

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Central Elementary School

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"First" New Bern Academy Building, "Second" New Bern Academy Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
311-313 New Street and 517 Hancock Street, respectively

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern (First Congressional District, Honorable Walter B. Jones)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Craven CODE: 049

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
New Bern City Schools

STREET AND NUMBER:
520 New Street

CITY OR TOWN: New Bern STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Craven County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
302 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: New Bern STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

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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 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 First New Bern Academy Building, built of brick laid in Flemish bond is two stories high with a hip roof and two interior ridge chimneys. The building is marked by a low water table. A slightly projecting three-bay pedimented pavilion contains the central entrance under a semicircular porch. The pediment, with a central blind oculus, is outlined by a cornice consisting of pairs of undercut modillions above a dentil course. This cornice carries around the entire building. Windows containing replacement sash and surmounted by flat arches of gauged brick mark the five bays of the front (south) facade and the three-bay sides.

The porch, a tetrastyle semicircular structure with a flat roof carried on Tuscan columns, repeats the details of the main cornice. Above the narrow double doors, a wide fanlight executed in wood in imitation of lead extends across the sidelights, which have been boarded over. Tuscan pilasters flank the door. This porch is a reconstruction of one shown in an early sketch of the Academy. A wide arch of gauged brick above the fanlight is partially obscured by the porch. This may indicate that the earlier porch was not original to the building. The brickwork below the central second floor window indicates a change was made, which might have involved the entrance.

A late nineteenth century addition at the rear of the building contains lavatory facilities. From evidence in the attic and contemporary documentation, it is certain that a cupola formerly rested near the junction of the main and the pediment ridges.

The interior has a center hall with one room on either side. A stair that rises in two flights begins its ascent against the east wall of the hall. Throughout the building the woodwork and mantels have survived almost intact, despite the continuous use of the structure as a school. A molded archivolt with keystone borders the fanlight of the hall. The closed sidelights have paneled reveals and soffits and are flanked by Tuscan pilasters similar to those on the exterior. The hall features a flat-paneled wainscot and six-panel doors which open into the classrooms. These unusual doors are entirely flush-paneled on the classroom side. Both rooms, finished similarly, have a high horizontally flush-paneled wainscot and very simple Adamesque mantels, the openings of which have been filled in.

The balustrade of the stair from the second floor to the attic consists of a molded handrail carried on square balusters and square posts. On the opposite wall, a paneled wainscot repeats the profile of the handrail. (Although the paneled wainscot, handrail, and newel post survive on the first floor stair, the balusters were removed apparently when the treads were replaced.) The ceiling has been lowered at the level of the landing, but a trap door admits one to the last flight and the enclosed section of the attic which led to the cupola.

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On the second floor the hall and both classrooms have wainscots identical to that on the first. The classroom doors are hung in reverse to those on the floor below, that is, with the flush-paneled side toward the hall. Several sections of beaded rail plastered into the wall survive in the classrooms and downstairs hall. Generations of students have hung their coats and wraps on the tiny turned pegs which are fitted into the rails.

Standing northeast of the First Academy Building is the Second New Bern Academy Building, built in 1884. Although built much later, its overall design blends well with that of the earlier building. It is a two-story brick structure seven bays wide, the central section projecting as a shallow pavilion. A transverse false shouldered gable above the pavilion breaks through the hip roof and carries a wooden bell tower. Smaller false gables appear on each side of the building where large paneled chimney stacks previously existed.

The entire front (east) facade, faced with rubbed brick laid in mechanical bond, is raised on a molded water table. The corners of the pavilion and the main block are strengthened by pilaster strips. The pavilion features a simple cornice enriched by enlarged dentils. Centered in the gable is a blind oculus above a stone tablet bearing the inscription "Nulla Palma Sine Pulvere," freely translated as, "No reward without labor." A stone at the northeast corner of the facade reads "New Bern Academy/1884." The central entrance has a double door, each leaf containing four panels with applied moldings. The door is surmounted by a large four-light arched transom set in a segmental arch. It is protected by a small porch with hip roof carried on fluted cast iron colonnettes. At the second level above the entrance are three tall round-headed windows, the central one being of greater height than those flanking it. On each of the sides of the pavilion at both levels are windows with very tall, narrow three-over-three sash.

The eaves of the roof are finished with a box cornice lacking the dentils of the pavilion cornice. At the top of the walls is a corbel band that continues across the pavilion but is interrupted by the pilaster strips. All windows except those of the pavilion have nine-over-nine trabeated sash set below gauged brick segmental arches. The bell tower with arched openings on all four sides is topped by a gable roof. Additions containing stairs have been attached to both sides of the school and lavatory facilities added at the rear.

Built on a center-hall plan two rooms deep, the interior remains much the same as it was constructed. The hall, which has a vertically sheathed dado and heavy chair rail, is dominated by a straight flight of stairs broken into two runs by an intermediate landing. A massive turned newel post and turned balusters carry the heavy molded handrail. Closets beneath the stair are enclosed by vertical sheathing. Each classroom is entered

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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through a four-panel door above which is a three-light transom. The walls are sheathed like those in the hall; horizontal paneling, however, appears above the dado in several places. These panels were at one time painted black and evidently served as chalk boards. Large sliding doors occur between the rooms on each side of the hall. The second floor is identical in plan, and the rooms are finished like those below.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Civil War Hospital</u> |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1764 the General Assembly authorized construction of a school building, which Governor Tryon described in a letter to the Earl of Shelburne as "the first established in this province by legislative authority." The building was completed by 1766, and the Sauthier map of 1769 shows it on the block bordered by New, Johnson, Middle, and Metcalf streets--the site still known as Academy Green and still occupied by educational structures. In 1784, the legislature gave the school the title "New Bern Academy" and appointed as trustees Richard Caswell, Abner Nash, John Wright Stanly, William Bryan, and Richard Dobbs Spaight.

This early building continued to serve until it burned about 1795. The academy was moved to Tryon Palace, where classes were held until that too burned in 1798. The meeting place of the academy between that time and about 1806 when the present building was completed is not known, but it may well have been the west wing of Tryon Palace, which survived the fire, or Christ Church, either of which would have provided a suitable meeting place.

The present building, now confusingly known as the First Academy Building, was constructed in 1806. This date appears in a number of nineteenth century records, and the structure certainly fits that date stylistically. In 1802 St. John's Masonic Lodge contributed for the construction of a new academy building. The most compelling proof for the ca. 1806 date, however, is James Price's survey of New Bern, published in 1810. That survey lists lots 311, 312, and 313 on New Street and lots 327, 328, and 329 on Johnson Street, all at Hancock, as "Academy lots," and in the upper left hand corner of the survey is a drawing of the building, labeled "Academy." There can be no doubt that the structure in the drawing is the one that survives. It is shown with a cupola, which has since been removed.

The origin of the design for the building is not known, but Colonel John Whitford attributes it to James Coor, noting that

. . . Coor was brought to New Bern from England by Thomas Weber designing some architectural work, that being the formers business, hence he drew the plans, as well as for his own house [Coor-Gaston House], that of Mr. Thomas Webers [Whitford-Ward House], and several other dwellings and the . . . Academy, the old building still standing.

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Coor was practicing in New Bern as early as December, 1777, when he took John, a free Negro aged eight years, as "Apprentice to the house carpenters trade," and as late as 1784, when he took an apprentice named Solomon Johnson. Based on the houses cited by Whitford that still exist, it seems certain that Coor was capable of the design for the New Bern Academy building, and although he died in 1796, he still could have designed the structure. The 1760s building burned before Coor's death, and although the replacement was not completed until ten years after he died, it could have been built in accordance with Coor's design.

During the years that followed, the New Bern Academy retained its reputation for excellence. Professor William Hooper of the University of North Carolina, in a speech before the North Carolina Institute of Education at Chapel Hill, June 30, 1832, said that "Of the institutions which I have seen, those approaching nearest to my beau ideal of a school room are the celebrated Round Hill school in Massachusetts, and the Newbern [sic] Academy in this State." The history of education in Craven County before the Civil War is, to a very large extent, the history of the New Bern Academy. Henderson Thomas notes that

this school had more influence upon the history of the state in the early years of the Commonwealth than any other institution save the University the leading men of the State from 1790 to 1835 came from the eastern part of the state around New Bern, Cape Fear, and Edenton. The Majority of these men received the foundation of their training at the New Bern Academy.

A cursory reading of the names of the Board of Trustees of the New Bern Academy over the years and of the graduating classes reveals a 'Who's Who' of North Carolina government, education, and the arts. These included William Gaston, noted orator, state supreme court justice, and author of the North Carolina state song; John Stanly, member of the legislature and of Congress; Richard Dobbs Spaight, governor of North Carolina; Richard Caswell, first governor of the state of North Carolina; William Blount, signer of the federal Constitution, governor of the Southwest Territory, and senator from Tennessee; Abner Nash, governor during British invasion, 1780-1781, and member of provincial and continental congresses; Francis Lister Hawks and Cicero Hawks, prominent Episcopal clerics, the former a noted historian as well.

The New Bern Academy and its green were a focus of community activities. The academy building was, for example, the meeting place of the Presbyterians before the completion of their own building in 1822. When the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad was opened from Goldsboro to New Bern on April 29, 1958, a great celebration was held. According to Colonel John D. Whitford's unpublished history of the Baptist Church in New Bern ,

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No less than ten thousand people, visitors and citizens of the town, assembled on the Academy Green at noon. . . . two addresses were delivered. . . . a grand ball and supper at night ended the proceedings which had been conducted from the beginning to close without balk of any kind.

During the Civil War, after Union forces entered the town in 1862, the building served as a hospital. After the war it was reclaimed immediately for educational use.

It served the needs of the New Bern schools until 1883, when the Board of Trustees of the New Bern Academy expressed an "earnest desire . . . to erect suitable buildings for the graded school as recommended."

By March 14, 1884, subscriptions of \$2,500 had been raised for the new building, and sale of academy property at another site brought an additional \$4,000. An architect, a Mr. Carroll, was asked to submit a design, which was soon approved. It was decided to locate the building (now known as the Second Academy Building) "on a line with and 45 feet due north from the northeast corner of the Old Building." At the groundbreaking ceremony, held May 8, W. H. Oliver, chairman of the building committee, "after delivering a neat and appropriate speech broke the ground for the new building amid the applause of the multitude," whereupon "the pupils of the schools and citizens present joined in singing 'Old North State' and 'Ho for Carolina.'"

On the following June 13, the cornerstone was laid, and by September the building was far enough advanced for the board to order the finishing details. The building committee was given authority to erect a new fence around the Academy Green, buy stoves for the new building, and lay drain tile. On June 30, 1885, the committee reported that they had "so far as possible completed the duty assigned them," and the grounds were properly finished.

The First and Second New Bern Academy buildings still serve their original purpose, since they are today part of the Central Elementary School of New Bern. Each is significant as a fine and unusually well-preserved example of its period of nineteenth century school architecture. Standing on the Academy Green, site of the earlier school believed to have been the first in the state established by the legislature, these New Bern Academy buildings are important historically as the direct descendants of that first school and for their association with a distinguished roster of trustees and alumni, probably unmatched by any other North Carolina institutions of primary and secondary education.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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

Thomas, Henderson Lee. "Public Education in Craven County." Master's thesis, University of North Carolina, 1925.

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	° ' "	° ' "		35°	06'	36"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	02'	32" (First)
SE	° ' "	° ' "		35	06	37
SW	° ' "	° ' "		77	02	31 (Second)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Seven Acres

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, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: July 8, 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 H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date July 8, 1971

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 _____

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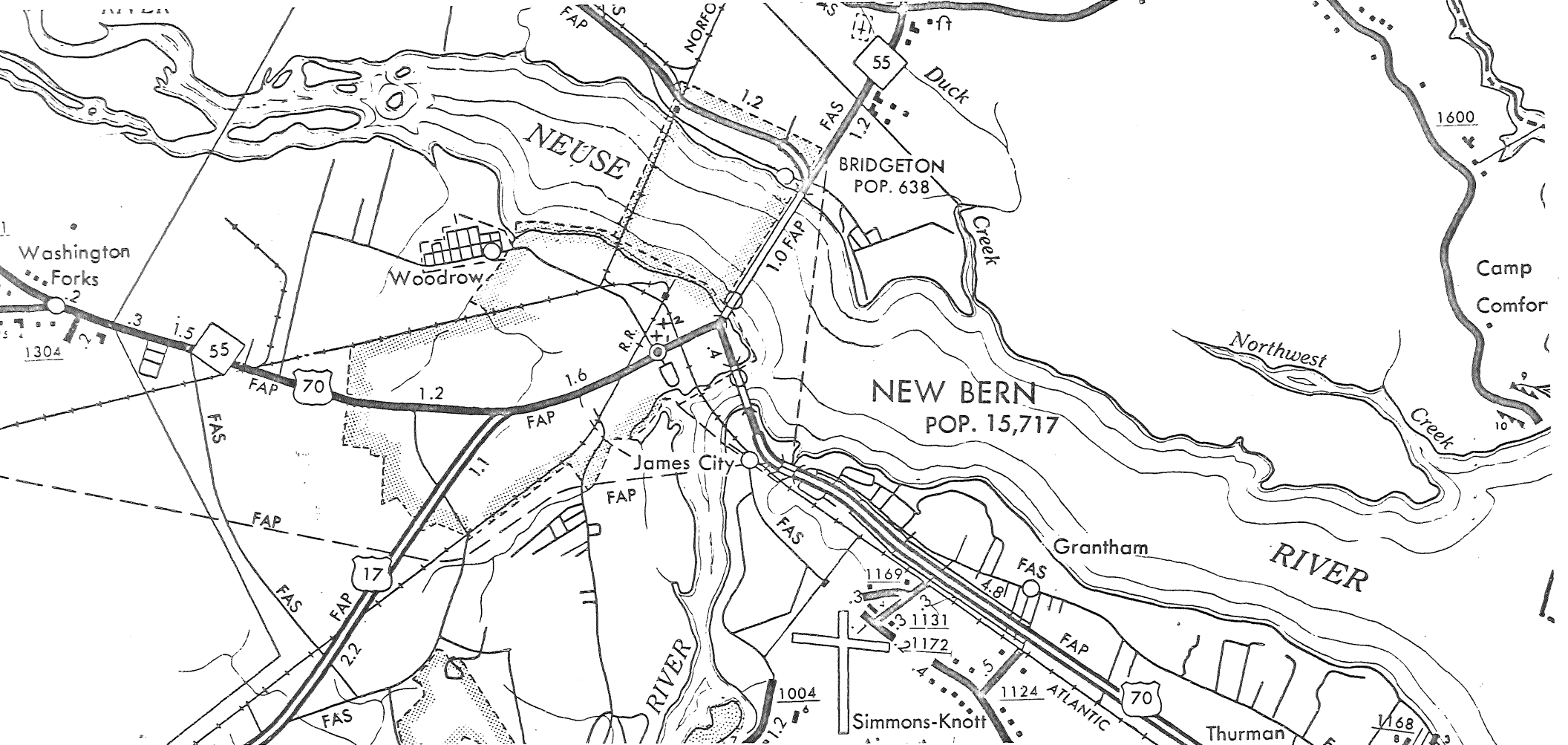
(Number all entries)

9.

Trustees of the New Bern Academy, Records, #3, August 8, 1882 to April 30, 1886, and subsequent. Unpublished records in files of the New Bern City Schools Administration, Jones-Roberts House, New Street, New Bern North Carolina.

Ward, Mary Pickett. "New Bern Academy." Unpublished history, no date; files of the New Bern Historical Society, New Bern, North Carolina.

Whitford, Colonel John D. "The Home of the Walking Stick, Early History of the Biblical Recorder and Baptist Church in New Bern." Unpublished manuscript in possession of Mr. G. Tull Richardson, Bellair, New Bern, North Carolina.



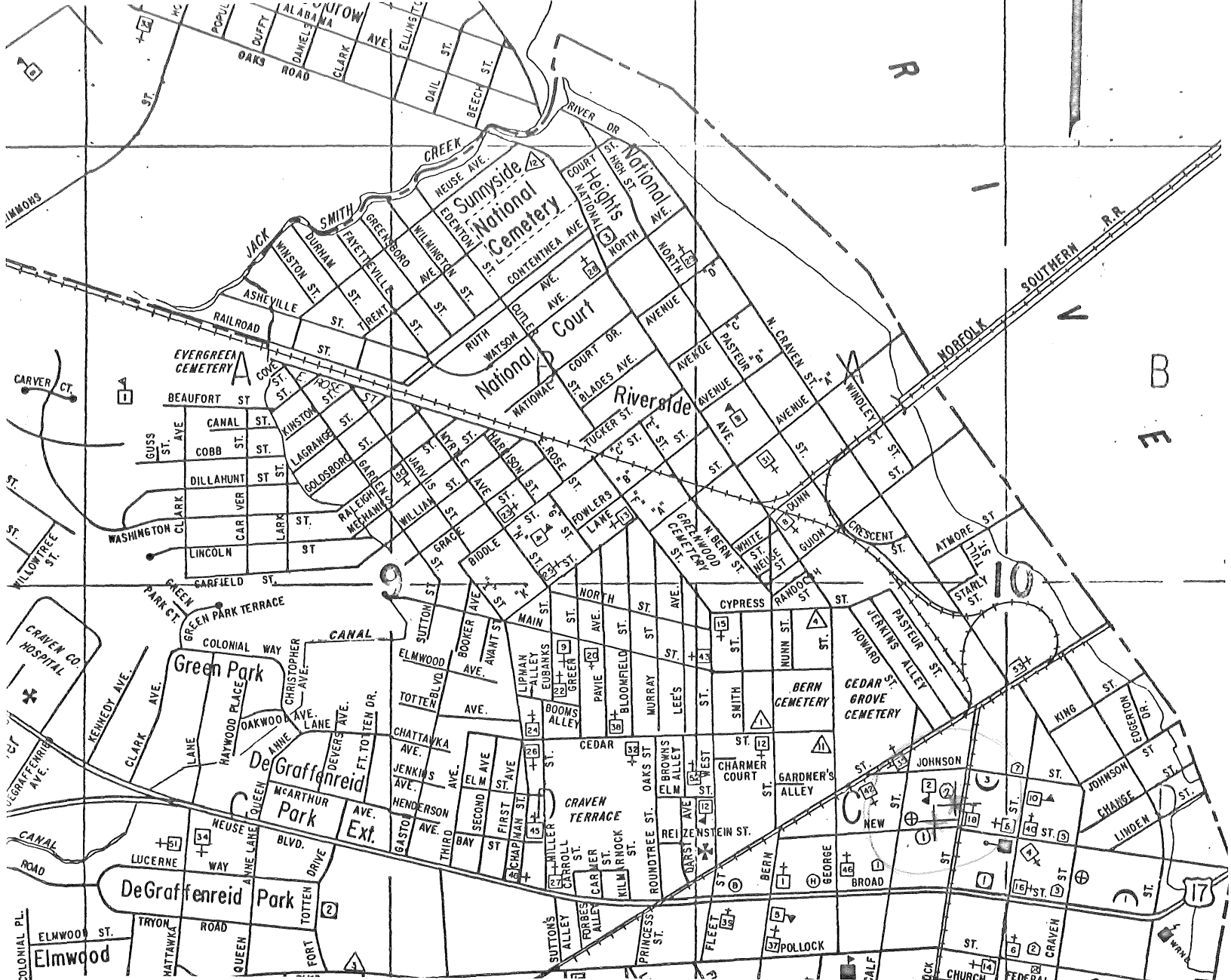
Central Elementary School:

- 1. First New Bern Academy and 2. Second New Bern Academy buildings
 - 1. 311-313 New Street and 2. 517 Hancock Street, respectively
- New Bern, North Carolina

Map of Craven County, State Highway Commission
 Scale: 1" / 1 mile
 July 1, 1967

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
1. 35°	06'	36"	77°	02'	32"
2. 35°	06'	37"	77°	02'	31"





Central Elementary School:

1. First New Bern Academy and 2. Second New Bern Academy buildings
 1. 311-313 New Street and 2. 517 Hancock Street, respectively
- New Bern, North Carolina

Map of City of New Bern

Gilfredo Gonzalez

Scale: 1"/1200'

no date

Latitude			Longitude			
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds	
1.	35°	06'	36"	77°	02'	32"
2.	35°	06'	37"	77°	02'	31"

