

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE: North Carolina | |
| COUNTY: Camden | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Camden County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On west side of Highway 343, .25 mile north of junction with US 158 and US 168.

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

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Camden CODE: 029

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County of Camden

STREET AND NUMBER:
Highway 343

CITY OR TOWN: Camden STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Camden County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Highway 343

CITY OR TOWN: Camden STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Camden

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Camden County Courthouse is a small brick building with the main floor expressed as a piano nobile above a high raised basement. The structure is covered by a hip roof. The five-bay main (east) facade and the four-bay north and south sides (those walls which can be seen from the road in front of the courthouse) are laid in Flemish bond while the rear of the building is constructed in a less attractive random bond.

Each side of the building contains four large windows with twelve-over-twelve sash at both levels, those at the basement level being much smaller than the ones above. All have heavy stone lintels and sills. Dominating the main facade is a well-executed tetrastyle pedimented portico which extends over the central entrance and the two flanking bays. The heavy tapered Doric columns, of molded brick covered with a thin coat of stucco, are set on high brick piers that support the porch floor. The rear of the portico rests on brick pilasters which rise from the ground and feature molded brick caps. The portico is enclosed by an unusual stone handrail with a later iron balustrade below it. The main level is reached by steps at either end, each rising in two flights that intersect at right angles separated by a wide landing. The tympanum of the portico is filled with horizontal flush siding and contains a small wooden plaque bearing the date 1847. A heavy unadorned wooden frieze carries around the porch and is repeated in brick on the main block, a device that effectively links the two elements. The smaller basement entrance is located beneath the main door in the loggia under the portico.

The floor plan of the courthouse remains essentially unchanged. The basement level has a center hall with two rooms on either side which serve as offices for county officials. Although some alterations have been accomplished in the southeast vault room, most of the early trim is still intact. Each room has plain plaster walls accented only by a heavy baseboard. The windows are set in deep splayed reveals and, like the doors, are framed by symmetrically molded architraves with corner blocks adorned with roundels. Although similar, the architraves differ slightly in each room. The main floor, finished similarly, is one large courtroom with later partitions added in the northwest and southwest corners to house bathrooms and judge's chambers. Along the center of the west wall, enclosed by a heavy Victorian turned balustrade, is the judge's bench and the jury section. Rows of slant-back benches, facing the judge's bench, extend away from this section back to the main entrance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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

Camden County, formed in 1777 from part of Pasquotank County, was named for Sir Charles Pratt, first Earl of Camden. Camden was thus honored because, in addition to having been a distinguished English judge and statesman, he had gained popularity among the American colonists for his opposition to heavy colonial taxation. This led to his removal as lord high chancellor in 1770 by Lord North's ministry. The county seat of Camden County was originally called Jonesboro after two brothers named Jones who are said to have served on the committee to select a site for a courthouse. The name of the village was later changed to Camden.

In 1782 a tract of one and one quarter acres was purchased from Thomas Sawyer and his mother, Margaret, to serve as a site for the courthouse. The courthouse which was built on this land burned about 1846. The present courthouse, which has the date, 1847, in the pediment of the main front, was constructed apparently in that year to replace the earlier building. It has served that purpose continuously ever since.

The Camden County Courthouse is a modest structure appropriate to a small county. Yet the dominating pedimented porch, the large windows, the simple, heavy architectural elements, and the consistent sense of proportion and scale throughout give to the building a dignity and monumentality seldom found in such small Greek Revival buildings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Camden County Records, Camden County Courthouse, Camden, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Court Records).

Camden County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Court Records).

"Camden County," The State, November 29, 1941.

Pugh, Jesse F. Three Hundred Years Along the Pasquotank: A Biographical History of Camden County. Old Trap, North Carolina. Privately printed, 1957.

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 |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 36° | 19' | 48" |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 76° | 10' | 18" |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One and one quarter acre.

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: November 1, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date November 1, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

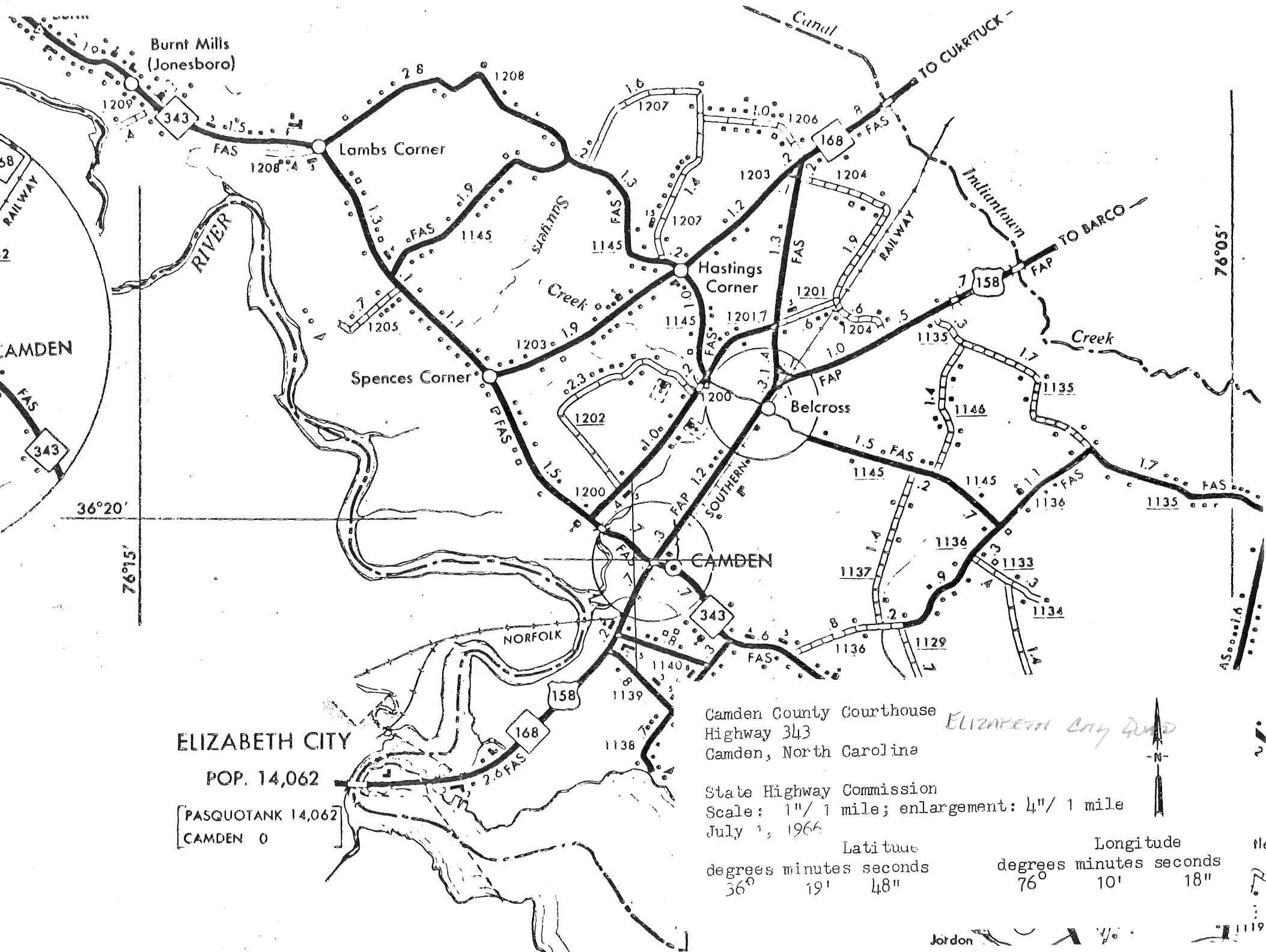
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



ELIZABETH CITY
 POP. 14,062
 [PASQUOTANK 14,062]
 CAMDEN 0

Camden County Courthouse
 Highway 343
 Camden, North Carolina

Elizabeth City Quad

State Highway Commission
 Scale: 1" / 1 mile; enlargement: 4" / 1 mile
 July 1, 1966

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Latitude | Longitude |
| degrees minutes seconds | degrees minutes seconds |
| 36° 19' 48" | 76° 10' 18" |

