

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:
Rhem-Waldrop House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
701 Broad 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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Charles Toler

STREET AND NUMBER:
First Federal Savings and Loan, 513 Pollock 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:
300 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:

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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	<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 Rhem-Waldrop House, a two-and-one-half-story brick Renaissance Revival house, modified by early twentieth century changes and additions, is set in a residential area at the corner of Broad and George streets. All the wall surfaces of the house are stuccoed and rusticated to simulate dressed stone blocks. The nearly square main block, five bays wide and four bays deep, is covered by a high deck-on-hip roof with dormers. This roof, the result of turn-of-the-century alterations, probably replaced a rather low hip roof. Additions also have been made on the west side and rear.

Most of the elements of the handsome central porch and entrance on the main (north) facade are early twentieth century. The entrance consists of a raised-paneled door flanked by leaded sidelights above flat panels. Thin fluted pilasters occur between the door and sidelights. Semicircular steps with delicate iron balustrades form the approach to the porch. The entrance porch is also semicircular and features fluted columns that take their order from the Tower of the Winds, Athens. A wide frieze with a dentil course appears below the flat roof, which is topped by an iron balustrade.

The projecting sandstone string course that marks the water table on the main facade and on the east side (those sides that face streets) takes the place of sills beneath the first-story windows, which are floor-length and have six-over-nine sash. Sandstone lintels surmount these windows. The first-story windows on the remaining sides and the second-story windows, which abut the cornice, are smaller and have six-over-six sash with sandstone sills and lintels. Below the heavily molded wooden cornice is a wide plain frieze and dentil course. Large pedimented dormer windows (three on the main facade, one on each of the sides, and two on the rear) project from the roof. Each two-over-two-sash dormer window is flanked by wooden Tuscan pilasters and surmounted by a shingled pediment. Iron cresting, formed of straight simple balusters beneath a border ornamented by circles, surrounds the deck of the roof. The bilateral symmetry of the main block is accentuated by the two interior chimneys which rise on each side. The stucco covering each stack extends to a molded cap. A similar but more slender chimney rises at the junction of the southwest corner and the rear ell.

On the west side and rear are additions that evidently date from at least two stages of construction. The Sanborn-Perris Insurance Map of 1908 indicates the presence across the entire main facade of a one-story porch which was replaced by the present porch, and a west side ell which appears to be the extant one-story flat-roof sun room. The latter is enclosed with ten-light casement windows with two-light transoms, separated by Tuscan pilasters like those which flank the dormers. Continuous flat paneling runs beneath the windows. A balustrade like that on the deck of the main roof appears on the flat roof. These additions were most likely contemporary with the roof alteration. In the second stage of renovation, during the 1920s, an addition one room deep was constructed across the entire rear facade. This consisted of two flat-roof bays (that on the west being enclosed and abutting the sun room; that on the east being a porch, which was removed recently) flanking a central two-story section covered by a hip roof. It is possible that the removal of the front porch and the construction of the present semicircular entrance porch occurred during this second renovation stage.

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The interior of the main block of the house follows a center-hall plan two rooms deep. The rooms throughout the first floor have plaster walls, heavy molded baseboards, and crossetted architraves. The stair, which rose originally from the front of the hall against the west partition, now rises from the rear of the hall. The original balustrade, with a molded ramped handrail, slender turned balusters, and heavy turned newel and posts, was reused in the alteration. The nosings of the stair treads are molded. The soffit and spandrel of this stair, which date from its relocation, are of vertical sheathing overlaid with strips of molding to create a paneled effect. The hall and the two east rooms feature heavy molded plaster cornices. A plain plaster arch separating the front and rear hall was added at the time of the stair change, which occurred when the rear additions were made.

The three downstairs rooms that view the street (the northwest, northeast, and southeast rooms) all have full-length windows on the street sides. Beneath each of the smaller windows on the west side a flat panel below the window is framed by the full-length architrave. Flat-paneled interior shutters are set across the lower quarter of each full-length window, an ingenious device that, when seen from the inside, gives the long windows the appearance of being identical in size to the smaller ones on the west wall. The east rooms, containing the most elaborate interior trim, are joined by a wide opening with sliding doors. Original mantels of light-colored marble appear on the projecting chimney breasts in these rooms. The central keystone which supports the shelf of each mantel is flanked by curvilinear triangles incised in the spandrels. Each semicircular fireplace opening is covered with a decorative cast-iron screen. The west rooms contain replacement mantels in the Federal style, each of which has simple pilasters supporting a frieze ornamented with sunburst motifs.

The second story is unaltered with the exception of the bath installed in the north end of the central hall. The finish is simpler than that of the first floor. Each of the four bedchambers contains a plain original wooden mantel with a Tudor-arched opening. A very plain stair rises over the first-floor stair to the full attic, which is partitioned into rooms with an enclosure at each corner for storage.

3. 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

George S. Attmore purchased the lot on the corner of Broad and George streets on June 4, 1838, from the executors of John P. Davis's estate. The lot already may have been improved at that time, but the house now on the site was not built until sometime later. Local tradition says that the house was built in the early 1850s, and stylistic evidence supports that period of construction as well. It appears that Attmore had the house built and leased it; his own residence was in the next block of Broad Street. Further, when Attmore sold the property to Joseph L. Rhem in December, 1855, the deed noted that

it is understood and agreed by the parties that the foregoing sale and conveyance of the corner lot is subject to the leases of the same to the and after the present year to the occupants and the said George [Attmore] receives and is to have the rents and profits upon the same to that time.

Thus the house was built and apparently had been inhabited by 1855. Joseph Rhem, who moved into the house a few years later, was a wealthy New Bernian who owned considerable property and operated among other ventures a turpentine distillery and a steam saw mill.

Like the Hollister House across George Street (and many other houses in New Bern), the Rhem-Waldrop House was occupied by Union forces during the period from March, 1862, to 1865, when they held the town during the Civil War. According to tradition, the house was occupied by New York regimental officers during that period, and this coincides with Alfred Mann's regimental history which lists Brigadier-General Ledlie's headquarters as being on Broad Street.

Joseph Rhem regained use of his house immediately after the war and lived there until his death early in the twentieth century. At that time the property passed to his son, and from him to subsequent heirs. Most of the property transfers do not refer directly to the house, though in an 1891 appraisal it is referred to as "the dwelling and buildings . . . owned and occupied by Joseph L. Rhem as a homestead." In subsequent transfers it is referred to as the dwelling commonly known "as the Rhem Homestead." The house remained in the hands of members of the family (including the Waldrops) until 1971, when it was purchased by Charles Toler, the present owner.

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Despite the changes which have altered the exterior of the Rhem-Waldrop House, the structure retains its air of urban refinement. The late-Victorian roofline adds interest without disrupting the formal containment of the building, and the entrance porch and the hard regularity of the wall surfaces enhance the original classical character. It is one of the few structures in New Bern built in the 1820-1865 period that reflect styles fashionable elsewhere in the country rather than the more traditional styles carried over from the eighteenth century. Its long association with an important New Bern family and with the Civil War also gives the Rhem-Waldrop House a considerable historical cachet.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Catton, Bruce. A Stillness at Appomattox. Garden City: Doubleday, 1953.
 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 Plain: Brookside Print, 1908.

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'	30"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77°	02'	58"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

27 January 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 27 January 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

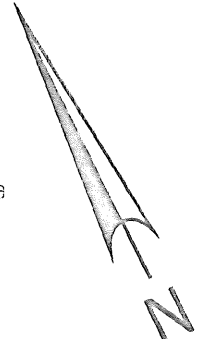


Rhem-Waldrop House
 701 Broad Street
 New Bern, North Carolina

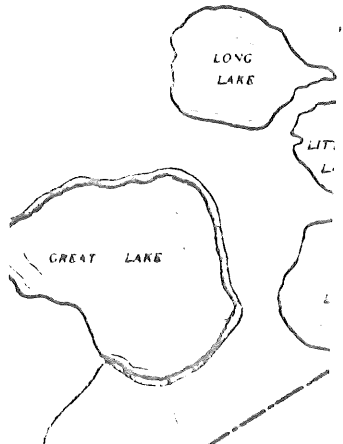
Map of Craven County, New Bern Chamber of Commerce
 Scale: 3/8" : 1 mile
 Date: none

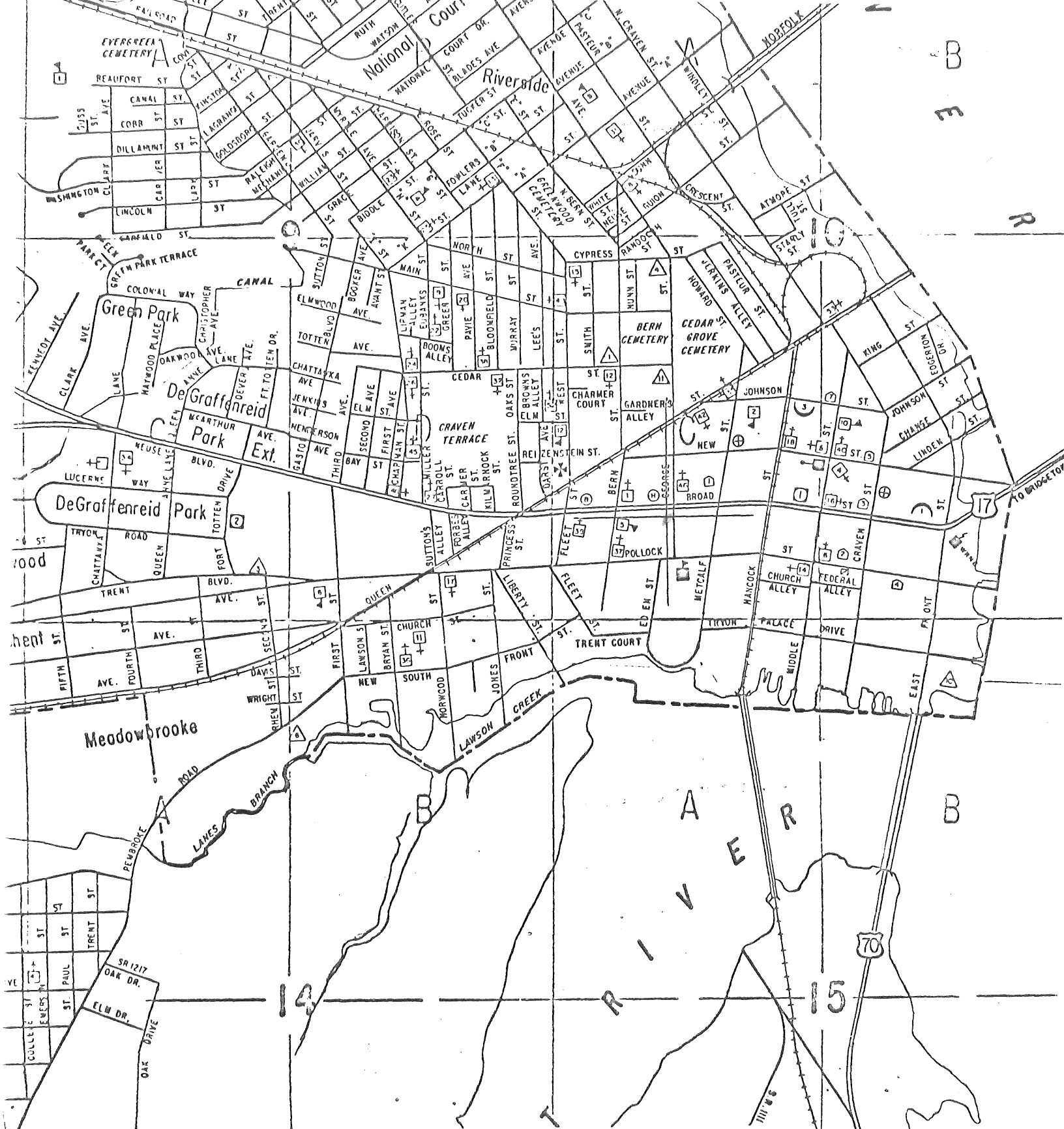
Latitude
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 35° 06' 30"

Longitude
 degrees minutes seconds
 77° 02' 58"



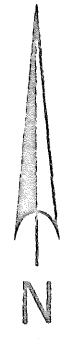
NATIONAL





Rhem-Waldrop House
 701 Broad Street
 New Bern, North Carolina

Map of New Bern and Vicinity, New Bern Chamber
 of Commerce, drawn by: Gilfredo Gonzalez
 Scale: 1"/1200 feet
 Date: none



James City

