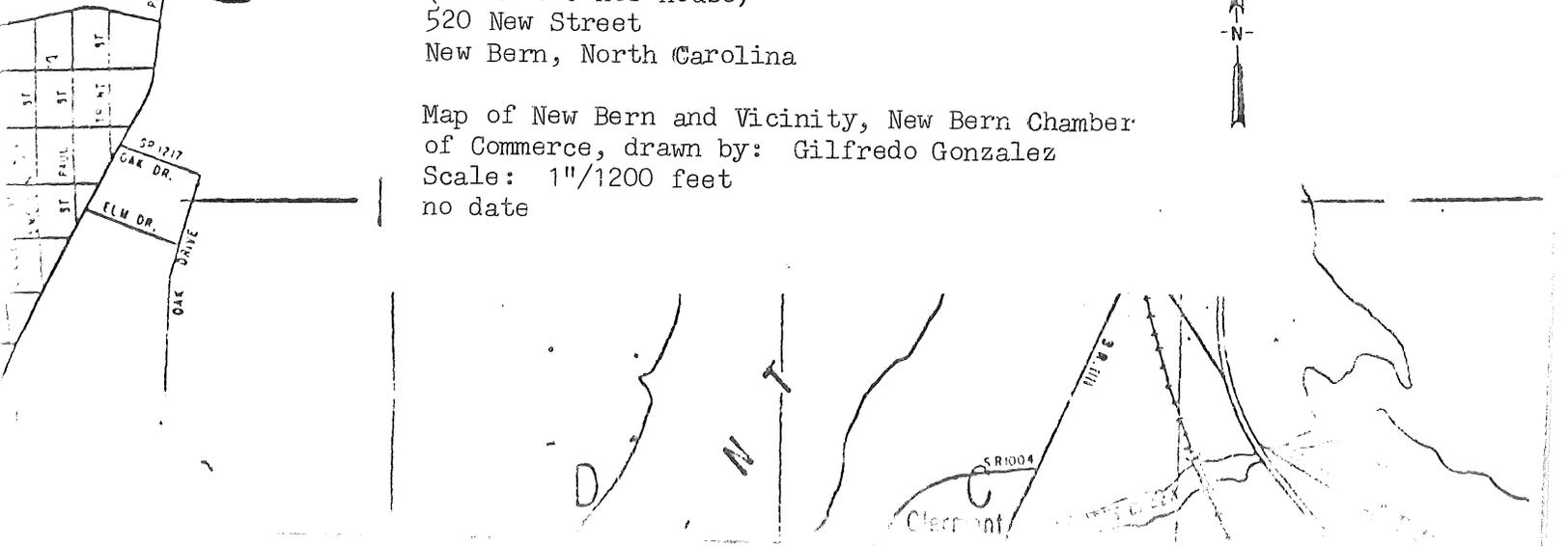
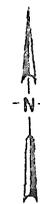
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



New Bern City Schools Administration Building
 (Tisdale-Jones House)
 520 New 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





New
Bern
Title Schools
www.grant.com