

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Bank of Onslow and Jacksonville Masonic Temple  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 214 and 216 Old Bridge Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Jacksonville N/A  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Onslow code 133 zip code 28540

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Onslow County, NC  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Pinn, Jr. \_\_\_\_\_ Date 9-25-89  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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 the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/ trade: financial institution

Commerce/ trade: business

Social: meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: county offices

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

Tudor Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

concrete

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY:

The circa 1916 Bank of Onslow and the 1919 Jacksonville Masonic Temple are located at the southwest corner of Old Bridge Street and Court Street in downtown Jacksonville, North Carolina. The two lots upon which the bank and masonic temple stand were laid out circa 1821 opposite the Onslow courthouse square and until the post-World War II period enjoyed the status of prime commercial real estate. The Beaux Arts Bank of Onslow and the Tudor Revival Jacksonville Masonic Temple are among the most architecturally sophisticated commercial buildings built in Onslow County during the early twentieth century (see Onslow County Multiple Property Documentation Form: Commercial Buildings).

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National Register Status: C = contributing

List #	Street #	Date	Height	Comment
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Old Bridge Street  
(south side)

C 1.	# 214	ca. 1916	3	<u>Bank of Onslow.</u> The brick Bank of Onslow has a monumental Beaux Arts facade with giant order pilasters capped by a heavy cornice and parapet.
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The front of the building, which is the north elevation on Old Bridge Street, has a glazed tri-partite two-story recessed entry. Centered in this facade is the surround of the former front entrance, with fluted pilasters and a lintel with a panel for signage. The original door and side windows have been replaced with modern aluminum windows and doors and a metal awning has been added. At the top of the glazed section of the facade is a band of narrow windows with decorative muntins reminiscent of Roman grillwork (this grill work is repeated at the tops of the tall windows on the east elevation). Above the glazed section of the front facade is a pair of nine-over-nine sash windows.

Between the second and third stories of both the front and east elevation of the building are two belt courses forming a wide band that visually divides the elevation into a tall first story and a smaller upper story. Above the belt courses, and below the cornice, the pilasters have rectangular recessed panels. The entire facade is embellished with soldier courses and other decorative brickwork. At the south end of the east elevation is an entrance which leads to an interior stair. At the back of the building is an integral wing with segmental arched windows above a passage which leads from Court Street behind the bank to the rear of the Jacksonville Masonic Temple lot. The west elevation of the bank is a blank party wall. The low shed roof is hidden by the parapet.

Like the exterior of the building, the bank interior has a classical treatment. Originally the north end of the building held a two-story lobby with a mezzanine towards the back of the space. Later this mezzanine was extended nearly to the front of the space. The lobby ceiling is divided crosswise by beams. These beams and the ceiling itself are encased in decorative pressed tin with cove molding at the juncture of the ceiling and walls. Rising on the east side of the lobby and visible through the Court Street windows is a stair with a panelled enclosure. In recent years a number of wood-veneer-panelled partitions have been added above and below the mezzanine, dividing the lobby into offices, but little of the original architectural fabric has been removed or compromised.

The third floor of the building, reached by the stair opening onto Court Street, retains original plastered offices. Both the third floor and lower levels have molded baseboards and door and window surrounds. Stored in a third-floor office is a

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decorative newel post from the stair. The third floor has been slightly damaged by fire and new lumber has been scabbed onto charred joists and rafters.

John W. Burton served for many years as the president of the Bank of Onslow until the bank was sold to the First Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Smithfield, North Carolina.

C 2 #216 1919 3

### Jacksonville Masonic Temple.

Jacksonville's Masonic Temple, the former meeting place of Lafayette Lodge No. 83, is an imposing brick structure with a

Tudor Revival exterior. The exterior displays considerable craftsmanship in brick and concrete and bristles with crenelations, lancet arches, and sculpture. The east and west elevations of the north-facing building are six-course American bond party walls with stepped parapets.

The boarded-up store front at street level (formerly with display windows, inset entry and transom, now removed) is flanked by lancet arched openings. The west opening lets onto a stair which extends along the party wall to the third story, the former Masonic meeting rooms. Above this opening is the Masonic emblem of the square and dividers in bas relief and projecting block with the inscription "AF&AM". To either side of the emblem are Gothic panels above decorative impost-like blocks. The east opening has similar flankers but instead of the central emblem there is a panel with tracery-like design in bas relief. Above both openings and their surrounds and above the store front runs a continuous concrete molding, a band of brickwork, and another molding at the sill level of the second story windows.

The second-story facade is taken up entirely by a bank of four lancet-arched three-over-three windows that appear to be Romanesque Revival in their inspiration. Between the windows are brick piers capped by rusticated impost blocks. Above the windows are a series of seven small square concrete plaques with bas relief decoration, and above these, in the molding itself, small decorative sculpted elements.

The third-story elevation has a bank of eight lancet-arched niches, four of which have windows with quarrel panes, and four of which have recessed brick panels with concrete cartouches. Above the third-story windows are the crenelations with decorative brickwork and concrete detailing intervening. The central crenelation is pointed and bears on its surface a bas relief sculpture of an eagle. The other, stepped crenelation bears concrete escutcheons. At the outside edges of the second- and third-story sections of the front facade rise three-sided brick piers which resolve into battlemented octagonal turrets above the level of the crenelations.

Whereas the exterior of the Jacksonville Masonic Temple has undergone little change, the interior has been altered to accommodate a string of tenants. The first story, which originally contained a retail establishment, has been altered the most. The second story originally contained offices which have been modernized with wood-veneer panelling and drop ceilings.

The third-story meeting hall has been altered the least although it has suffered from several decades of neglect. The back (south) half of the third floor is

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partitioned into offices and storage rooms. The meeting hall itself, comprising the front end of the floor, is square in plan and is entered from either of two doorways on the south wall. The south wall corresponded to the west compass point in the Masonic rituals as practiced by the local lodge. Between the two "west" entries is a small two-step dais. Opposite it on the "east" (north) wall is a three-step dais that supported the chair of the Grand Master of the lodge. An altar stood in front of this dais and members sat on benches along the two side walls of the room. This arrangement is repeated in the plan of the present LaFayette Lodge No. 83 meeting hall on Chaney Avenue in Jacksonville (Presha Merritt, personal communication). In the ceiling of the Masonic Temple meeting hall is a large embrasure which may have been intended to serve as a mount for a skylight, but such a use is not confirmed by informants (Morris Jones, personal communication).

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce  
Social History  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

ca. 1916 - 1939  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

ca. 1916  
1919  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bonitz, Henry E. architect  
Crumpler Brothers, builders

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bank of Onslow and the Jacksonville Masonic Temple are a grouping of two buildings on Old Bridge Street at the historic commercial center of Jacksonville, N.C., the county of Onslow County. The circa 1916 Beaux Arts Bank of Onslow and the 1919 Tudor Revival Jacksonville Masonic Temple are two of the most architecturally sophisticated commercial buildings erected in Onslow County during the early twentieth century and are therefore eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (see Onslow County Multiple Property Documentation Form: Commercial Buildings). Wilmington, N.C. architect Henry Bonitz designed the Masonic Temple and may have designed the Bank of Onslow as well. The buildings are significant under National Register Criterion A for their association with the commercial and social history of Jacksonville during the pre-World War II period. Both of these late 1910s buildings situated next to each other are included in a single nomination due to their inter-related histories and common association with Bonitz.

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### 1. BANK OF ONSLOW

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Bank of Onslow was formed in 1904 and was the first bank established in Jacksonville, the county seat of Onslow County. The earliest stockholders included many of the merchants, lawyers, and lumbermen of Jacksonville. The articles of incorporation for the bank were approved in Raleigh on August 15, 1904 (Onslow County Corporation Book 1, page 10).

The bank first appeared in a statewide business directory in 1906 with Frederick W. Hargett as president and J. W. Burton as cashier (1906 North Carolina Year Book). By 1907 the bank was capitalized at \$8,000 and J. W. Burton had become president with N. S. Cochran as cashier (1907 North Carolina Year Book). John W. Burton (b. 1867) was a former mayor and town clerk of Jacksonville, a county clerk, a merchant, and an insurance agent (Branson, 1896. 1900 U. S. Census, population schedules. 1902, 1903, 1905 North Carolina Year Books). Burton served as bank president from 1907 until 1937. By 1910 George H. Bender had replaced N. S. Cochran as cashier, a position he was to hold until the early 1930s. I. M. Bailey was a bank officer or maintained an office in the building in 1919 and 1920.

The Bank of Onslow probably operated out of ordinary commercial lodgings at first (see Onslow County Multiple Property Documentation Form: Commercial Buildings, Banks). Around 1916 the bank erected an imposing Beaux Arts brick building at the corner of Old Bridge and Court Streets in the heart of downtown Jacksonville. In its new lodgings the bank prospered through the 1920s. The bank's only competition came earlier, during the 1910s when the Bank of Jacksonville was established with M. Capps as president. The Bank of Jacksonville had ceased to exist by 1912 (1912 North Carolina Year Book). During the 1920's the third floor of the building accommodated law offices, including Summersill Brothers, and an efficiency apartment (Lucille Collins, personal communication).

The stock market crash of 1929 and consequent financial crisis appear not to have affected the Bank of Onslow as severely as other financial institutions across the nation. In 1934 the stockholders approved a minor amendment to the bank's charter. At the time Samuel S. Ambrose, John W. Burton and Henry A. Jarman were the bank's principal stockholders. In January 1937 the Bank of Onslow sold its bank building to the First Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Smithfield, North Carolina, and the bank corporation was formally liquidated in December 1938 (Onslow County Deed Book 176, page 353. Onslow County Corporation Book 1, pages 298-299). The Bank of Onslow's last cashier, J. C. Thompson, stayed on as cashier-secretary of First Citizens' new Jacksonville branch. First Citizens operated it branch bank in the Bank of Onslow building until the early 1970s when it sold the property to Grady Mercer, Jr. (Onslow County Deed Book 439, page 363). Presently the first floor houses county offices. The second and third floors are vacant.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT:

When the Bank of Onslow was built in the 1910s it was the most sophisticated building architecturally in Jacksonville and was probably the first building in

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Onslow County designed by a professionally-trained architect (see Onslow County Multiple Property Documentation Form: Sylish Dwellings. Victorian and Early Twentieth Century Styles). The bank was built circa 1916 (Onslow County Tax Records). The architect of the building remains unknown, but a likely candidate is Wilmingtonian Henry E. Bonitz (1872-1921). The Bank of Onslow Building is similar to Beaux Arts style buildings designed by Bonitz and built in Wilmington during the late 1910s (Wrenn: 40-41). More compelling evidence lies in the fact that Bonitz designed the 1919 Masonic Temple which stands next door. Several Jacksonville Masons of the period were associated with the Bank of Onslow. Frederick W. Hargett, president of the Jacksonville lodge in 1920, had earlier been president of the Bank of Onslow, and the Masons met in I.M. Bailey's office in the bank while their adjacent lodge was being built in 1919-1920.

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Onslow County's first Masonic lodge, Lafayette Lodge No. 83, was organized on February 8, 1825, at Onslow County Courthouse (Jacksonville), N.C. (Jones). The founding of the lodge roughly coincided with attempts to develop a town at the county seat beginning with the survey of lots adjacent to the courthouse square in 1821. (Centinel). After a period of dormancy in the 1840s, the lodge acquired its first meeting hall on New Bridge Street in 1851 and met there until another structure was acquired in 1911 (Jones).

In 1919 the lodge decided it needed a new building with commercial space that could be rented out as a source of revenue. Consequently lodge members formed the Jacksonville Masonic Temple Corporation in order to sell bonds for the construction of a building. On May 15, 1919 the corporation purchased a lot on Old Bridge Street between the Bank of Onslow and the J.I. Herritage Building and opposite the courthouse (Onslow County Deed Book 126, page 295). Shortly thereafter the lodge adopted plans for a three-story building designed by Wilmington architect H.E. Bonitz. Bonitz recommended Crumpler Brothers of Warsaw as the general contractor (LaFayette Lodge minutes).

LaFayette Lodge No. 83 held its first meeting in the third-floor meeting hall of the temple on April 21, 1920. Two other fraternal organizations - Jacksonville Chapter No. 80 and Jackson Commandery No. 27K7 - also rented the third-floor meeting hall. The Holly Camp No. 564 Woodmen of the World met in a second-floor office. Lawyers also rented offices in the second floor. The store F.W. Marine and Company occupied the first floor. Rents from the various organizations and commercial tenants went to the Bank of Onslow, which appears to have been intimately involved in the Jacksonville Masonic Temple Corporation (LaFayette Lodge minutes; Harvey Boney, personal communication).

In 1941 the lodge defaulted on its debts and the temple building was sold to Graham P. Johnson (Onslow County Deed Book 194, page 219). The Masons continued to meet in the building until 1955 when they moved to new quarters in a two-story concrete-block Moderne building on Chaney Avenue in Jacksonville (LaFayette Lodge minutes). Numerous tenants have occupied the three floors of the Masonic Temple since the 1950s. At present the second floor of the building is occupied by the county's juvenile probation offices. The first and third floors are vacant.

## ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT:

The Jacksonville Masonic Temple was designed by Wilmington architect Henry Emil Bonitz (1872-1921). Bonitz received an education in engineering at the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College (North Carolina State University) in Raleigh (Bonitz: 3.18). His earliest works in Wilmington dated to the mid-1890s.

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Several of his more impressive accomplishments included the Lumina Pavilion at Wrightsville Beach (demolished) and the 1919 Beaux Arts Alexander Sprunt and Son Building on Front Street in Wilmington (Wrenn: 40-41). The Tudor Revival style of the Jacksonville Masonic Temple was uncharacteristic of Bonitz's later known works, which tended to be in the Beaux Arts idiom.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property .1 acre

UTM References

A 

1	8	2	7	7	4	1	0	3	8	4	7	8	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcels 117, 118 on accompanying Onslow County - Jacksonville Tax Map no. 410.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Districts boundaries are defined by the boundaries of the lots of the two buildings.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dan Pezzoni  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 15, 1989  
street & number 1214 Campbell Ave. SW telephone (703) 343-8431  
city or town Roanoke, state VA zip code 24016

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Bank of Onslow and Jacksonville Masonic Temple

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Historian Presha Merritt conducted much of the local research that  
went into the preparation of this nomination.

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### PHOTOGRAPH KEY

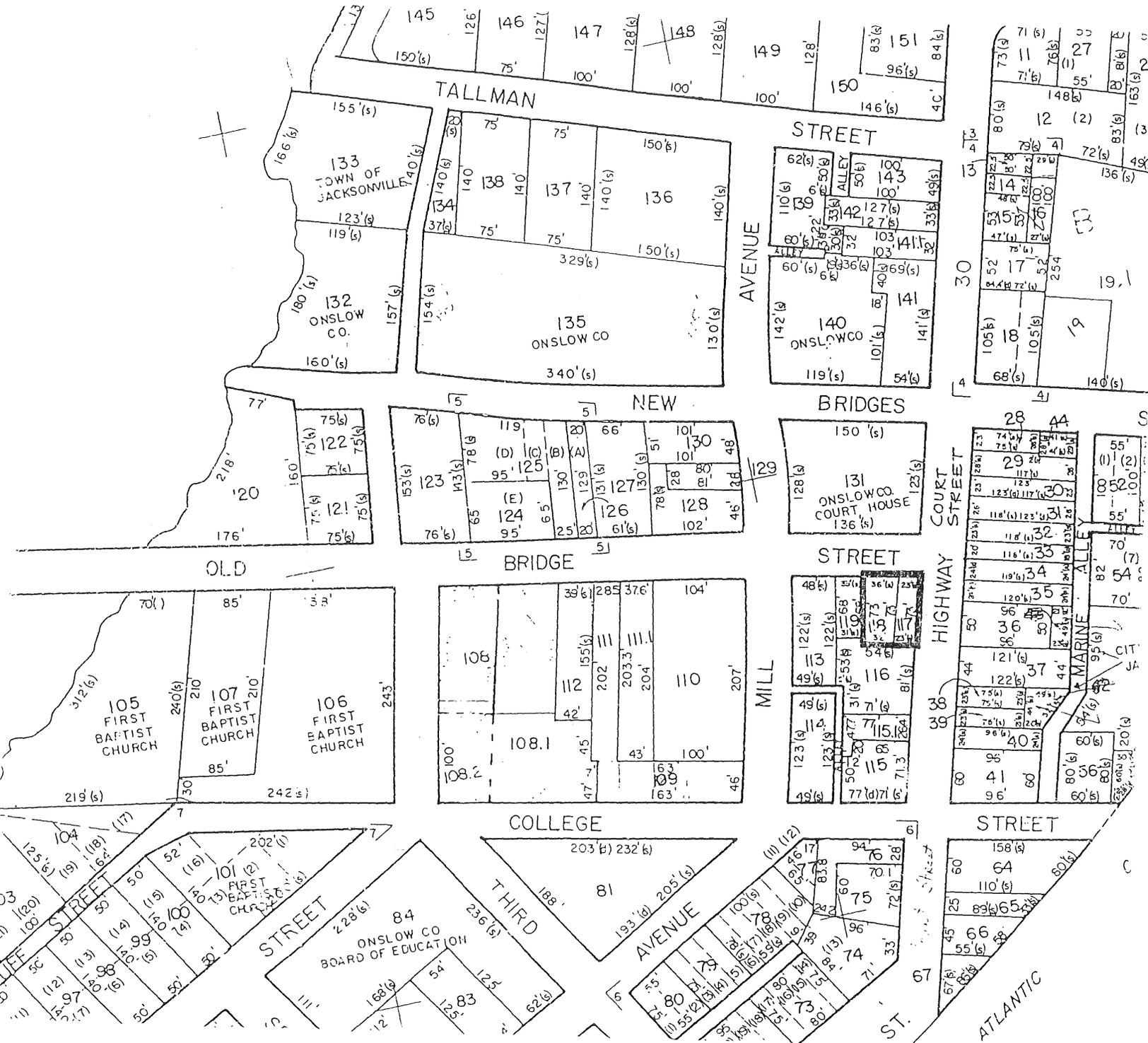
Unless otherwise noted, the following information pertains to all photos  
Jacksonville, NC (location of resource)  
Dan Pezzoni, photographer  
Negative stored at NC Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

1. Bank of Onslow (left) ; Jacksonville Masonic Temple (right). Viewed southwestward. (10/88)
2. Bank of Onslow. Historic photograph (about 1916). Collection of Hathaway Price, Jacksonville, NC.
3. Bank of Onslow. Detail pressed metal ceiling. (12/87).
4. Jacksonville Masonic Temple. West party wall. (12/87)
5. Jacksonville Masonic Temple. Entrance to stair. (12/87)
6. Jacksonville Masonic Temple. Parapet detail. (10/88)

BANK OF ONSLOW AND JACKSONVILLE MASONIC TEMPLE

Jacksonville  
Jacksonville North QSGS quadrangle  
Onslow County, North Carolina

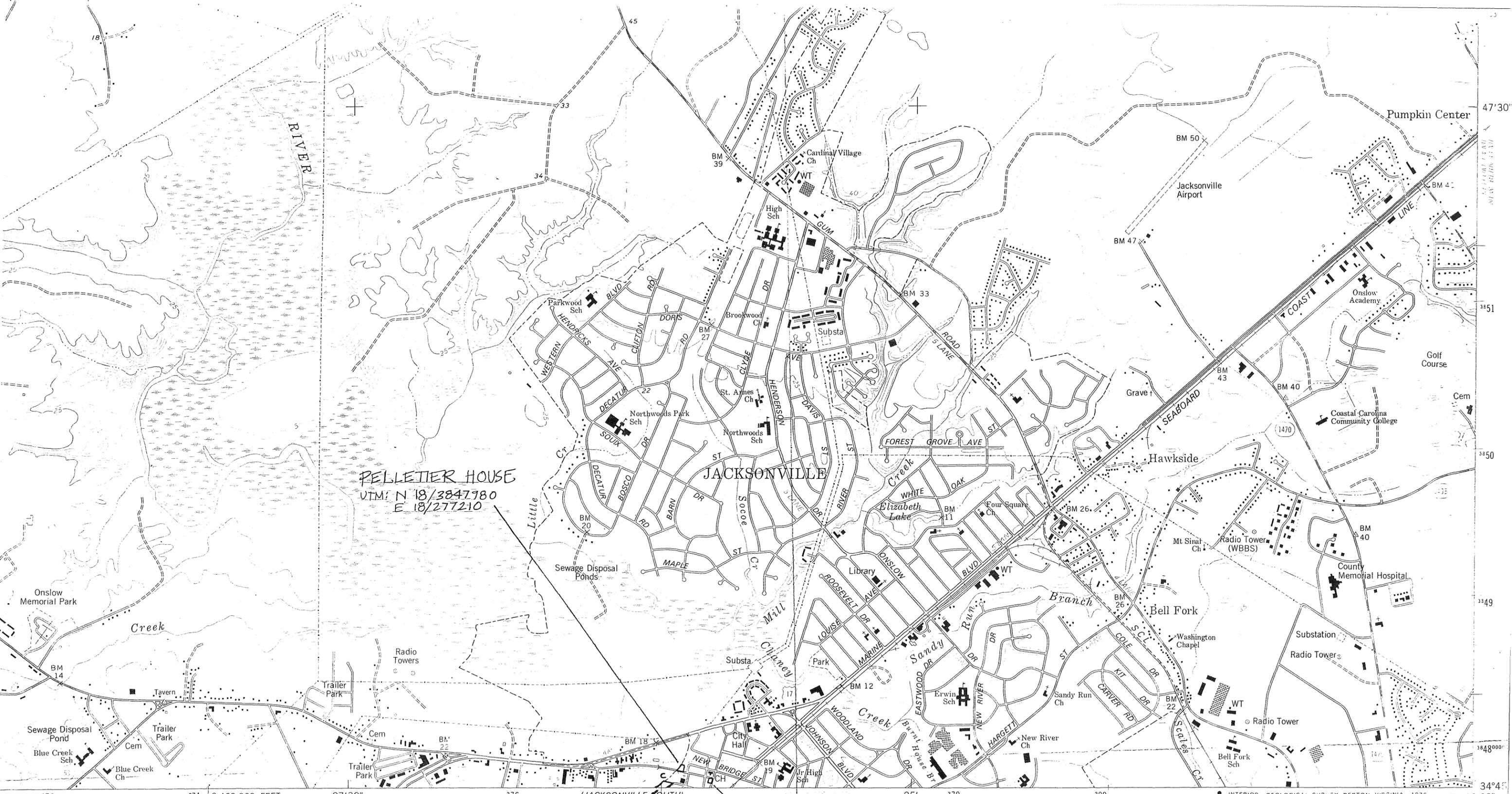
District boundary marked  
with heavy line  
Scale: 1" = approx'ly 150'



UTM reference:

N 18/3847890  
E 18/277400

(photocopy of a portion of Onslow County  
Jacksonville tax map, drawn by Trumble-  
McGuirk and Associates, Atlanta, GA, 1977)

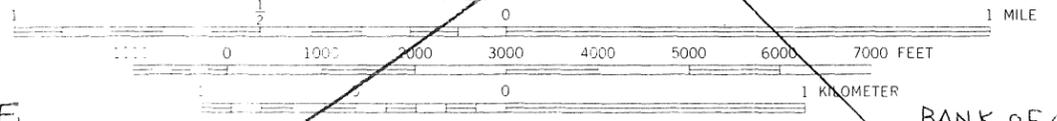
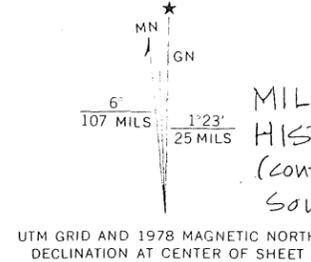


PELLETIER HOUSE  
 UTM: N 18/384780  
 E 18/277210

MILL AVENUE  
 HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 (continued on Jacksonville  
 South Quad - see for UTM's)

BANK OF ONSLOW AND  
 JACKSONVILLE MASONIC TEMPLE  
 UTM: N 18/384780  
 E 18/277410

Geological Survey  
 Geodetic Survey  
 Aerial photographs  
 1978  
 Plane coordinate  
 Contours  
 Buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

JACKSONVILLE NORTH, N. C.  
 N3445-W7722.517.5

