

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:
Hawks House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
306 Hancock Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern (First Congressional District, The Hon. 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 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) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
T. T. Lasitter

STREET AND NUMBER:
308 Hancock 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

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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 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 Hawks House, a one-and-a-half story gambrel-roof frame dwelling, is six bays wide and two bays deep. On the first level the windows contain nine-over-six sash; on the second level the windows on the ends contain four-over-four; and the five shed dormers have six-over-six. The house is covered with beaded siding except for the additions on the rear (east) and on the front facade where flush siding occurs beneath a shed-roof porch. Quite unusual in New Bern is the double-shoulder exterior end chimney on the south side of the house. It is laid in one-to-three common bond and has very steep weathered offsets. In contrast the north side has a pair of exposed-face interior chimneys laid in the same bond, a type of chimney that is a particular hallmark of New Bern architecture. In the early years of the twentieth century the house was raised on the brick piers upon which it now rests. Of the many outside stairways and additions, only the one rear shed addition has any historical relevance for it is shown on late nineteenth century fire insurance maps. The gambrel roof is covered with a variety of materials--shakes, standing-seam tin and patterned pressed tin.

The rather irregular spacing of the windows, the configuration of the foundation walls and the chimneys, and to some extent the arrangement and appointments of the interior--all lead to the conclusion that the three northern bays probably were added to the house shortly after the construction of the southern section.

The front entrance is through a door in the third bay from the south end. This door gives access to the stem of a T-shaped hall which has one room on either side and a transverse arch at the juncture with the rear cross hall. The southeast corner of the cross hall contains the stair, and the northeast corner, a small bedroom. Stylistically, the stair is the earliest element in the house. It is of the closed-string variety and rises in three runs with landings between. The newel and posts are square in section while the balusters are turned and support a molded handrail that has neither ramps nor easings. Because the house is now a multiple dwelling, the stair has been enclosed with plywood in order to separate the units. The elliptical transverse arch that unites the two sections of the hall is an unexpectedly elaborate Federal element for such a simple house. This molded arch, which has a molded keystone and a paneled soffit, springs from paneled pilasters, the caps of which are enriched with pierced gouge work.

All the rooms and both halls have plaster walls and molded chair rails and baseboards. Wooden cornices occur in the front hall and in the rooms flanking it. The room in the southwest corner has a simple Adamesque mantel adorned only with a course of dentils; to each dentil has been applied a tiny vertical strip of astragal molding. The most elaborate mantel, that in the northwest room, is also Adamesque in design. In this case fluted pilasters flank the opening. Pierced gouge work appears in the architrave and pilaster caps, and a course of dentils runs beneath a shelf. Although treated in a diminutive manner in some ways, the small northeast room is probably the most interesting. Its simple mantel is composed of a molded architrave which surrounds the fire opening and a flush frieze with an

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

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7.

unbroken cornice shelf above. Flanking this are tall narrow closets divided into two sections. The top doors have two panels and the lower, one panel. Each panel is raised on a fillet, and the surrounding stiles and rails are delicately molded.

Several of the doors in the Hawks House have six panels raised on fillets and carry early hardware (HL hinges and carpenter locks).

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

The land on which the Hawks House stands was first transferred by the commissioners of the town to Joseph Carruthers in 1746. After Carruthers died the property was sold at public sale in July, 1763, to Andrew Scott, a doctor. Since that deed specifically mentions "houses, out-houses and lot of ground," there was some structure on the site at that date.

Scott sold the property almost immediately to John Green, merchant, who held it until 1799. The southern end of the house as it now stands certainly dates from the earliest period of Green's ownership and may well incorporate elements of the pre-1763 house.

The property was sold at auction in 1799 to John Chever Osborn, a doctor, who in turn sold it to Francis Hawks in 1807. Hawks held the house until his death in 1832. The construction of the northern end of the structure and the assumption of the present shape and finish of the entire house would have been possible during any of the latter three periods of ownership. In the absence of other material, the dates of construction must be based on stylistic evidence, which places the completed structure in the period between 1780 and 1810.

When Francis Hawks died in 1832 the estate inventory listed the Hancock Street house as his "residence." The family had certainly lived there from 1807 until 1832, and possibly as tenants before that time. Francis was the son of John Hawks, who had come to this country as the architect of Tryon Palace and remained after the Revolution as clerk of the upper house of the General Assembly, a post to which he had been recommended by Royal Governor Josiah Martin. John Hawks became the first state auditor in 1784 and held that position until his death in 1790. There is no evidence in the Hawks house that its design or finish was accomplished by John Hawks, and, as indicated by the positions he held in state government, he may not have practiced architecture during the later years of his life. It is interesting to note that John Hawks married a niece of Joseph Carruthers so that when their son, Francis, assumed ownership in 1807, he bought back property already owned by the family from the date of the original grant in 1746 to 1763.

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Francis Hawks served during most of his adult life (from 1800 until 1832) as United States collector of customs for the port of New Bern. He was a man of wealth who was able to provide education and security for his family. When he died in 1832, he owned seventeen slaves, numerous houses and lots in New Bern, a plantation on Bachelor Creek and other land within the county. This plus the fact that the family had been prominent in colonial and revolutionary affairs gave them social standing, and probably accounts for the success of his five children. Of his children, Gertrude Carraway reports that "one became a lawyer, one an educator, and the other three clergymen. . . ."

Francis Lister Hawks was certainly the most prominent of the five children. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1815 and later became a noted priest and bishop in the Episcopal Church. He is perhaps best known for his two-volume 1857 history of North Carolina and other published works. His interest in history was not confined to North Carolina, and he was one of the founders of the New-York Historical Society.

On a first floor window in the north side of the house the signature of Edward Pasteur has been carved into the glass. Pasteur, a physician, was chief owner of the Snap Dragon, Otway Burns's famous privateer vessel in the War of 1812, and he was also a second in the duel between John Stanly and Richard Dobbs Spaight. Why his signature appears in a window of the Hawks house is not known, but it was carved during the Hawks occupancy.

The house was sold to James G. Stanly after Francis Hawks's death in 1832, and Stanly in turn sold it to Jesse J. Lasitter in 1889. It is still owned by Lasitter descendents.

One of a small number of gambrel structures extant in the area, its length and placement almost directly on Hancock Street make it one of the most noticeable of the New Bern houses. Notable architectural features of the house, besides the gambrel roof, include the dissimilar chimneys (two characteristic of New Bern, one quite atypical) and the simple but well-executed Federal interiors. It remains remarkably unchanged from its period of occupancy by the Hawks family, prominent in North Carolina for three generations.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carraway, Gertrude S. Years of Light. New Bern: Owen G. Dunn, 1944.
 Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).
 Craven County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).
 Miller, Stephen F. "Recollections of New Bern 50 Years Ago," Our Living and Our Dead. New Bern, 1873.

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	° ' "	° ' "		35° 06' 38"	77° 02' 30"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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: 6 December 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 6 December 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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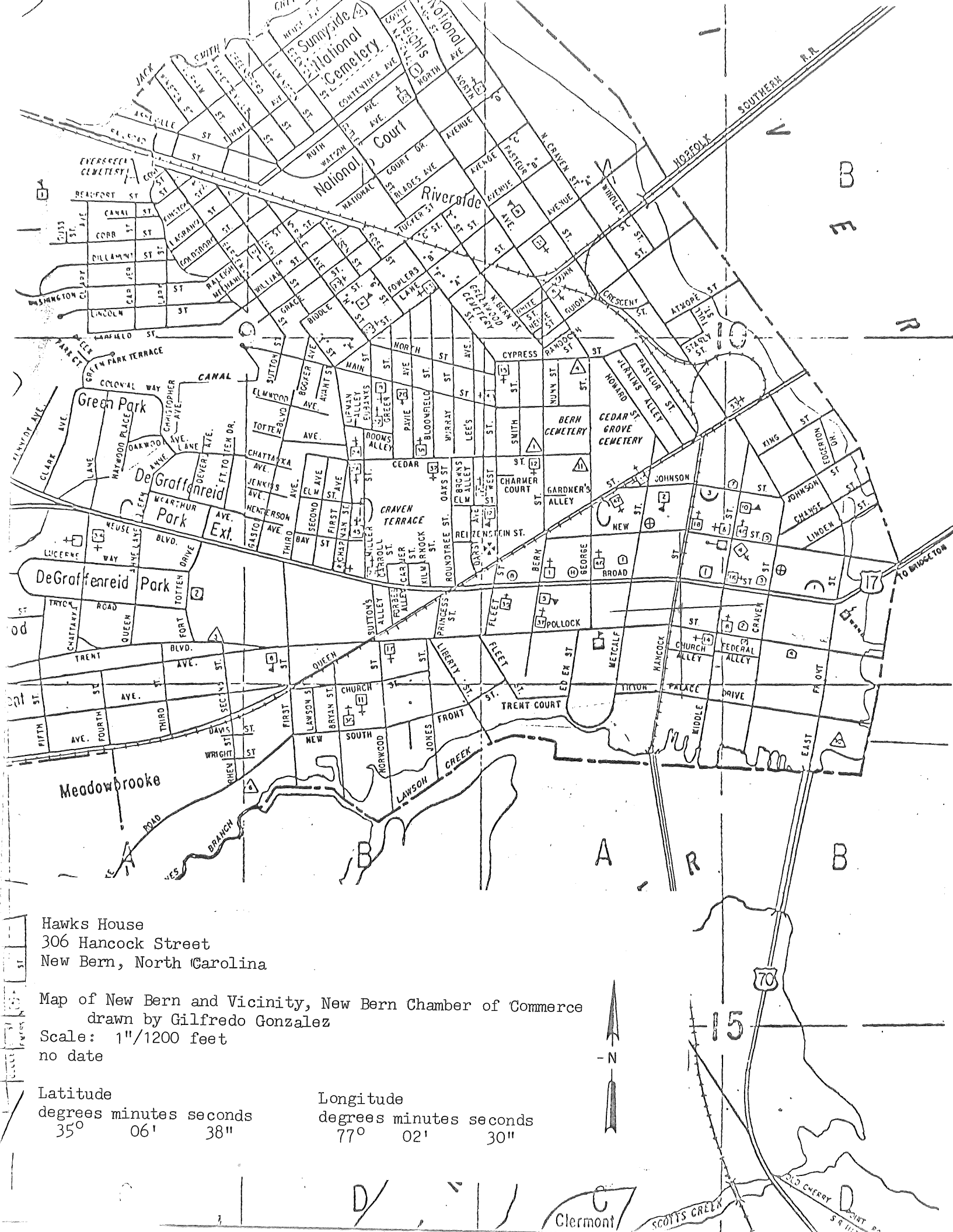
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Moore, Elizabeth. Records of Craven County, North Carolina. Bladensburg:
Genealogical Records, 1960, Volume 1.

Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Francis Benjamin. Early Architecture of
North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941.

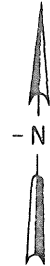


Hawks House
 306 Hancock Street
 New Bern, North Carolina

Map of New Bern and Vicinity, New Bern Chamber of Commerce
 drawn by Gilfredo Gonzalez
 Scale: 1"/1200 feet
 no date

Latitude
 degrees minutes seconds
 35° 06' 38"

Longitude
 degrees minutes seconds
 77° 02' 30"



D / A / C
 Clermont

