

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE:<br>North Carolina |      |
| COUNTY:<br>Craven        |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY         |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER             | DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Ulysses S. Mace House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
518 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
New Bern

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
~~Mrs. William B. Wadsworth~~ William & Martha Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:  
~~518 Broad Street~~ 616 Middle Street, P.O. Box 1775

CITY OR TOWN: New Bern      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 28560 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

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COUNTY: Craven  
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DATE  
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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 Mace House is a two-story frame Italianate structure set just back from the sidewalk with a spacious, slightly overgrown formal garden on the east side of the lot. Contributing most to the Italianate character of the house are a series of demi-hexagonal pavilions and the ornate bracketed cornice below a flat roof. A large blind-arched chimney with a corbeled cap rises from each side of the house. When seen in the context of other buildings in New Bern, the Mace House is quite a typical, for rather than being a confined rectilinear block with restrained detail as most are, this dwelling is a most complex and ornate composition.

A side hall in plan, the main block of the Mace House is two bays wide and three bays deep. Wings occur on the east side and at the rear (north), the latter being L-shaped with a semi-detached one-story kitchen to the rear. Porches run across the entire length, front and back, of the east wing. The one-story porch on the front has been glassed in to create a sun parlor, and the two-story porch on the rear has been enclosed.

The rear bay of the west side of the main block and both of those on the front (south) facade are expressed as demi-hexagonal pavilions. The eastern pavilion on the front is open at the first level and serves as a porch for the entrance. The main corners of the entire house are delineated by corner posts treated as pilasters. They support the main entablature--composed of a molded architrave, a frieze with lozenge flat panels, and an overhanging cornice carried on pairs of large sawn scroll brackets--which is consistent around the entire structure. All windows contain two-over-two sash; all except those of the pavilions are surrounded by molded architraves, flanked by louvered shutters, and surmounted by cornices. The windows of the pavilions at both levels are flanked by paneled corner pilaster strips, below which occur paneled aprons. At the lower level rectangular panels occupy the frieze, and small ornamental brackets carry the cornice. The upper portions of the pavilions terminate in a continuation of the main cornice. This treatment varies slightly in the entrance pavilion. At the first level, the porch is enclosed by vase-shaped turned balusters which support a molded handrail. The porch posts are delicately stop-chamfered and have a band of necking above which are fine foliated sawn brackets. Above the architrave small scroll brackets punctuate the frieze and support the cornice. The second level is very much like its counterparts on the other pavilions, except the sash are shorter and the porch balustrade is repeated below the windows. The cornice of the porch recurs in the one-story bay window located in the first bay of the rear wing. Sheltered by the front porch, the main entrance features a double door set in narrow paneled reveals, a five-light transom, and three-light sidelights. Each leaf of the door contains a long round-headed panel of etched glass above a smaller rectangular solid panel.

The sun porch on the front of the east wing employs elements used on the front entrance porch: stop-chamfered porch supports, the foliated brackets, and the bracketed cornice. A balustrade also like that of the entrance porch forms a gallery at the second level. While making use of the stop-chamfered pillars, the superimposed rear porches are treated less formally. In this case a sawn balustrade is used and the upper cornice is

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supported on small scroll brackets.

The interior follows a highly irregular plan. A hall running the length of the main block opens on the west side into a front parlor and a dining room. Across the hall from the dining room, in the east wing, is a library. A door on the south wall of the library leads to the sun porch on the front of the house. The L-shaped kitchen and service wing, located behind the dining room, is accessible only from the breezeway behind the rear hall door.

As a result of this arrangement an unusual curved stair begins in the middle of the hall and curves around to join the wall, with the first nine risers being freestanding. Turned balusters and a pair of heavy turned newel posts carry a rounded handrail. The spandrels of the stair are vertically sheathed, and molding has been applied to imitate paneling. Curvilinear strips of wood below the risers suggest the outline of brackets. The walls of the hall are vertically sheathed below a molded chair rail. The hall is adorned by a dentil cornice and a cast plaster medallion, both of which features are repeated throughout the rooms on the first floor.

The openings between the parlor and dining room and the pavilion window are framed molded segmental arches with keystones springing from paneled pilasters with molded caps. In the dining room the arch into the parlor is flanked by arched-top cupboards. The cupboards themselves are rectangular in plan with a semi-dome at the head which is carved with a shell motif. On the opposite dining room wall is a marble mantel with a round-arched opening and a cast-iron grate cover. The paneled spandrels and keystone bear shallow geometric incisions. The chimney piece in the library is quite different and of Georgian Revival design. Bricks surround the square opening and are outlined by an architrave with single crossettes at the head. The molded shelf, which has two courses of dentils, is supported on a pair of consoles which interrupts the frieze. The overmantel is formed by a panel framed with an architrave with double crossettes. A parallel border frames the field of the panel. Four-panel doors with two rectangular raised panels below two large round-arched raised panels occur consistently throughout the house.

The second floor follows the same plan as the first. Both the front bedroom and bedroom behind it employ flat arches around the bay windows of the pavilions. The wooden mantel in the latter room features plain low-relief ovals on the pilasters and in the areas of the center tablet and end blocks. The fireplace in the bedroom across the hall also has a wooden mantel. In this case each pilaster is adorned with a lozenge in low relief, with the same motif being repeated in the frieze.

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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <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

Early in the nineteenth century William Hollister lived in a house on the lot now occupied by the Mace House. He remained there until 1841 when his own house was completed a block away on the same street. The older house was sold to Penelope Pearce in 1842. Mrs. Pearce could have bought the Broad Street property for investment purposes, for she had a house on Pollock Street where she was living during the Civil War and continued to live until her death late in the nineteenth century. In 1868 she transferred the Broad Street property to her son, who seems to have lived in the house until March, 1884, when the property was sold to Ulysses S. Mace.

Mace was a druggist whose family possibly came to New Bern from Beaufort. He evidently began building on the property almost immediately after purchasing the lot, and he may have moved the Pearce house to the rear of the lot. In February, 1885, he transferred the lot and houses to his wife, and the transfer specifically mentions three houses. One of these was probably a small house or shed which appears on the Sanborn Insurance maps in 1898 (the earliest year they are available) along with the other two houses now on the lot.

The new house must have been completed by 1885, for in August of that year a conveyance mentioning the Mace homestead notes that it contains the "house known as the Pearce House and a new house recently built by U. S. Mace." Though the actual location of the two houses is somewhat confused, the current owner, whose husband purchased the houses from the Mace estate, was told that the house on Broad Street was built by Mace, and it is commonly referred to as the Mace House.

Stylistically the house, a late Italianate building with heavy sawn wood ornament, would fit into the 1884-1885 era of construction in North Carolina so that its attribution to Mace rather than to the period of late Pearce ownership seems appropriate.

The house, which remained in the Mace estate until 1920, was used as a rental unit. One document in a 1918 court case, shortly after U. S. Mace died, notes that

no one feels justified in making extensive improvements or repairs of the structures . . . which consists of two dwelling houses constructed of wood, and outhouse; that outhouse is dilapidated

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and needs rebuilding; and that the dwelling houses are in constant need of repairs, and at this particular time are in great need of repairs, to wit, painting, plastering, repapering, and plumbing. . . .

At a court ordered sale the Mace House was sold to B. F. Hawgood on January 7, 1920, and within a week he sold it to W. B. Wadsworth, whose widow still occupies the house.

Necessary repairs were accomplished by the Wadsworths, but these involved practically no changes in the 1884-1885 house. On the interior an earlier mantel in the library was replaced with a Georgian Revival one, and on the exterior a porch off the library was glassed to create a conservatory.

Today the house, with its projecting bays and bracketed Italianate cornice, stands stylistically alone in New Bern. Though now in need of paint, its well-landscaped lot and the soundness and richness of its original trim make the Mace House one of the most picturesque of the late nineteenth century New Bern houses. The interior is notable as well, especially the marble mantels, plaster ceiling ornament, and dining and drawing rooms with connecting arches and shell cupboards. Furnished entirely with period furniture and ornaments, the house conveys vividly the opulent atmosphere of its era of construction.

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).  
 Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina, Office of the Clerk of Court (Subgroups: Wills, Court Records).  
 Mann, A. W. History of the Forth-Fifth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. Jamaica Plains: Brookside Print, 1908.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |           | OR      | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |           |         |         |
|--|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         | LONGITUDE |         | LATITUDE  |         | LONGITUDE |         |         |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds   | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds | Degrees   | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | 35°       | 06'     | 31"     |
| NE   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       | 77°       | 02'     | 35"     |
| SE   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       |           |         |         |
| SW   | °        | '       | "         | °       | '   | "       |           |         |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 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

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 28 April 1972

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 28 April 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

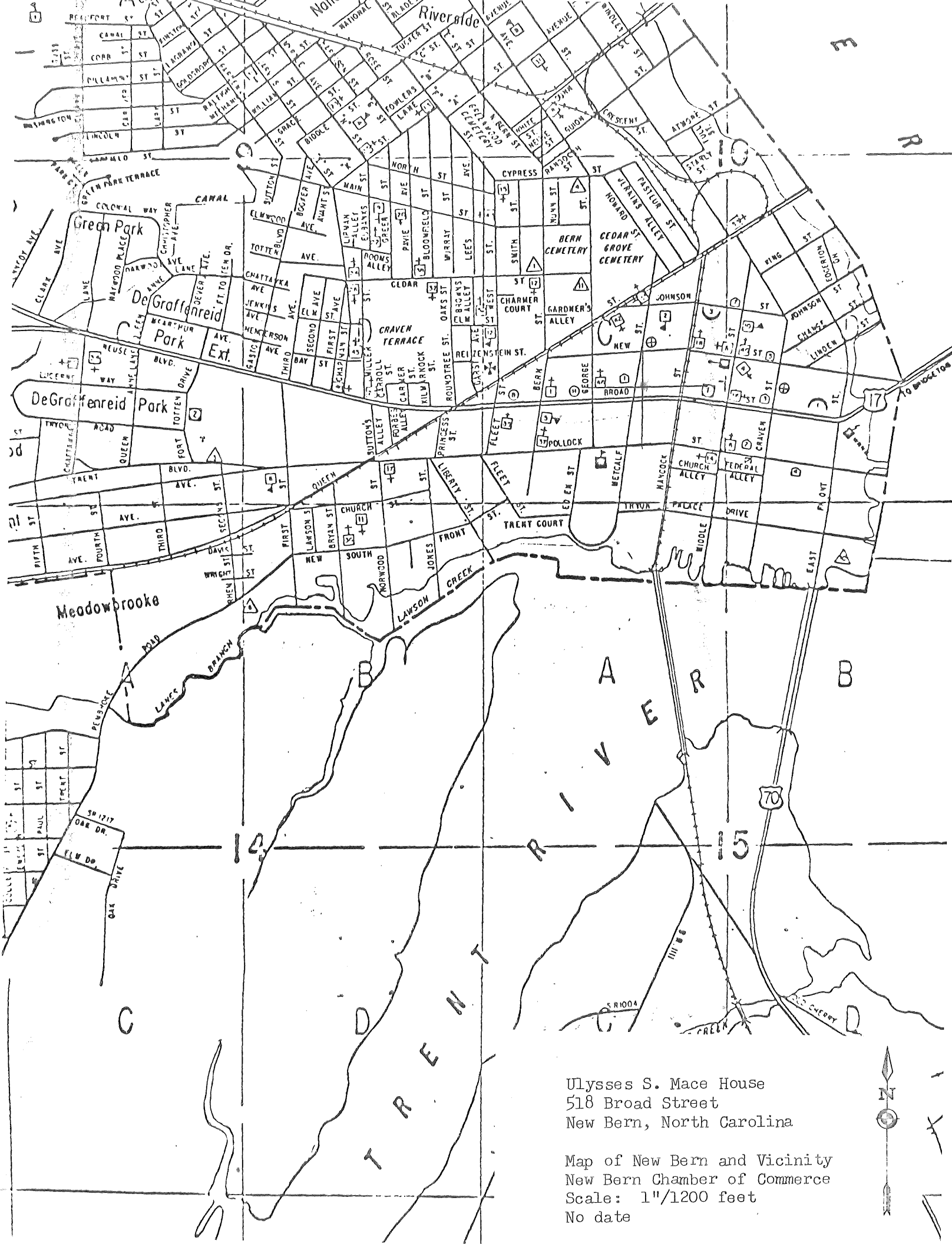
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Ulysses S. Mace House  
 518 Broad Street  
 New Bern, North Carolina

Map of New Bern and Vicinity  
 New Bern Chamber of Commerce  
 Scale: 1"/1200 feet  
 No date