

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

East End Historic District

Ahoskie, Hertford County, HF0618, Listed 1/31/2008

Nomination by Nancy Van Dolsen

Photographs by Nancy Van Dolsen, 2007



Atlantic District Fairgrounds



Ahoskie Graded School/Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School



Sam Pillmon Barber Shop/Dance Hall/Boarding House



406 Holloman Avenue

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **East End Historic District**
other names/site number **N/A**

2. Location

street & number **Bounded by Maple Street, the town boundary, Catherine Creek Road, and Holloman Avenue** not for publication **N/A** City or town **Ahoskie** vicinity **N/A** state **North Carolina** code **NC** county **Hertford** code **091** zip code **27910**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register _____

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the _____
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the _____
National Register

removed from the National Register _____

other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
27	7	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
28	8	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register **N/A**

Name of related multiple property listing **N/A**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic	Multiple Dwelling
Domestic	Secondary Structure
Domestic	Hotel
Commerce/trade	Specialty store
Commerce/trade	Restaurant
Recreation	Sports Facility
Education	School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic	Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic	Multiple Dwelling
Domestic	Secondary Structure
Domestic	Hotel
Commerce/trade	Specialty store
Commerce/trade	Restaurant
Commerce/trade	Warehouse
Recreation	Sports Facility
Education	School
Vacant/Not in Use	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT
OTHER: gable-front house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	BRICK, CONCRETE,
roof	ASPHALT, METAL,
walls	BRICK, WOOD: weatherboard; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl; METAL: Aluminum; CONCRETE

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE**
- EDUCATION**
- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION**
- ETHNIC HERITAGE - Black**
- COMMERCE**

Period of Significance **1920-1957**
Significant Dates **N/A**
Significant Person **N/A**
Cultural Affiliation **N/A**
Architect/Builder **Newsome, H. J., contractor**

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 - ___ previously listed in the National Register
 - ___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - ___ designated a National Historic Landmark
 - ___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 - ___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property **approx. 41 acres**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A 18	322680	4018440	B 18	322880	4018330
C 18	322820	4017970	D 18	322840	4017740
E 18	322740	4017740	F 18	322490	4018070

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title **Nancy Van Dolsen** date **4 September 2007**
street & number **1601 Highland Drive**
city or town **Wilson** state **NC** zip code **27893**

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Multiple** Street & number city or town state zip code

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Narrative Description

The East End Historic District in Ahoskie, Hertford County, comprises approximately forty-one acres in northeast Ahoskie, north of downtown. The district includes the twelve buildings and racetrack at the Atlantic District Fairgrounds, three brick buildings at the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School complex (originally known as the Ahoskie Graded School) that date to 1934, 1938 and 1953; the commercial hub at the intersection of Holloman Avenue and Catherine Creek Road that consists of three, one-story frame stores and one, two-story frame building that served both residential and commercial purposes, and thirteen residences ranging in date from ca. 1920 to 1955 located on Holloman Avenue and Maple Street. All but one of the houses are one-story and all are modest, vernacular resources.

The topography of the district is flat. The streets, which follow the general pattern of the town, run northeast to southwest, and northwest to southeast.¹ The area northeast and southeast of the district is primarily wooded; post-1960 residences are located to the west and south of the district. The district developed around the Atlantic District Fairgrounds and the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School, two very significant institutions to the town's African American population from their establishment in 1920 to the present day. The acreage of these two institutions comprises more than three-fourths of the land within the district.

The grounds of the Atlantic District Fairgrounds are surrounded by an eight-foot high chain link fence. The ticket booth is located close to Holloman Avenue, and the track, grandstand, and concession stand are all located within view of Holloman Avenue. A cellular tower is located to the west of the track. Although the USGS quad map shows a radio tower in the racetrack infield, there is no tower at that location.

The Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School complex is comprised of three large, one-story brick buildings, also a strong visual presence within the district. The three school buildings face Holloman Avenue, with a driveway that fronts the 1934 and 1938 buildings and parallels the 1953 classroom building.

The thirteen residences stand to the west of the fairgrounds on Maple Street, on the opposite (west) side of Holloman Avenue from the school and fairgrounds, and to the southeast of the school on Holloman Avenue. Each of these houses stands on individual lots, with their own driveways. Grass, some small trees and shrubs comprise their front yards. A few larger shade trees are found on Maple Avenue. No sidewalks are found within the district. All of the residences are frame or brick veneered; and all but two have gable roofs. The five residences across from the school and fairgrounds on the west side of Holloman Avenue, constructed from

¹ For ease of description, Catherine Creek Road, which is actually a northeast to southwest street, will be referred to as north to south, and Holloman Avenue, which is northwest to southeast, will be oriented east to west.

**National Register of Historic Places
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ca. 1935 through 1940, feature multi-light windows, and some Colonial Revival detailing, such as pedimented door surrounds, denticulated cornices, and gable-front dormers.

The commercial area in the district is located at the intersection of Catherine Creek Road and Holloman Avenue. Catherine Creek Road is the major street on the east side of the town of Ahoskie, and leads to the town of Cofield to the northeast. The commercial district historically consisted of general stores, dance halls, and a barber shop. The largest commercial building, the Sam Pillmon Barber Shop/Dance Hall/Boarding House, faced directly onto Catherine Creek Road and was at the east end of Holloman Avenue. This large two-story, side-gable frame building is a visual landmark in its size and location at the terminus of Holloman Avenue; the other one-story commercial buildings are more modest in scale and are located on the south side of Catherine Creek Road.

Inventory List

Fieldwork and documentation of the resources was conducted between June 2005 and December 2006 by Nancy Van Dolsen. The following additional sources were used in preparing this inventory list: Philip Letsinger, "Inventory of Historic Architecture of Ahoskie, North Carolina, 1985; Survey files for Ahoskie, Hertford County, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office; published county histories, interviews with longtime residents of the area, deeds and estate records found at the Hertford County Courthouse, Winton, North Carolina. No Sanborn Maps nor city directories for Ahoskie cover this area of town.

The resources are listed alphabetically by street, and then by address. Where there is no street number, they are listed from west to east. Contributing resources are those that were built during the period of significance and that retain integrity from the period of significance, ca. 1900 through 1957. Non-contributing resources are those that postdate 1957, or have substantial alterations as a result of large additions, removal of historic materials, or the obscuring of historic fabric.

Key

C= Contributing Building

CS=Contributing Structure

NC = Non-contributing Building

NS=Non-Contributing Structure

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East End Historic District
Hertford County, N.C.

Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
Catherine Creek Road and Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1940	Store/Dance Hall. One-story, frame, front gable building sheathed with weatherboards, now the Bride of Christ Tabernacle. The building is three bays wide and four bays deep and has a concrete block foyer addition on the facade. The building stands on a concrete block foundation and has an asphalt shingle roof. The windows are intact, but have been covered with plywood.
Catherine Creek Road – east side	C	ca. 1940	Sam Pillmon Barber Shop/Dance Hall/Boarding House. Two-story, nine-bay, frame building with side-gable metal roof and sheathed with weatherboards. The building faces Catherine Creek Road and is at the terminus of Holloman Avenue. The building is three-bays deep and has a two-story, one-bay, shed roof rear wing. Both the wing and main block have extended rafter tails. The building is now divided into three units, each with a separate entrance. A lower two-story, single pile, single bay, gable-roof frame addition with an entrance on the first floor is located on the gable end; it has a porch with stairs leading up from the rear of the building on the second floor. Paired windows with six-over-six sash are located in the central unit. Truncated brick chimneys divide the units on the façade. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the front (west) slope of the roof. Since it was constructed, the building has served as a barber shop, dance hall, and bar on the first floor, with apartments on the second. The building is now entirely residential.
1101 Catherine Creek Road	NC	ca. 1950/ 1975	Clyde Everette’s Store. One-story, side-gable, six-bay, frame building originally built ca. 1950. A one-story, gable-roof rear wing has an entrance on the rear gable end. The building was remodeled ca. 1975 and the exterior veneered in brick.

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East End Historic District
Hertford County, N.C.

Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
Holloman Avenue West end of Holloman Avenue		1920, 1957	Atlantic District Fairgrounds. The Atlantic District Fair was first held in 1920 and continues to be held every October. The grounds of the Atlantic District Fairgrounds are surrounded by an eight-foot high chain link fence. Extant buildings include the masonry grandstand and exhibit building, the judges' stand, concession stand, racehorse stables, ticket booth, poultry pen, livestock stalls, three utility buildings, and rest rooms. The ticket booth is located close to Holloman Avenue, and the track, grandstand, and concession stand are all located within view of Holloman Avenue.
	C	ca. 1930	Ticket Booth. The ticket booth is located at the entrance to the fairgrounds at the south end of the track, at Holloman Road. The one-story, frame, weatherboarded building has a low hip roof covered in metal, and a one-story shed-roof rear addition. A side entrance is located on the north elevation, and the windows for serving customers are located on the east elevation.
	CS	ca. 1920	Track. The track is a half-mile track for harness racing. The track itself is packed dirt and the infield of the oval is grass. The track is flat with no banking and the straight away sections running in a north/south direction. A pipe fence separates the grandstand and judging stand from the track.
	C	ca. 1957	Grandstand. The concrete block grandstand was constructed in 1957 at the west side of the track. The ends and lower wall of the grandstand are veneered it brick. A side-gable metal roof covers the concrete block seats and is supported by four metal poles. Two wood doors lead into the area below the seats on the south gable end.
	C	ca. 1957	Exhibit Building. The exhibit building stands north

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East End Historic District
Hertford County, N.C.

Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
			of the grandstand and is a one-story concrete block, side-gable building. The building has a one-story side-gable addition on the north gable end. The building has exposed rafter ends and is capped with a metal roof.
	C	ca. 1957	Judges Stand. The judges stand, two-stories tall, is located across from the grandstand, within the grass oval of the track. The stand is square and capped with a low-pitched hip roof with exposed rafter tails. The open, second story platform has a lattice balustrade; the first floor is sheathed in weatherboard.
	C	ca. 1957	Stage. The stage is located north of the judges stand, and is a one-story open pavilion with a metal gable roof supported by four wood posts. The floor is poured concrete.
	C	ca. 1957	Concession Stand. The concession stand is located between Holloman Avenue and the Grandstand, at the southwest corner of the track. The one-story, rectangular, side-gable frame building has a shallow-pitched roof with an inset porch on the east elevation supported by six wood posts. The building is sheathed in weatherboards and has large windows on the east elevation to allow customers to place orders and receive their goods.
	C	ca. 1957	Racehorse Stable. The racehorse stable is located at the northeast end of the track, away from the noise and excitement of the entrance, grandstand, and exhibit areas. The one-story, side-gable, concrete block building has the stall openings on the south side, and no other openings. The roof is covered in metal. The stall doors are wood, "dutch" doors. Nine horses presently board all year round at the stables.

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Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
	C	ca. 1930	Poultry Pen. The poultry pen is a small, one-story, side-gable rectangular building located to the north of the exhibit building. The frame building is sheathed in weatherboards and has a metal roof.
	C	ca. 1957	Livestock Stable. The livestock stable is a one-story, side-gable, concrete block building located at the northwest corner of the race track. A door is located on the southeast elevation which leads to a central aisle, flanked by stalls.
	NC	ca. 2000	Utility Building #1 Small one-story, concrete block building located east of the track's oval. Associated with the Cellular Tower.
	NC	ca. 1970	Restroom Building. One-story concrete block building located between the poultry pen and the livestock stalls. One opening is on east eave elevation and another is on the south gable-end elevation.
	NS	ca. 2000	Cellular Tower. Tall metal cell tower; located to the east of the track.
Holloman Avenue			Ahoskie Graded School /Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School. All three of the brick buildings on the campus were built under the leadership of H. D. Cooper, who was principal of the school from 1934 until 1972. The 1934 building now serves as a satellite school of Shaw University (located in Raleigh). The other buildings are used as a community resource center.
	C	1934	Ahoskie Graded School. The oldest building, and the building farthest to the west, dates to 1934-1935 and is H-shaped with a central auditorium flanked by classroom wings. The one-story building was constructed as an elementary school. The front-gable

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East End Historic District
Hertford County, N.C.

Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
			<p>classroom wings have entrances centered on the front gables that are capped with a small gable hood supported by simple wood brackets. Decorative brickwork outlining a large brick square flanks the central entrances. The nine-over-nine sash windows are grouped in threes along the eave elevations; there are six banks of windows. The central auditorium section features five single nine-over-nine sash windows. A metal roof covers the building. Two doors from the auditorium section, and two doors from each classroom wing exit into the rear courtyard formed by the wings and central section. A covered metal walkway with metal posts links the 1934 building with the 1938 building.</p>
	C	1938	<p>High School. In 1938 a high school was built to the east of the original building, and the school campus became known as the Ahoskie Elementary and High School for the Colored Race. In 1941 the name was changed to the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School. The high school is a front-gable building with a stepped gable end facade with an intermediary brick stepped gable fire wall. The one-story brick building has a metal roof. The double-door front entry is sheltered by a gable front portico with square posts. Decorative brickwork outlining a large square infilled with a checkerboard brick pattern flanks the entry. Along the eave elevations there are eleven banks of windows in groups of three; the windows have nine-over-nine sash.</p>
	C	1953, 1959	<p>Classroom Building. The third building dates to 1953 and was constructed to the east of the 1938 building, and housed six additional classrooms. The one-story flat-roof modernist brick building is composed of two parts, a slightly taller rectangular main block which features the entrance, and a lower portion that links to the portico and forms the façade</p>

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Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
			and wraps around the southeast elevation. The eight, horizontal sash metal windows on the façade have a metal apron and are separated by slightly projecting brick “buttresses.” The windows on the southeast elevation are banked in groups of three and seven and match those found on the façade. The windows on the northwest elevation are banked in groups of five and also match those on the façade. In 1959 a one-story, flat roof, brick addition was built onto the rear of the 1953 building and contained additional classrooms and cafeteria. This L-shaped addition has banks of metal windows in groups of five on the northwest and southeast elevations.
100 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1920	Peter James’s Store. One-story, three-bay, front-gable, frame building with asbestos shingle siding. The store features an inset entrance sheltered by a half-hip pent roof. A small square window with two vertical lights is located to the north of the central entrance. The original door has been replaced with a glass door. Small square opening on the south elevation is covered with plywood.
102 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1925	Simmons House. One-story, frame, front-gable dwelling with a metal roof and sheathed with weatherboards. The house has a one-story, one-bay front gable wing that is linked to the one-story, low hipped roof front porch. Doors lead into the front wing and main block from the front porch. The porch post rests on a brick pier. The porch and house feature exposed rafter ends. The windows in the house have two-over-two sash.
	C	ca. 1925	Outbuilding. One-and-a-half story, weatherboarded, gable-front building with two one-story side sheds; presently used for storage.
106 Holloman	NC	ca. 1950	House. One-story, three-bay, side-gable, frame

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Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
Avenue			house sheathed with brick ca. 1975. A pair of windows with two-over-two horizontal sash are located to the north of the primary entrance, which is sheltered by a one-story porch with metal porch supports. The house has a one-story rear wing.
108 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1920	House. One-story, frame, front gable house sheathed in vinyl. The house is three bays wide with a front gable wing featuring paired windows; a one-story shed roof porch extends from the front gable wing and covers the primary entrance. The house is three bays deep. The windows are two horizontal lights over two horizontal lights and replace the original sash.
207 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1920	James and Evelyn Faulcon House. The Faulcon House is a one-story, front-gable frame building with a front, hip roof porch across the façade. The three-bay house has a metal roof and retains its original weatherboard siding. The porch posts rest on brick piers which appear to have been added ca. 1945. Paired windows with four-over-one sash windows flank the central door on the façade. The windows on the eave elevations contain six-over-six sash windows. James Faulcon (1924-1995) was the teacher of agriculture at the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School during the mid-twentieth century, and also ran the school's cannery.
324 Holloman Avenue	NC	ca. 1960	House. One-story, side-gabled, three-bay, single-pile house with vinyl windows and vinyl siding. The house has a central brick chimney and a one-story, side gable wing with inset porch over entry.
404 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1930	Charles S. Yeates House. The Yeates House is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gable brick veneer house with a central interior chimney piercing the asphalt shingle roof. The house features

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Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
405 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1955	<p>paired windows on the first floor and single six-over-six sash windows on the second floor. Two front-gable wall dormers are located on the façade. The primary entrance is centered on the façade and was capped with a broken pediment. A one-and-a-half story, gable-roof, two-bay brick ell extends from the rear of the building. A one-story shed-roof brick wing is located on the rear of the brick ell. A shed roof screened in porch is located on the east gable end. C. S. Yeates was a principal of the Ahoskie Graded School in 1920 when the frame school building was moved from the site of what is currently the Ahoskie Baptist Church to the site of the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School. He became principal of the Waters County Training School in Winton, but kept his house in the East End neighborhood. After his death, his widow resided here. The house was built by contractor H. J. Newsome.</p>
405 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1955	<p>C. S. Newsome House. One-story, three-bay, side-gabled brick veneered house with eight-over-eight sash and six-over-six sash windows. The house has a one-story, front-gable wing and a one-story, one-bay rear wing. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has an open brick porch across the front of the main block that abuts the front gable wing and which has a simple metal balustrade. A small sheltered shed roof entry supported by a decorative metal post protects the main entrance. The gable ends above the eaves of the main block and front gable is sheathed with asbestos shingles.</p>
406 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1945	<p>Hawley Newsome House. One-story, three-bay brick veneered house with a steeply-pitched side-gable asphalt shingled roof with two gable-front dormers. The Colonial Revival-style house features paired six-over-six sash windows on the facade. A</p>

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Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
			one-story, gable-front entry is centered on the façade and is accented with decorative brickwork in the form of an arch above the door. A one-story, shed-roof, screened-in side porch is located on the south elevation. A one-bay gable roof wing is located on the rear of the building. Built by Hawley Jefferson Newsome (1918-1986), a local contractor and brick mason, for his family. His mother, Irene Newsome, was a teacher at the school. Hawley Newsome enlisted in the military in 1942, and attended college for four years.
	C	ca. 1945	Garage. One-and-a-half story gable front brick veneer garage; located northeast of the house. Two one-story side shed roof wings flank the central section.
414 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1940	Jackie and Hubert Anthony House. The Anthony House is a one-story, frame, side-gable building with a one-bay side-gable wing. The house is covered with vinyl siding and has two-over-two sash windows. A one-story hip roof porch with metal supports standing on brick piers covers the entrance and its flanking windows.
	C	ca. 1940	Garage. One-story, concrete block, gable-front garage.
506 Holloman Avenue	C	ca. 1935	H. D. Cooper House. The Cooper House is a one-and-half story, front gable building with two side-gable wings and a front gable wing on the façade. The house has been sheathed with vinyl and stands on a brick foundation. The primary entrance is into the front gable wing from a brick stoop with a plain balustrade. The front gable wing has a set of paired windows with six-over-one sash, and an eight-over-one sash window. The side-gable wing on the north elevation features a set of paired windows with six-

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Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
			<p>over-one sash, a set of three windows with the central eight-over-one sash window flanked by four-over-one sash windows, and one eight-over-one sash window. The south side gable wing is set behind the front gable wing and has paired six-over-one-sash windows on the south elevation. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.</p> <p>H. D. Cooper was the principal of the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School from its construction in 1934 through 1972.</p>
Maple Avenue			
1303 Maple Avenue	C	ca. 1930	House. One-story, three-bay frame house with a side-gable roof. A shed-roof entry porch with plain posts covers the central entry bay. The house has a one-story, side-gable, one-bay wing with an inset porch supported by a plain post. The house is sheathed with vinyl siding and features six-over-six sash windows.
1309 Maple Avenue	C	ca. 1930	House. This two-story, two-bay, hipped-roof frame house has two-over-two light sash windows and is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The building has a 5V metal roof. The original porch across the façade has been screened-in. The porch has a hip roof and a simple fascia. A one-story, gable roof wing is located on the rear elevation and has a side, shed-roof addition on the northeast elevation.
	C	ca. 1930	Outbuilding. One-story, gable front frame shed with side shed addition.
	C	ca. 1950	Outbuilding. One-story open shed supported by wood poles.

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Address	C/NC	Date	Historic Name/Description
1319-1321 Maple Avenue	C	ca. 1955	Duplex. One-story frame duplex with a low hip roof, sided with asbestos shingles. A one-story deck spans the façade. Each half of the house features a central entrance flanked by tripartite windows. The central portion of the windows contain six-over-six sash and are flanked by narrow one-over-one sash windows.

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Summary

The East End Historic District in Ahoskie, Hertford County, meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Recreation and Culture, Education, Ethnic Heritage, Commerce, and Architecture. The district served as the educational, commercial and social center for northeast Ahoskie's African American community during much of the twentieth century. Ahoskie was founded as a railroad town in the late nineteenth century, and by the 1920s was the largest town in the county. The town's demographics have remained unchanged since the late nineteenth century, with African Americans comprising approximately sixty percent of the population. The East End Historic District represents a cohesive, successful, and self-sufficient African American community that developed during the Jim Crow era of segregation, which became codified in North Carolina in 1900 with the passing of the Disfranchisement Amendment that took away voting rights from the state's African Americans.

With the creation of an African American fairgrounds operated by the Atlantic District Fair and construction of the racetrack in 1920, and the locating of a school adjacent to the fair that same year, the educational and social center of the district was established. The Ahoskie Graded School (renamed the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School in 1941) built in 1934, expanded in 1938 and 1953, is a well-preserved and representative example of brick educational structures built from the 1930s through the 1950s. The school also served as the center of the community throughout the twentieth century. Teachers and administrators built and lived in the houses across the street from the school. The eastern end of the district became a commercial center for the community, with three stores and two recreational buildings located there. The Atlantic District Fairground exemplifies the successful efforts of the African American community to establish a district fair that was founded "to promote the agricultural, industrial, education, and moral development of the people." The fair has opened the first week of October every year since its founding in 1920.

The period of significance for the locally significant East End Historic District begins in 1920 with the establishment of the Atlantic District Fair, and ends in 1957. Although the buildings continued to serve as a school within the past fifty years and the fair is still held every October, this continued use does not meet Criterion Consideration G for exceptional significance.

Historical Background, Ethnic Heritage and Education Context: African American Education in Hertford County, North Carolina; Commerce and Recreation Context: African American Business Districts in Ahoskie, North Carolina and African American Agricultural Fairs in North Carolina.

Located between the Roanoke and Chowan rivers in the northeast section of North Carolina, Ahoskie developed along the Norfolk and Carolina Railroad (later consolidated with other small railroads to form the Atlantic Coastline Railroad in 1900) in the late 1880s. By 1890 there were fewer than fifty people living within the present-day boundaries of Ahoskie. Ahoskie was

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incorporated in 1893 and during the 1890s the town grew slowly, with residences for white families being constructed on East Church Street and for African American families in the northeast section along Catherine Creek Road. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the population of Hertford County and the town of Ahoskie has been approximately sixty percent African American.¹

The town's African American leaders during the 1890s included W. D. Newsom who lived on Winton Road and who had represented Hertford County in the General Assembly from 1870 to 1872 during Reconstruction; Graham Holloman, a carpenter and builder; Isaac Newsom who ran a store; and Charles Trummell who was a butcher. African American children were educated in a one-story frame school at the corner of Catherine Creek Road and Hayes Street which was replaced by a two-story frame school built in 1899.²

By 1900 Ahoskie had 302 inhabitants, and by 1910, 924 people resided in the town. During the second decade of the twentieth century, the town thrived with the opening up of the tobacco market in 1915, a second tobacco warehouse being added in 1916, and a third in 1919; a second bank being founded in 1914, a basket factory opening in 1915, a new depot being constructed by the Atlantic Coast Line, and the establishment of the Columbian Peanut Company in 1917. The peanut companies and the basket factory were significant employers of the African American community. The basket factory made bushel baskets for produce.³

By the end of the second decade of the twentieth century, the African American community in Ahoskie, Hertford and surrounding counties desired an agricultural fair where they could enter their own exhibits and participate in contests demonstrating proficiency in farming, homemaking, and crafts. The county fair in Winton allowed blacks to attend, but did not permit blacks to participate in any exhibits or activities.⁴

Agricultural fairs in the United States were founded by agricultural societies as a way to educate farmers in new methods of raising livestock and improving crop yields. Eventually entertainment became a part of the activities found at county, district, and state fairs.⁵ In North Carolina, a group of African Americans formed a statewide fair in 1879 to be held in November. One of the founders of the group, Charles N. Hunter asked that "our farmers, mechanics, arti[s]ans, and

¹ Federal Population Census; statistics found at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu>. Between 1890 and 1950 the percentage of the population that was classified as African American in Hertford County, according to the census, ranged from a low of 57% in 1890 to a high of 61% in 1920. In 2000, African Americans constituted 58.9% of Ahoskie's residents.

² Philip Letsinger, "Inventory of Historic Architecture of Ahoskie, North Carolina" (1985) 10-11.

³ Dr. Harold Mitchell, Interview with Nancy Van Dolsen, January 16, 2007.

⁴ Laura A. W. Phillips, "Draft Report: Historic Architectural Resources, US 13-Ahoskie Bypass, Bertie and Hertford Counties, North Carolina TIP No. R-2205," (April 1993) 55.

⁵ Fred Kniffen, "The American Agricultural Fair: The Pattern," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 39, No. 4 (Dec. 1949), 269.

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educators, to come forward and place on exhibition their best productions.”⁶ The statewide fair lasted into the late nineteenth century. According to Jim Sumner, an historian of the fair:

The fair combined agricultural and industrial displays. Exhibitors displayed farm produce, crafts, and arts, including such items as poultry, needlework, quilts, and paintings. The fair gave prizes for the best products in a number of categories, including livestock, crops, poultry, horticulture, fine arts, mechanical arts (crafts), and carpentry. Authors read from their books, and African American newspapers were displayed. Prominent politicians and public figures, both black and white, made speeches during the fair. Parades and bands lent a festive air to the activities. Visitors traveled to the fair from across the state, and many railroads offered discounted rates to the fair’s exhibitors.⁷

Booker T. Washington was a proponent of African American fairs. In his 1900 article for *Century* magazine, “Signs of Progress among the Negroes,” he wrote about a fair that he had visited in Calhoun, Alabama:

Both the colored people and numbers of white visitors were astonished at the creditable exhibits made by the colored people. Most of these white people saw the school work at Calhoun for the first time. Perhaps no amount of abstract talk or advice could have brought them to this school, but the best hog, the largest pumpkin, or the most valuable bale of cotton possessed a common interest, and it has been a comparatively easy thing to extend their interest from the best hog to the work being done in the school-room. Further, this fair convinced these white people, as almost nothing else could have done, that education was making the negroes better citizens rather than worse; that the people were not being educated away from themselves, but with their elevation the conditions about them were being lifted in a manner that possessed an interest and value for both races.⁸

The Atlantic District Fair in Ahoskie when it opened in October 1920 was much like the one that Booker T. Washington visited and the North Carolina statewide African American fair. The purpose of the fair under its by-laws was “to promote the agricultural, industrial, education and moral development of the people.”⁹ William Hawley Jenkins (1866-19?) of Ahoskie, a wealthy African American farmer, served as the first president of the fair and negotiated the acquisition of twenty-four acres near the school for the fairgrounds.¹⁰

⁶ Quoted in Jim Sumner. “The African American State Fair,” *Tar Heel JuniorHistorian*, Vol. 42, No. 1 (Fall 2002).

⁷ Sumner.

⁸ Booker T. Washington, “Signs of Progress among the Negroes,” excerpted in *AFRO-American Almanac*, <http://www.toptags.com/aama/books/book12.htm>.

⁹ Atlantic District Fair Association, Minutes of January 12, 1920 meeting; photocopy in HF130, Survey File, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina.

¹⁰ Atlantic District Fairground Minutes; Phillips, 55.

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Along with areas for exhibits, judging livestock, produce, and homemade goods, a half-mile oval track for harness racing was laid out at the Atlantic District Fairgrounds, and stands and booths were built around the perimeter. During the antebellum period in the United States, harness racing rather than running horses became associated with county and district fairs.¹¹ A half-mile tract became the standard during the 1850s and 1860s, but the acceptance of racing as an integral part of agricultural fairs did not occur until the early twentieth century.¹² The Atlantic District Fairground harness racing track fits within this tradition. Harness racing as it is practiced today, with a light two-wheeled sulky, was standardized in 1891. Associated almost solely with county and district fairs until World War II, harness racing became a sport practiced at other times after 1950. The Atlantic District fairgrounds now host a harness-racing event in May, as well as the yearly fair in October.

The same year that the district fair was established, the two-story frame school constructed for the African American community in 1899 was moved from Catherine Creek Road to the current site of the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School, adjacent to the fairgrounds. The two-story frame building was Hertford County's training school for African American students in the upper grades until 1926 when Waters Institute in Winton became the county's training school. The principal of the training school from 1920 to 1926 when it was located in Ahoskie was Charles Smythie Yeates (1874-1965). Prior to becoming a school principal, Yeates had been a farmer in Como, Hertford County.¹³ Yeates remained associated with the training school even after its move to Winton, boarding in Winton during the week and returning to his wife and family in their brick house across from the Robert L. Vann School in Ahoskie. The Yeates family had built the house during the 1920s.¹⁴

In 1934, the Board of Education voted to replace the ca. 1899 frame building (known as the Ahoskie Graded School) with a new H-shaped brick building with a central auditorium flanked by classroom wings. Although the school was constructed two years after the Rosenwald Fund discontinued funding for the construction of African American schools in the South, the school followed many of the precepts that the Rosenwald Fund encouraged, including a large meeting space that could be used by the school and the community, large and numerous windows that allowed in plenty of natural light, and a minimal use of corridors so that interior floor space could be maximized. In 1917 Julius Rosenwald, a Chicago philanthropist, had started a fund for building new and modern school facilities for black students. Rosenwald (1862-1932), who made a fortune through his part ownership of Sears, Roebuck, and Company, created his fund for southern education with four funding priorities: the building of schoolhouses for rural African American children, the establishment of libraries, the education of teachers, and the development of centers for higher education for the black population. Although the new school in Ahoskie

¹¹ Kniffen, 269.

¹² Kniffen, 271, 273.

¹³ Charles Smythie Yeates, World War I Registration Card 1037951, Hertford County, North Carolina, 1918. Accessed on Ancestry.com, 12 January 2007.

¹⁴ Federal Population Census, Winton, North Carolina, 1930. Yeates is found in the 1930 census in Winton boarding with Daisy E. Welch, the matron at the school, along with five other people, all of whom worked at the school.

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was an improvement on the frame building, it did not have central heating or indoor plumbing when it opened in 1935. H. D. Cooper was the principal, and he remained the leader of the school from 1934 through 1972. In 1938, a second one-story brick classroom building was constructed adjacent to the 1934-1935 building and served as the high school, and the campus then became known as the Ahoskie Elementary and High School for the Colored Race.

In 1941, the school was renamed the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School in honor of Robert L. Vann (1879-1940), a prominent African American editor, publisher, lawyer who had been born in Ahoskie and who died on October 24, 1940. Vann's mother, Lucy Peoples, had worked for Dr. Jesse Mitchell, one of the founders of the town of Ahoskie. Vann had attended Hertford County schools, and in 1902 enrolled at Virginia Union University, and then went on to attend the Western University of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh (now the University of Pittsburgh) where he graduated from the law school in 1909. In 1910 he became the treasurer of the *Pittsburgh Courier*, and then the editor-publisher. Under his leadership, the *Pittsburgh Courier* became the most widely read Black-owned paper in the country. In 1933, Vann was appointed Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.¹⁵

In 1946-1947, a frame gymnasium was added to the campus (demolished in 1978) and also in 1947, a brick agricultural building and cannery building was constructed (demolished in the 1970s). In 1953, a six-classroom brick building was constructed adjacent to the 1938 building, and in 1959, a cafeteria was added to this building. During the 1940s and 1950s, all of the black elementary schools in the Ahoskie School District were consolidated at Robert L. Vann School. In 1970, the school was integrated. Currently, the 1934 building is used as a satellite campus for Shaw University, and the rest of the campus functions as a community center.

The school served as the focus of the community. Part of Principal Cooper's philosophy was the belief that every student should be on stage sometime during their time at the school; to that end, the students put on operettas with music performed by students in the orchestra. The students had music class, put on plays, performed in dance troupes and with a glee club; they played football and basketball against other schools; and they put together a school newspaper and year book. Members of the community provided moral and financial support for these endeavors and attended public performances. The school also had a cannery associated with their agriculture program. Area farmers and gardeners would bring their produce, such as corn, butterbeans, and tomatoes, to the school, and the students under the direction of the agriculture teacher, would can it for a small fee. Students also made ice cream which they sold during lunch. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, before the establishment of the North Carolina Community College system, the school also provided education and training in the evenings to returning veterans from World War II and the Korean conflict.¹⁶

¹⁵ Information on the life and career of Robert L. Vann can be found on the website of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Carnegie Library website as part of an exhibit prepared on the city's neighborhoods; see www.clpgh.org/exhibit.neighborhoods.hill/hill_n103.html. Accessed January 11, 2007.

¹⁶ Mitchell, Mobley.

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As the school grew, so did the neighborhood surrounding the building. Across the street, during the 1920s through 1940s, teachers and principals of the school built their homes. The first principal, C. S. Yeates, constructed his home across the street. Principal Cooper had his frame Colonial Revival-style house also built a few doors down from the Yeates family house. Hawley J. Newsome (1918-1986), a carpenter and house builder, constructed these homes, as well as his house two doors north of the Yeates House. His mother, Irene, taught at the Robert L. Vann School. James L. Faulcon (1914-1995), the agriculture teacher and the operator of the school's cannery, lived across the street from the school in a one-story, gable-front house. Hattie Earnest, Ruth Jenkins, and Neice Yates were also teachers (and all sisters) living on Fairground Road (as Holloman Avenue was known in 1930) in the early 1930s.¹⁷ Of the twelve families enumerated on Fairground Road in 1930, all but four owned their own homes.

Concurrent with the building of the school and the residences, a commercial center developed in the East End neighborhood at the intersection of Catherine Creek Road and Holloman Avenue. With the codification of segregation through the passing of laws and social codes that legalized apartheid, African American communities were established in almost all North Carolina towns and cities that had even a small number of black residents. Legalized segregation in North Carolina coalesced in 1900 when the Disfranchisement Amendment took away voting rights from African Americans.¹⁸ An unintended by-product of segregation was the rise in black-owned commercial businesses to serve the African American neighborhoods. As noted by architectural historian M. Ruth Little who has studied African American neighborhoods in North Carolina: "In the harsh climate of the segregated South, blacks who had patronized white businesses and white doctors and other professionals in the pre-segregation years of the 1880s and 1890s turned to black business and professionals after 1900, producing a growing middle class of enterprising African Americans."¹⁹

In the East End neighborhood, four commercial buildings were constructed at the intersection of Catherine Creek Road and Holloman Avenue: Sam Pillmon's dance hall, Clyde Everett's Store, Peter James's Store, and a third store that was also used as a dance hall in the late 1940s and 1950s. Sam Pillmon (1918-1996) also operated a barbershop in his building on Catherine Creek Road. These buildings served as a meeting place for the community both during the day and the evenings.²⁰ The stores offered the same merchandise as the traditional general store of the period—food, soap, cleaning products, cigarettes, candy, etc. The East End neighborhood is similar to those found in other small towns and cities of eastern North Carolina, such as The Corner in Snow Hill, Greene County which also developed around an early twentieth-century African American school, and the East End Historic District in Wilson, Wilson County. All three

¹⁷ Federal Manuscript Population Census, Ahoskie Township, Hertford County, North Carolina, 1930. The census taker included the names of the streets when enumerating households.

¹⁸ M. Ruth Little, "The Other Side of the Tracks: The Middle-Class Neighborhoods That Jim Crow Built in Early-Twentieth-Century North Carolina," in Annmarie Adams and Sally McMurry, *Exploring Everyday Landscapes: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture VII* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1997) 269.

¹⁹ Little, 277.

²⁰ Mitchell, Mobley.

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of these districts include residences and school buildings, but only the East End neighborhood in Ahoskie includes a historic African American fairground.

Architecture Context: Twentieth-Century Fairgrounds in Eastern North Carolina and Early and Mid-twentieth Century African American School Buildings in Hertford County, North Carolina

By 1920 when the Atlantic District Fairground was developed, most county and district fairgrounds in the United States followed a similar pattern and layout, and the Atlantic District Fairground was no exception. Agricultural fairs were extremely popular in the 1920s, and by 1927 over two thousand agricultural fairs were held in the United States and Canada.²¹ Like the Atlantic District Fair, these fairs were a combination of education and recreation, and harness racing was a relatively common feature.

The most common built elements of agricultural fairgrounds during the period were the half-mile track for racing, the grandstand, and accompanying stables, as seen at the Atlantic District Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds were surrounded with a fence, most frequently wire rather than boards. Some fairgrounds also contained exhibition halls and barns.

The Atlantic District Fairground followed the typical layout by having the judges' stand flanked by the stage within the infield, at the straight away, right before the horses enter the first turn. The grandstand, as was typical, is located across from the judges' stand and stage, on the outside of the track. Stables, as at the Atlantic District Fairground, are located outside of the track, at one of the narrow ends.²²

The Atlantic District Fairgrounds is a remarkable example of ca. 1920 through late 1950s agricultural district fair. The grandstand and many of the other smaller buildings had to be rebuilt in the mid 1950s due to destruction caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954.²³ It took a few years for the directors of the fairground to raise the money to rebuild the grandstand. Some of the smaller buildings were not destroyed and the track remained intact.²⁴

The survival of the layout and buildings of the fair makes the fair one of the best examples of a local fairground in eastern North Carolina, and it gains additional significance as one of the few surviving African American fairgrounds dating from the first half of the twentieth century. The fair still operates, and is the only sanctioned North Carolina harness racing track east of Raleigh.

The Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School represents persistent local efforts to improve and support educational opportunities for blacks in Ahoskie. The H-shaped 1934-1935 building

²¹ Kniffen, 276.

²² See Fred Kniffen's schematic plans for agricultural fairgrounds, from ca. 1840 through ca. 1948; 280-281.

²³ Hurricane Hazel was one of the most destructive hurricanes in North Carolina history, damaging an estimated 54,000 structures and buildings in October 1954. See the website of the National Weather Service (Raleigh office) for further information; <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~nwsfo/storage/cases/19541015/>; accessed September 5, 2007.

²⁴ Mitchell, Mobley.

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with its two rows of classrooms linked by a central auditorium represents up-to-date pedagogical thought regarding the ideal physical environment to foster learning. Although built after the Rosenwald Fund was discontinued in 1932, the school, has many features common to those built with Rosenwald funding, including the large meeting space that could be used by the school and the community, large and numerous windows that allowed in plenty of natural light, and a minimal use of corridors so that interior floor space could be maximized. The plan and form of the 1934 building closely resembles the Rosenwald funds plans for four, five, six and seven teacher schools that were published in the Rosenwald Fund's 1924 booklet, *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3*. Graded schools with central auditoriums flanked by classroom wings were built for African Americans throughout eastern and piedmont North Carolina, most with Rosenwald funds, including the Princeton Graded School (NR, 2005) in Johnston County, the Riley Hill School (NR, 2001) in Wake County, and the Greene County Training School (NR, 2003) in Snow Hill, Greene County.

The 1938 high school building, with its stepped gable façade and triple windows is an excellent example of a classroom building, and continues many of the same precepts as seen in the 1934 building—large classrooms well illuminated with natural light through banks of large windows.

Ahoskie School (NR 2005), constructed for white students, was roughly contemporary with the 1934 and 1938 buildings on the Robert L. Vann School campus. The brick Ahoskie School was built in 1928 and was designed by well-known school architect, Leslie Boney of Wilmington. Ahoskie School also featured large banks of windows and decorative brickwork, but was more elaborate than those found on the Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School buildings and was two stories tall.

By the 1950s, more classrooms were needed on the Robert L. Vann campus. To answer this need, the 1953 brick building was constructed in a Modernist style as articulated in its flat roof, horizontal massing, flat roof entry, and windows with horizontal sashes. The building is geometrical, composed of two rectangles that are clearly expressed. Modernism in architecture emerged in Europe during the years following World War I and tried to articulate visually a new order for society that rejected the past. A 1932 exhibit on Modernism at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, as well as the arrival of eminent practitioners of Modernism such as Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius in the 1930s, further heightened Americans awareness of the style. Modernism emphasized horizontal lines, geometric forms, the expression of a building's structure, the absence of decoration, and minimalism.²⁵

The 1953 building expresses many of the elements of Modernism, including horizontality, absence of decoration and the geometrical expression of form. School buildings in the 1950s were often some of small town America's most visible expression of Modernism, along with

²⁵ For a brief discussion of Modernism, especially in the work of North Carolina architect, A. G. Odell Jr., see a local landmark report prepared by Dan Morrill on Odell's Elmer H. Garinger High School, a Modernist school built in 1959 in Charlotte; see <http://www.cmhpf.org/surveys&rgaringer.htm>.

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commercial buildings. The style evoked images of the future, and the role of the 1950s school was to prepare students for the new atomic age.

Two other modernist schools in North Carolina are the J. T. Barber School (NR, 2006) in New Bern and the Double Oaks Elementary School in Charlotte. The Barber School, which was designed by Raymond Fusion and constructed in 1951, also has strong horizontal lines, flat planes, and unornamented surfaces.²⁶ The Charlotte school building was built in 1950 and designed by Charlotte architect A. G. Odell Jr. (1914-1988). It also has features in common with the 1953 Ahoskie school building: similar window massing separated by structural elements, flat roofs, horizontality, and geometric massing of rectangular elements that form the functional sections of the building.

Robert L. Vann Elementary and High School, with its three buildings, exemplifies the architectural design trends in educational architecture dominant in North Carolina in the 1930s through 1950s, with the 1930s buildings physically expressing the belief that involvement by the community and the best physical space for learning are the core needs to a good education, while the 1950s building articulates through Modernism that the students in Ahoskie are being prepared educationally for the future.

²⁶ Beth Keane, National Register Nomination for J. T. Barber School, New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina, 2006.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the East End Historic District in Ahoskie are indicated on the accompanying Hertford County Tax map at one inch to one hundred feet scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the East End Historic District encompass the area known as the East End community in Ahoskie that retain integrity for the period of significance, 1920 to 1957, and which contain buildings and landscape features that represent the district's areas of significance.