

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 (former) William Hooper School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 410 Meares Street N/A Not for publication

city or town Wilmington N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county New Hanover code 129 zip code 28401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD 2/4/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

(former) William Hooper School
Name of Property

New Hanover County, NC
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick

roof Other: built-up tar
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

(former) William Hooper School
Name of Property

New Hanover County, NC
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1914-1947

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Leitner, Joseph F. - architect

Wallace & Osterman - builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

(former) William Hooper School
Name of Property

New Hanover County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | 18 | 228910 | 379104210 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2 | | | |

| | | | |
|------|---------|----------|--|
| 3 | | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4 | | | |

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth W. Keane

organization Retrospective date October 22, 1997

street & number 321 N. Front St. telephone (910) 341-3000

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name Windell and Wilma W. Daniels

street & number 3301 Market St. telephone (910) 763-6070

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28403

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NCSection number 7 Page 1NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**SUMMARY**

The imposing, Classical Revival-style 1914 William Hooper School, located at 410 Meares Street on the south side of Wilmington, is centered between Fifth Street on the east and Fourth Street on the west and is positioned near the front of the property with the main elevation facing north. While the school is situated on a 2.57-acre parcel, the nomination only addresses a one-acre parcel immediately surrounding the 1914 school building. The original 2.57-acre parcel includes most of the block, with the exception of two small lots on the southwest corner where a small house and a 1950s-era church are located. A circa 1930 auditorium building and a small classroom building have been removed from the property. A one-story 1954 cafeteria, which had been situated west of the school building, has recently been demolished. Across the street at the northeast corner of the site is a 1930s brick A.M.E. Zion church. The surrounding streets are lined with one- and two-story, wood-clad dwellings and large mature trees.

The two-story school building is U-shaped in plan, with a one-story library incorporated into the rear (south) elevation between the east and west wings. The exterior is Classical Revival in character, employing elaborate brickwork, a classically-inspired central door surround, decorative terra cotta elements, banks of six-over-six sash windows, and round-arch windows in the terminal ends. The interior features a transverse corridor with classrooms to the north and south sides. Offices were located adjacent to the central entrance foyer. The first level included four classrooms, the second level contained five classrooms, while the basement incorporated a playroom, a boiler room, and enough space for the eventual expansion of four additional classrooms.

EXTERIOR

The original 1914 William Hooper school building is a classical, two-story on a raised basement, load-bearing-brick masonry structure. The original school building was enlarged in 1940 by the addition of enclosed terminal stairwells with open-air landings and bathrooms. Built on a raised, brick basement marked by a cast-concrete water table, the main entrance to the school is gained by climbing a wide cement, terraced staircase flanked by brick walls and divided by a metal handrail. The staircase terminates at the double-leaf entrance in a projecting pavilion topped by a brick parapet. Typically classical in character, the entry is defined by square-in-plan wood Doric columns supporting an entablature proclaiming "William Hooper School". Rectangular, single-light sidelights and a transom complete the composition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
Continuation Sheet (former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NCSection number 7 Page 2

Decorative brickwork was incorporated throughout the principal facade, as well as the east and west elevations of the school building. A horizontal effect was achieved not only by the banks of double and single six-over-six sash windows, but also by distinct rows of horizontal brick banding accentuated by a precast concrete band at the water table line. Decorative terra cotta elements were used throughout the north, east, and west elevations. The parapet, which rises in a triangular shape over the door and incorporates the date of construction, conceals a built-up flat roof. Two feet below the parapet is a metal formed cornice. Originally situated on the east and west walls of the building, round-arch windows were transferred to the principal facade of the 1940s stairwell addition, assisting in illuminating the staircases. Doors located in the principal facade of the terminal wings provided entry to the stairwells, while rear entrance doors serve the southern elevation basement level.

INTERIOR

The interior walls are load-bearing wood with lath and plaster. The basement floor is concrete slab-on-grade, while the first- and second-level floors are of wood. The average floor-to-ceiling height is twelve feet. The Classical Revival theme is carried out in the central entrance hall and the transverse hall by the incorporation of arches consisting of engaged square columns topped by classical entablatures. Simple classical moldings surround the interior windows and doors. Wide baseboards and chair rails define the corridors and classrooms. Classrooms typically feature a window wall with blackboards on at least one other wall. Several rooms contain built-in wood shelves and interior closet space.

Classroom doors incorporate glass lights in the top third, and two vertical panels in the bottom. Clerestory windows located in the second-level corridor assist in lighting the area. Two square columns provide support for the first-level library ceiling.

The building block is anchored on either end by concrete stairwells. This 1940s addition also included bathrooms on each level at both ends, for a total of four. The doors leading from the corridors to the stairwells are of fire-resistant metal with two-light transoms.

The William Hooper School retains a high degree of architectural integrity. While auxiliary buildings no longer exist, the nominated building has remained unchanged since the wings were added in 1940. The interior, too, is little altered, most corridors and rooms retaining original moldings and finishes. Some deterioration has taken place due to neglect and lack of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NC

Section number 7 Page 3

maintenance, however, the building remains structurally sound. Adaptive reuse plans call for the conversion of the school into twenty-two one-bedroom units and meeting and health examination rooms for senior citizen residents. The architect for the project plans to retain the original interior moldings and doors, repairing or replacing elements as needed. Brick piers flanking the walkways to the school entrances will also be repaired and retained. Mature trees and shrubs will be retained as far as possible, and the grounds will be enhanced with additional landscaping. Plans for the site include the addition of three new apartment buildings which will provide housing for low- and moderate-income residents. The new buildings will harmonize with the historic 1914 William Hooper School.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NCSection number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The (former) William Hooper School fulfills Criteria A for listing in the National Register, significant for its association with the history of education in Wilmington, North Carolina, before 1947. The administration of Governor Charles B. Aycock (term 1901-1905) ushered in a new era of education reform in North Carolina. State-mandated efforts aimed at curriculum expansion and improvement also resulted in the construction of a generation of handsome school buildings. Enlightened leaders in New Hanover County invested over \$100,000 toward building new school buildings in Wilmington and the county between 1914 and 1915. The opening of the William Hooper School, as well as three additional new school buildings during the 1914-15 school year, made Wilmington's one of the most up-to-date and substantial school systems in the South.

The (former) William Hooper School also meets Criteria C for its architectural significance. Designed by locally prominent architect, Joseph F. Leitner, the impressive two-story Classical Revival-style building contributed to the growing ideology that school architecture played an important role in the educational mission of schools. The school, through its architecture, conveyed the growing consensus that public education was vital to community development. It was generally felt that the style should indicate at once the purpose for which the building is intended. John J. Blair, superintendent of Wilmington city schools in 1914, felt excellent architecture in combination with a comfortable and pleasing environment were essential elements to a good education. With its striking facade and classical pavilion, the William Hooper School assisted in setting a standard of architectural excellence for future school buildings in New Hanover County, as well as the State of North Carolina.

EDUCATION CONTEXT AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Few specifics on public education in New Hanover County exist for the period between 1800 and 1850. It largely appears that schools set up prior to the mid-1830s served as missionary endeavors, while the education of the sons of prosperous planters remained in the hands of retained tutors who prepared them for enrollment in Northern universities or schools in Europe.

Several attempts to set up public schools in the Wilmington area prior to the Civil War resulted in schools that provided generally inferior education compared to that of private institutions. As early as 1843, the Cape Fear Lodge No. 2 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows established a school under the principalship of Robert McLaughlin. Later, in 1856, Mr. Levin Meginney

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NC

Section number 8 Page 2

purchased the Odd Fellows School building and conducted a school of his own - the largest institution in Wilmington.¹

By the end of the 1850s, encouraging signs of educational improvement appeared in the form of increased numbers of schools, buildings, teachers, and appropriations. The general apathy toward public education in North Carolina seemed to be breaking. A drive for state funds for schools and for a state board to manage the funds was launched.

Dedicated private and public interests led to the establishment of the Union Free School - the forerunner for the first public education in New Hanover County. The name "Union" applied to any school in which private and public interests were united by legislation. A Union Free School on South Sixth Street between Nun and Church Streets resulted from a meeting of Wilmingtonians who gathered in 1856 to consider the establishment of a public school in the community. Money was raised within the community to purchase a lot and construct a building. The school opened for an experimental session for three months beginning in May of 1857. The Board of Superintendents of Common Schools for New Hanover cooperated with a local committee of three men, whereby they received the benefit of all funds appropriated. The school remained in operation until July 1, 1863, using a combination of public and private funds.²

The Civil War took its toll, with many of the schools in North Carolina closing for the duration. In its aftermath, the concept of public education gained increased impetus, with New Hanover County leading the way. Three major efforts developed to address education problems in post-Civil-War North Carolina: outreach to the freed slaves, church schools for whites, and incipient public education.

Concerned Northerners migrated to Wilmington with the intention of educating the emancipated Black population. Sponsored by the Unitarian Church, the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church was organized. The Association began its work among the Freedmen in Wilmington in April, 1865. Soon a corps of fourteen teachers operated at least six day schools, four in churches and two in private houses. Afternoon schools were opened for women and night school for both sexes. A three-story school was built, as was a home for teachers and a brick church.³

Mary Washington Howe, born in Wilmington in 1852, the daughter of free Blacks, and herself educated by private tutors and a Quaker school in Philadelphia, returned home to teach privately among her own people. In 1873, Williston Grammar School, the first public school for African-American

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NCSection number 8 Page 3

children, opened its doors and Miss Howe became a teacher there the following year. She later was promoted to principal and served with distinction for twenty-four years.⁴

Several additional education-oriented efforts played an important role in the county's progress. In 1869, the Academy of Incarnation opened a school in the southeast corner of Second and Nun Streets, becoming the first Catholic school in North Carolina. Meanwhile, the Unitarian Church sent Miss Amy Bradley of Maine to Wilmington in December of 1866 with the idea of teaching whites and blacks together. Upon meeting with opposition to this plan, she decided that because the needs of the black population were already being met by the American Missionary Association, she would make the instruction of poor whites her goal. Although initially meeting with a cool reception, within one year she developed an enrollment of 140 pupils. A new two-room building was opened on December 1, 1868, allowing enrollment to increase steadily. In 1871, when conditions again became crowded, the construction of Tileston School was begun. Constructed under the supervision of Mr. James Walker at a cost of approximately \$30,000.00, the school was able to combine the pupils of two of Miss Bradley's schools.⁵

The year, 1882, marked the beginning of an effective organization headed by M.C.S. Noble as the Superintendent of City Public Schools. Mr. Noble was horrified with the facilities at the Old Union School. Under his guidance, the school system began to expand. By 1883, two additional schools for blacks were in operation, the Peabody Graded School on Fifth Street and the Williston Graded School on Seventh Street.⁶

The County Board of Education was made up of five county commissioners who appointed three school committeemen for each district. The school committees, in turn, appointed teachers and oversaw the general management of the schools. By 1882, eight white teachers and twelve black teachers taught in Wilmington schools for an average school term of eight months. The average daily attendance in the white schools was about 300, and in the black schools about 425. The amount apportioned to run the white schools was \$3,904.00, while the amount apportioned for the black schools was \$6,232.00.⁷

In 1886, the pupils were moved from the old school buildings into the handsome new Union building containing eight rooms at the northwest corner of Sixth and Ann Streets. In 1889, a building similar to Union was built in the block bounded by Chestnut, Walnut, Fifth, and Sixth streets to house the Hemenway students. A lot was purchased in 1894 on the northeast corner of Market and Third Streets for the construction of the city's first public high school.⁸

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NCSection number 8 Page 4

Although fires claimed the 1886 Union School and the 1889 Hemenway building, new schools were immediately rebuilt on their respective lots. The city came into control of the Tileston Normal School in 1897, enrolling 100 students with four teachers, making full-scale free public education a reality in Wilmington.⁹

On July 5, 1897, a separate Board of Education consisting of three men, one of whom was black, was elected. Professor Noble was elected county supervisor of the schools, succeeded several years later by Mr. John J. Blair.¹⁰ The twentieth century brought rapid changes to public education in North Carolina. A compulsory school law was passed and high schools were provided by the state. The first bond issue for the purpose of building new schools was passed in 1912. Over the next several years, New Hanover County built the following schools: Hemenway, William Hooper, Cornelius Harnett, and Williston Industrial for the black children. A front was added to Tileston School and a lot was purchased for the county high school. Also, in 1912, the Isaac Bear School had been built by the Bear family as a memorial to Isaac Bear.¹¹

The Wilmington *Morning Star* reported on the January 12, 1914, meeting of the New Hanover County Board of Education. Plans for five new buildings in the city and two in the county were discussed. A recently passed county bond in the amount of \$175,000.00 enabled the Board to propose new buildings for the Union and Hemenway schools, as well as the Williston colored school. Two additional new schools, one to be located in the First Ward in the northern part of the city and one in the Fifth Ward in the southern part of the city were also proposed. County school buildings were proposed for the Delgado and Castle Haynes communities. A request was sent out to local architects for the submittal of plans for the new buildings.¹² The lot for the William Hooper School, originally known as the Southside School, had been purchased from Walker and Lilly Taylor on January 9, 1914.¹³

On March 20, 1914, the *Morning Star* reported Wallace & Osterman were awarded the contract for the erection of the Southside school building, with a bid of \$20,899. Mr. J.F. Leitner, the architect, designed the Southside building to include nine classrooms, a large auditorium, a library and offices, and a full basement. To be constructed of brick with terra cotta trimmings, the front entrance was planned for Meares Street, while side entrances would be accessible from both Fourth and Fifth Streets.¹⁴

The April 2, 1914, issue of the *Morning Star* reported building permits had been issued for two school buildings to be erected in Wilmington. The Southside School would be located on Meares Street between Fourth and Fifth

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NCSection number 8 Page 5

Streets, while the Northside School would be located at Sixth and Harnett streets.¹⁵ Both schools opened their doors for classes in September, 1914. At a ceremony for the Southside School held on November 22, 1914, the two Wilmington lodges of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics formally presented the school with a large American flag and a copy of the Holy Bible. The exercises also marked the formal adoption of the name, William Hooper for the school.¹⁶ William Hooper, a Wilmington native, was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly in 1773 and worked against British encroachments on colonial rights. Hooper headed the North Carolina delegation to both the First and Second Continental Congress during the 1774-1777 period. His work for colonial rights and his signing of the Declaration of Independence gave Wilmington a direct and significant participation in the movement of the colonies for independence from Britain.

The William Hooper School opened as an elementary school serving grades one through five. Eliza Meares served as principal of the school from its opening until 1925, when she retired due to illness. Upon her death on November 27, 1926, the students of the school attended her funeral, bringing flowers and showing their final respects to a beloved teacher and principal.¹⁷

A detached combined auditorium and cafeteria was added in 1930 during the tenure of Arlene Kimball as principal. Two-story additions containing fire-proof enclosed stairwells and bathrooms were added to the east and west sides of the principal building in 1940.¹⁸ A small detached classroom building was also added around 1940, while a detached one-story brick cafeteria building, designed by Leslie N. Boney, was added in 1954.

In later years, the William Hooper School became a center for the fifth and sixth grades. It remained open for classes until 1984, after which time the New Hanover County Schools utilized the building for offices and special programs. The school property was purchased on October 10, 1988, by Windell and Wilma Daniels.¹⁹ Mr. Daniels made his first request to the city council for permission to renovate the historic William Hooper School in 1989. Current plans call for renovation and adaptive reuse of the original school building for apartments for the elderly and moderate-income families. The former detached auditorium, the small classroom building and the 1954 cafeteria building have been removed from the property. Three new buildings providing additional apartments, compatible in style to the Hooper School, are also planned for the property. Tise Kiester Architects of Chapel Hill plan to preserve the original architectural features of the historic William Hooper School and ensure that the new apartment buildings are architecturally compatible with the school, and fit the character of the surrounding community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places (former) William Hooper School
Continuation Sheet New Hanover County, NC

Section number 8 Page 6

CONTEXT: ARCHITECTURE

The William Hooper School is one of the first schools in the North Carolina that was designed by a professional architect. The beginning of the twentieth century brought a new awareness of the role school architecture played in establishing the proper attitude and respect for education in the minds of the citizens of North Carolina. Books were written on the proper construction of modern schools and detailed descriptions given on everything from the size of the rooms and hallways to the importance of playground equipment. Specifications detailed the placement of lighting, plumbing, and electrical fixtures, all rather recent innovations at the time, to be included in the new buildings.

John J. Blair, the Superintendent of Wilmington city schools, presented a paper at the State Teacher's Assembly in 1914 on "Buildings, Grounds, Equipment, and Physical Conditions". He was quoted:

"The importance of school architecture as a factor in the educational administration of schools is now receiving the recognition which its importance demands. Gradually, it is becoming recognized that proper lighting, heating, ventilation, sanitation, the sizes of the class rooms, and the general arrangement of things, have a vital bearing upon the effectiveness of teachers and pupils. It is false economy to attempt to erect a school building without the aid which a skilled architect alone can give. He must, of course, understand all new movements in education as well as the uses to which the modern school house is employed. The buildings in which the school system is housed should rank with churches and public buildings in beauty of architecture. The school building is educative in its influence and through it the standard of architecture and appreciation of what is good in the community should be raised. The artistic impulse should manifest itself both in the exterior and interior decoration."²⁰

When money was appropriated for new schools in Wilmington in 1914, the County School Board requested plans from professional architects for the design of the new buildings. Joseph F. Leitner, an architect active in Wilmington at the turn-of-the-twentieth century, was chosen to design the William Hooper School. Mr. Leitner was well-known for his work on many of the public and private buildings in Wilmington. He had designed the Atlantic Trust and Banking Company building, Wilmington's only skyscraper, in 1910. The now demolished 1911 Atlantic Coast Line General Office Building at the northeast corner of Front and Red Cross streets was the result of a design by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NCSection number 8 Page 7

Mr. Leitner. He was also supervising architect for the Cape Fear Club in 1912, a Colonial Revival building and home of a men's club founded in 1852. The 1910 center addition to the Tileston School on Ann Street is also attributed to J.F. Leitner. His designs for private residences include the Bridgers-Emerson-Kenan House and the Joseph H. Hinton House, both situated on Market Street. Buildings attributed to J.F. Leitner outside of Wilmington include the 1907-1908 Goldsboro Union Station and the 1914-1915 Columbus County Courthouse.²¹

The William Hooper School incorporated many of the suggestions and ideas outlined in Superintendent Blair's address to the 1914 State Teacher's Assembly. Two-and-one-half stories in height and of brick construction, an impressive Classical Revival facade contributed to the overall importance attached to the availability of public education for the children of Wilmington. In Mr. John J. Blair's 1915 annual report, he again emphasized that New Hanover school buildings had set a high standard of excellence, and that the modern construction of school houses was far in advance of what was deemed adequate even five or six years ago. He reported that it had been the intention and aim of teachers and principals to give all the schools an atmosphere of refinement and beauty which is characteristic of a private home, and that the appearance of grounds and buildings both in the city and county show with what gratifying success these efforts have been met.²²

Built on the "U" plan, the William Hooper School included four classrooms, a library/auditorium, and offices and a lounge for the teachers on the first floor, and five classrooms on the second floor. The raised basement included a playroom, a boiler room, and space for the eventual expansion of four additional classrooms. The layout included a transverse corridor with rooms on either side. Situated on a large city lot, there was plenty of space for a playground and for the later additions of two attached end units enclosing stairwells and bathrooms, as well as a detached auditorium and cafeteria.

One of four new schools built in Wilmington in 1914, the historic William Hooper School reflects that period's prevailing desire for grand brick buildings that reflect the lofty education goals of the State in times of change and expansion.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NC

Section number 8 Page 8

ENDNOTES

1. A Committee from the New Hanover County Retired School Personnel, History of Education in New Hanover County, 1800-1980, (Wilmington, North Carolina, 1981), p. 5.
2. History, p. 8.
3. History, p. 10.
4. History, p. 11
5. History, pp. 12-13.
6. History, p. 15.
7. History, p. 17.
8. History, p. 18.
9. History, p. 18.
10. History, p. 20.
11. History, p. 22.
12. "The Board of Education, Monthly Meeting Yesterday," The Morning Star, 13 Jan 1914, p. 5.
13. New Hanover County Deed Book 74, p. 304.
14. "School Contract Awarded," The Morning Star, 20 Mar 1914, p. 3.
15. "Building Permits Issued, Building Inspector Signs Permits for New School Buildings," The Morning Star, 2 Apr 1914, p. 6.
16. "Flag Presented to William Hooper School," The Morning Star, 23 Nov 1914, p. 5.
17. "Final Rites Held at St. James for Miss E.W. Meares," The Morning Star, 30 Nov 1926.
18. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Wilmington, N.C., 1948.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NC

Section number 8 Page 9

ENDNOTES (continued)

19. New Hanover County Deed Book 1433, p. 1196.

20. "Paper by Mr. John J. Blair, Read Thursday Morning Before State Teachers' Assembly in Session at Charlotte," The Morning Star. 28 Nov 1914, p. 5.

21. Catherine W. Bisher & Michael T. Southern, A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996).

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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NC

Section number 9 Page 1

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(former) William Hooper School
New Hanover County, NC

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated parcel includes a rectangular one-acre parcel that includes all of lots 1 and 2 on City Block 6.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel includes the immediate surroundings of the historic school building. The main building is framed on the front and sides by landscaped lawn. The nominated one-acre lot provides an appropriate setting for the 1914 William Hooper School.

WILMINGTON QUAD
(former)
WILLIAM HOOPER SCHOOL
NEW HANOVER COUNTY
ZONE 18

UTM REFERENCES:
E 228910
N 3740420

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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