

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Bonner House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bath

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Beaufort	CODE 013
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Beaufort
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bonner House is a two-story structure with molded weatherboarding on a brick pier foundation. On the east side is a one-story wing with a shed addition at the rear. Both the front (south) and the rear facades of the main block have shed porches. The main block and the wing have gable roofs covered with shakes. Paneled corner posts and molded cornices with returns are consistent throughout the exterior. The south facade has nine-over-six sash windows set in four bays on the second level and three bays on the first level, of which the third bay is the main entrance. Five-pane sidelights flank the wide six-panel door, which is surmounted by a five-light transom. The central attic window on the east side of the main block has six-over-six sash, while the two attic windows on the west have four-over-two. There is a double-shoulder Flemish bond chimney on the west side. The wing, which is two bays wide and two bays deep, has a door in the first bay of the east side. It features windows of nine-over-six sash like those in the main block, except for the two windows in the attic which have four-over-two. The shed windows have nine-over-six sash on the east and six-over-six on the north. Each of these sections has a step-shoulder chimney laid in random Flemish bond. The side of the shed adjacent to the rear porch is covered with horizontal flush siding.

The Bonner House exhibits a side-hall plan with a large parlor to the west of a spacious entrance hall. The juxtaposition of the wing to the hall gives the first floor the appearance of having a center-passage plan. On the right side of the hall is a quarter-turn stair with winders which rises to the second floor. The open-string stair, accented by wave-pattern brackets, has a square newel post and balusters. The main doorway is surrounded by a paneled architrave with plain corner blocks, a treatment which is repeated around the windows of the parlor. All other windows have molded architraves. The walls are plastered above and below the chair rail. Although not identical, the academic Adam mantels in the parlor and wing room are both enriched with elliptical sunbursts, pierced geometric patterns, and dentils. The mantel in the east room has colonnettes supporting the frieze, while that in the west room has fluted pilasters. In the main bedroom on the second floor and in the shed addition, simple unadorned mantels also follow Adam design.

The second floor is divided into two small rooms and a larger bedroom. The baseboards, doors, and the upstairs newel post are decorated with wood graining. The attics of both the wing and main block are unfinished.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The lot where the Bonner House now stands is located on Front Street, in Bath, the oldest town in North Carolina. On April 20, 1708, John Lawson apparently bought the lot from John Fulford in the name of his daughter, Isabella, who was then a minor. Lawson was an English surveyor who explored much of eastern North Carolina and wrote the first serious description of the colony in 1709. One of the three founders of Bath Town, as it was then called, he laid out the town and made his home there. He also worked with Baron Von Graffenried in the immigration of Swiss and Palatines to Carolina, which led to the founding of New Bern in 1710. The Tuscarora Indians, natives of the New Bern area, resented white encroachments on their lands. In 1711 they captured and killed Lawson while he was exploring the Neuse River valley with Von Graffenried.

There is no mention of a house on Isabella's lot until 1729, when she and her husband, John Chilley, sold the lot, with its "houses, gardens, yards, orchards, fences, woods, underwoods," to John Jackson. In the century following, the lot passed through various hands, including those of Edward Houit (Hocut), William Mace, James Parkinson, Robert Palmer and his son William, Patrick Rourk, William Boyd, Eber Rice, Thomas Respass, Charles Crawford, and William Carrington. Carrington bought the lot in 1805 "together with all houses." Judging from the price of £225, any houses then remaining must have been in a dilapidated condition. By 1830, when the lot was sold to Joseph Bonner, the lot seems to have been vacant, for no mention is made of a house in the deed of sale, and the price was down to \$175. Bonner is not listed in the 1830 census for Bath, but by 1840 he is recorded with his family as residing in the community. Thus the present Bonner home was probably built between 1830 and 1840.

The house continued in the Bonner family until the 1950s when it was acquired by the Oscar F. Smith Foundation for inclusion in Historic Bath. The house, along with some reconstructed outbuildings, stands as an excellent example of early nineteenth century Carolina architecture. The lot where it stands has had many owners, notable among whom is the historian and explorer, John Lawson, "one of the most remarkable men to grace the pages of colonial North Carolina history."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beaufort County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Paschal, Herbert R., Jr. A History of Colonial Bath. Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1955.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		35° 28' 20"	76° 48' 49"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: March 16, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Dr. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

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

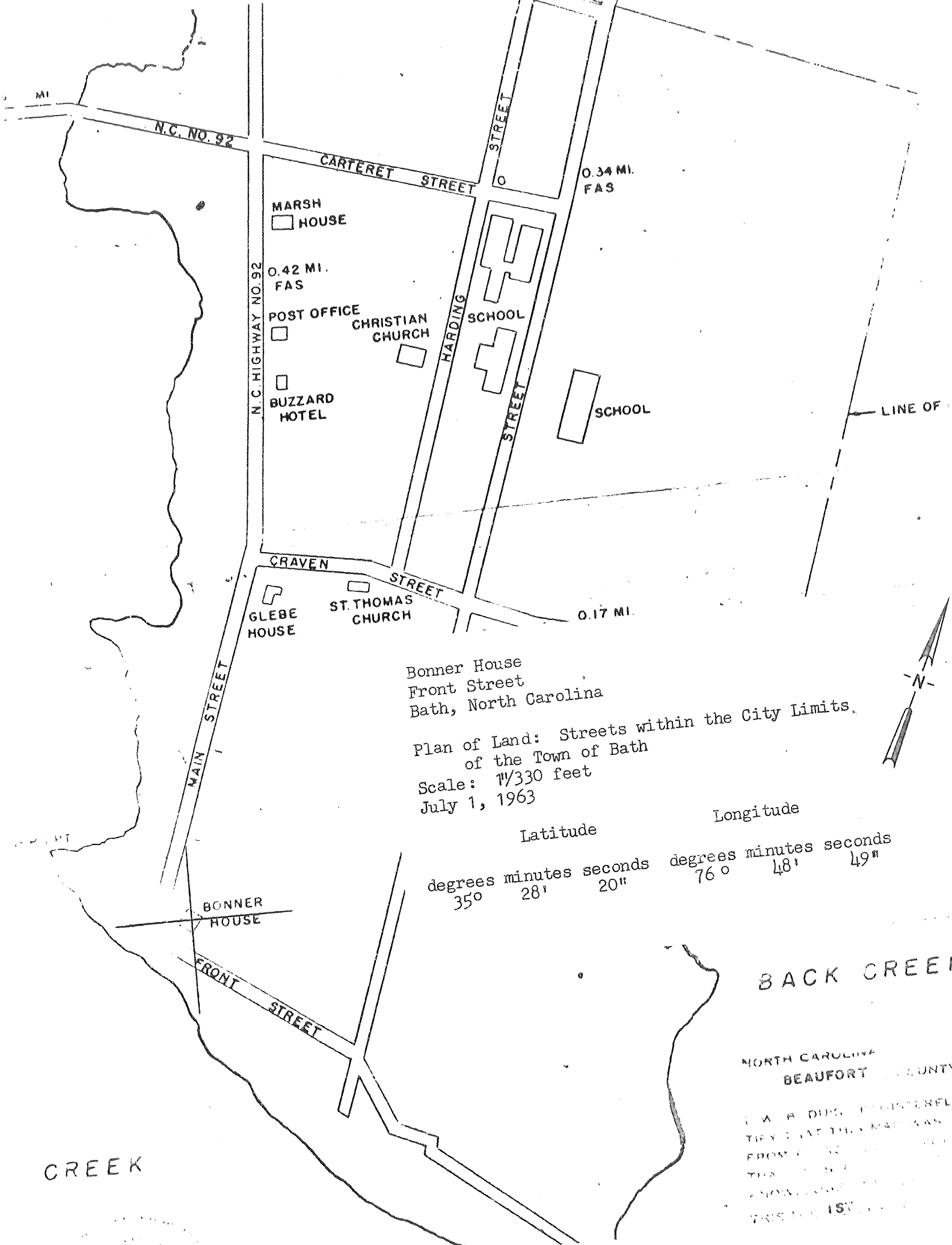
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



MARSH HOUSE

0.42 MI. FAS

POST OFFICE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SCHOOL

BUZZARD HOTEL

SCHOOL

GLEBE HOUSE

ST. THOMAS CHURCH

0.17 MI.

Bonner House  
Front Street  
Bath, North Carolina

Plan of Land: Streets within the City Limits  
of the Town of Bath

Scale: 1/330 feet  
July 1, 1963

Latitude

Longitude

degrees minutes seconds  
35° 28' 20"

degrees minutes seconds  
76° 48' 49"

BONNER HOUSE

BACK CREEK

CREEK

NORTH CAROLINA  
BEAUFORT COUNTY

I, W. B. DUM, REGISTERED  
TITLES AND LAND SURVEYOR,  
FROM THE RECORDS OF THE  
TOWN OF BATH, BEAUFORT COUNTY,  
NORTH CAROLINA, HAVE  
THIS 15th DAY OF

