

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:  
Gull Harbor

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
514 Front Street

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

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Craven	CODE 049
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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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:  
Caroline Dunn Ashford

STREET AND NUMBER:  
512 East Front 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:

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: Craven

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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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 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

Set on a small finger of land between East Front Street and the Neuse River, Gull Harbor commands a magnificent panorama over the water. It abuts the sidewalk and rises to a height of two-and-one-half stories over a paneled brick foundation behind which is a full basement. The stark frame side-hall plan house is three bays wide, but because of its plan has varied fenestration on the sides, with the hall side (that toward the water) marked by three bays and the opposite by four bays. The gable roof, covered with shakes, is pierced by a central chimney and three pedimented dormers, two on the front (southwest) elevation and one on the rear. Although the dwelling once had an entrance in the south bay of the street facade, this long ago was converted into a window, leaving only the doorway on the water side which is sheltered by a twentieth century pedimented porch. This entrance, located in the middle bay, is composed of a six-panel door with four-light transom above. On the outside all six panels are flat-paneled with the obverse being flush-paneled. Nine-over-six sash was installed in the windows during a restoration carried out in the mid-1960s on the first and second floors. The six-over-six sash in the gable end windows and dormers at the attic level survived. All the windows are contained within narrow molded architraves and are flanked by louvered shutters. Semicircular louvered vents were installed in each gable end near the ridge. Plain pilaster strips delineate the corners of Gull Harbor and a simple molded cornice occurs at the eaves. A shed addition was constructed across the first level of the entire rear facade.

The house follows a side-hall plan, two rooms deep, with the only entrance halfway down the side hall. The overall impression of the interior corresponds to the exterior appearance--roomy, well ventilated and uncluttered. The finish is of the Federal style and quite simple. Only minimal changes were made during the restoration--most in the form of closets or book cases. Throughout the first floor, the walls are plastered and have molded chair rails and baseboards, the front parlor being the only room with a flat-paneled dado. A molded plaster cornice outlines the perimeter of the hall and a stair rises toward the rear in two flights with a transverse landing between on the southeast wall. The stair is of traditional Federal design with balusters square in section and tapered posts and newel supporting a rounded, ramped handrail. Repeating the profile of the handrail, the hall chair rail continues along the opposite wall. Each step is adorned with a wave-pattern bracket.

In the parlors a wooden cornice is used. The front parlor mantel has a rectangular fire opening flanked by paneled pilasters the fields of which are fluted. These support a three-part frieze with paneled end blocks and a raised center tablet featuring a sunburst. A molded shelf with pierced dentils breaks above the end blocks. A book case, added during the restoration, is set in an arched opening to the southeast of the mantel. In the rear parlor the mantel is composed of paneled pilasters with pierced gouge work in the caps, a three-part frieze with sunbursts in the center tablet and end blocks, and a molded shelf enriched with a course of pierced dentils. Pierced gouge work is found in the architrave above the fire opening; the shelf breaks above the end blocks and bows over the central tablet. On the southeast side of the mantel, a small cupboard, the door of which has six flat panels, occurs above the chair rail. Six-panel doors occur throughout the first and second floors.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE North Carolina	
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On the second floor, the plan is identical except that the front part of the hall was converted into a bathroom. The finish of this floor is plainer than the one below and consistent throughout, using molded chair rails, beaded baseboards, and plaster walls. In the front bedchamber the mantel has plain pilasters flanking the fire opening and carrying an unadorned frieze above which a molded shelf enriched with dentils breaks above the end blocks. On the northwest side of the chimney breast is a closet. A mantel similar to that in the front room, but lacking the dentil course, is used in the rear bedchamber; it is flanked by closets.

The third-floor rooms continue the pattern of progressive simplicity and employs beaded chair rails and baseboards and board and batten doors. Each of the two mantels, which stylistically recall the Georgian period, has a simple architrave around the fire opening, a plain frieze, and a broken molded shelf. Closets also flank the chimney breasts in these rooms.

The basement quite obviously was used as a kitchen at some time. The rear section of the basement contains a fireplace with a wooden lintel above the opening and a brick flat arch over that. Evidence of whitewash remains on the ceiling.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gull Harbor, a starkly simple Federal house, sits on a point of land at East Front Street and the Neuse River, making it a structure visible both from land and water and a striking element of the Neuse waterfront. Built possibly as either an overseer's house for water-related trade, or, as local tradition has it, a warehouse, Gull Harbor bridges the gap between the elegant Federal mansions of New Bern's wealthy ship owners and merchants, and the small cottages and less pretentious houses of the artisans and tradesmen.

When in 1742, Josiah Jones secured the land on which Gull Harbor was built, a ferry already operated from the site across the Neuse River. Throughout the history of the house, its proximity to the water has been an important feature of the site, with ferries and bridges leading from the area. Even today the U.S. 17 highway bridge crosses the Neuse River within a block of the house.

Jones evidently allowed his grant to lapse by not building on the property, and Edward Griffith acquired it from the Town Commissioners in 1753. After several owners, William Blackledge acquired the property and in 1815 sold it to Eli Smallwood and Increase Bradley. Smallwood was an important New Bern merchant and ship owner, who had already constructed an elegant brick house in the same block and had extensive wharfs, warehouses, and other structures within the block. Increase Bradley was a Beaufort merchant and ship owner, and the two may have had common business interests.

The exterior and interior configuration and finish of Gull Harbor are consistent and quite similar to the many circa 1810 side-hall plan dwellings nearby. According to persistent local tradition, however, the Gull Harbor house was remodeled from a warehouse. There is no specific documentation for that tradition, but the deed of April, 1818, by which Joseph and Dyer Brainard of New York acquired the property, at least acknowledged the commercial development of the property and no dwelling was specified.

Evidently the Brainards of New York were business associates of Smallwood, for the house was once more in his possession by 1834 when he sold it to Thomas Singleton. That transfer specifically mentions "wharf buildings and other appurtenances." This same language appears in the 1836 transfer of Singleton to Wiley M. Nelson, and the 1837 transfer by Nelson to Sarah Tillman.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

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Sarah's grandfather, Henry Tillman, had established himself in the area in the eighteenth century, and before his death in 1818 was one of the richest men there, holding vast estates and owning several mills. Local tradition credits Sarah with giving the house the name Gull Harbor or Gull House--an apt name, for the high roofline of the house as well as its site still attract the river gulls. It was traditionally also she who converted the house from commercial into residential use; the finish of the house, however, does not appear to bear this out.

By 1849, when the house was insured by her daughter and son-in-law, Alexander and Mary B. Justice, the site is listed as having a

- Dwelling House
- Barn & Stables
- Kitchen
- Smokehouse

The residence is listed as

of wood and in fine repair - has a scuttle and steps to it - 28 x 50 - 2 stories high - kitchen is 22 x 24 - 1 story - and has two chimneys and four fireplaces. . . .

Evidently half stories were not counted as stories for insurance purposes, and the house was, as it now is, two-and-one-half stories, and the kitchen one-and-one-half stories. This would readily account for the two chimneys and four fireplaces in the kitchen, since the kitchen probably also served as quarters. When Sarah Tillman died in 1869 she willed the house to her Justice grandchildren, and the property remained in the family ownership until 1952 when it was purchased by the present owner, Caroline Dunn Ashford.

The Sanborn insurance maps indicate that by 1898 a one-and-one-half story addition already stood to the rear of the structure. By 1904 this had been replaced with a porch and a detached outbuilding is shown. Caroline Ashford, after her purchase in 1952, built the present one-bay wing across the rear of the structure and returned the side porch to an earlier character. Except for these changes, the house remains substantially as built and finished.

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).  
 Mann, Albert W. History of the Forty-Fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. Jamaica Plains: Brookside Print, 1908.  
 Moore, Elizabeth. "Notes on Lot 108", unpublished manuscript.  
 Research by Tony Wrem, historic preservation consultant; architectural description by Janet Seapker, survey specialist.

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 ' "		35°	06'	39"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		77°	02'	12"
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History      DATE: 19 September 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 109 East Jones Street

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

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 19 September 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

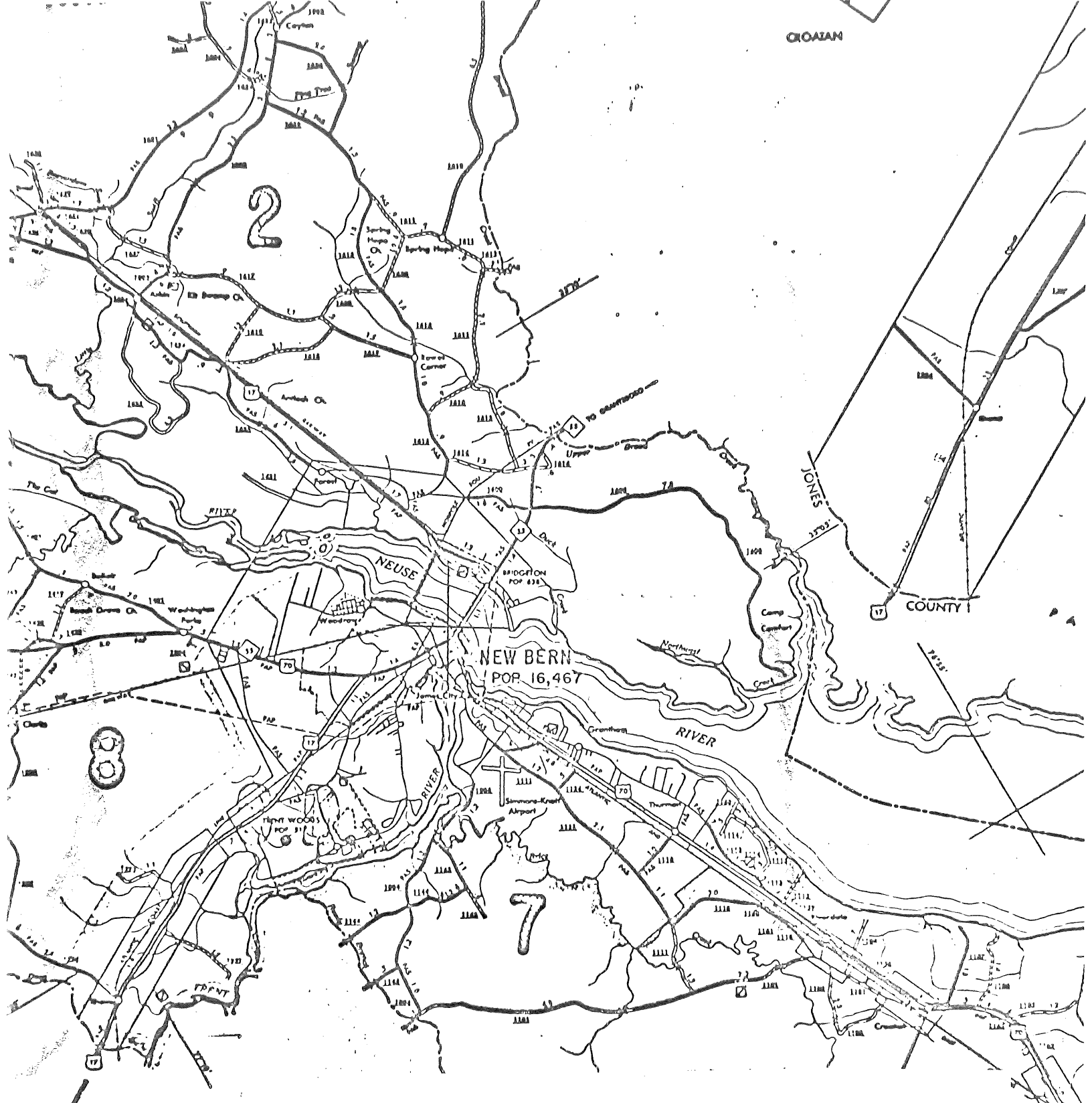
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

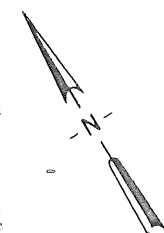
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

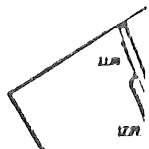


Gull Harbor  
 514 Front Street  
 New Bern, North Carolina

Map of Craven County  
 New Bern Chamber of Commerce  
 Scale: 3/8" : 1 mile  
 No date



<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	06	39	77	02	12



LITTLE  
 LAKE



