

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

J. T. Barber School

New Bern, Craven County, CV2056, Listed 12/20/2006

Nomination by Beth Keane

Photographs by Beth Keane, September 2005



Entrance view



Classroom wing

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name J. T. Barber School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1700 Cobb Street not for publication N/A

city or town New Bern vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Craven code 049 zip code 28560

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <u>See continuation sheet.</u>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <u>See continuation sheet.</u>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

J. T. Barber School
Name of Property

Craven County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof asphalt
walls concrete
brick
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

J. T. Barber School
Name of Property

Craven County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1951-1956

Significant Dates

1951, 1955

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fuson, Raymond, architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

J. T. Barber School
Name of Property

Craven County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 10.96 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 18 311680 3887860
2 18 311860 3887980

Zone Easting Northing
3 18 311960 3887860
4 18 311840 3887720
___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date July, 2006

street & number 2546 Sloop Landing telephone 910-392-6320

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28409

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Craven County Board of Education

street & number 3600 Trent Road telephone 252-514-6300

city or town New Bern state NC zip code 28562

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

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**J. T. Barber School
Craven County, NC**

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1951-1955 J. T. Barber School sits near the front on an approximate eleven-acre tract in a residential neighborhood, about two miles northwest of New Bern's historic city center. A large athletic field with a playground, a basketball court, and a baseball diamond are located north of the school building on school grounds. A staff parking lot is located west of the school, while a staff and visitor's parking lot is located in front of the school. Three separate trailers, used for offices, are located directly behind the school. A ca. 1980 frame storage building is situated directly north of the gymnasium. Several picnic tables sit under shade trees in a grassy area in front of the school and between wings on the north side of the school. A small area located between the library and the westernmost wing is also reserved for recreational activity for the kindergarten children and includes several pieces of brightly colored, molded plastic playground equipment.

The school's modernistic design is in direct contrast to the classical style schools built in the first decades of the twentieth century. The strong horizontal lines and flat planes of the school are a vanguard of school design in the second half of the twentieth century. The school's architect, Raymond Fusion, incorporated modernistic features in his design of the J. T. Barber School including flat roofs with raised clerestory windows, smooth, unornamented wall surfaces, windows set flush with the outer wall, and an asymmetrical façade. The activities of the students, including classroom learning, socializing, reading, physical education, industrial education, and cultural activities, were separated into definitive spaces.

The school has gone by slightly different names throughout its history including J. T. Barber School, J. T. Barber Middle School, J. T. Barber High School, and J. T. Barber Elementary School. For the purposes of the National Register nomination, the school will be referred to as the J. T. Barber School.

1. J. T. Barber School 1951, 1955 Contributing Building

The flat-roofed one-story concrete block school with brick veneer was built in stages. The first stage, consisting of one wing and the administrative offices, was completed in 1951. At this time, the seventh and eighth grade classes were transferred from West Street School into the building. The first wing was comprised of a central corridor with clerestory windows, initially flanked by a combination of nine classrooms, a boiler room, and restrooms. Since that time, the wing has been reconfigured by combining two classrooms into one large room and utilizing another classroom for two bathrooms, thereby enlarging the boiler room and incorporating a closet. Four years later, construction was complete and the school officially opened as a high school for African American students. The finished school housed approximately twenty-five

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classrooms, as well as biology and chemistry laboratories, a choral room, a band room, a library, a cafeteria, a large auditorium, a gymnasium and administrative offices.

The school consists of seven separate wings consisting of a cafeteria, a library, a gymnasium flanked on either side by classrooms, an auditorium and music room, and three additional classroom wings, all connected by one long east-west corridor (see floor plan, Appendix A). The main entrance to the building and the administrative offices are positioned on the school's south side, east of the center of the building. Additional entrances are located at each end of the principal corridor and the terminus of each wing. The cafeteria, gymnasium, and auditorium wings also have separate entrances. Classrooms flank either side of the transverse corridors. The gymnasium, featuring a vaulted roof and clerestory windows, is situated on the northeast end of the building and is flanked by three classrooms on either side. The gymnasium retains the original wood floors, bleachers, and vaulted ceiling with exposed metal truss system and suspended lights. The auditorium is located on the front elevation (south side) of the school, at the east end. The auditorium also retains the original wooden seats, sloping wood floors, and raised stage. The cafeteria is located west of the administrative offices and a library/media room is situated across the hall from the cafeteria.

Banks of windows along the school's transverse wings illuminate the classrooms. The initial specifications called for glazed windows with nine lights. The original windows throughout the building were replaced in 2003 with single lights surmounted by a transom. At this time, the windows in the auditorium were bricked over. In addition, a curved wall with five windows, providing additional space for a music room, was added to the east elevation of the building adjacent to the auditorium and the east-side entrance. The school's roof was replaced in 2004.

The interior of the school is defined by its long, central east-west corridor. Each of the school's wings and major components open off this corridor. The grades are divided amongst the various wings with the kindergarten, first grade, and second grade classrooms occupying the westernmost wings that bisect the central hallway. The second and third grade classrooms are in the middle wing opening off the north side of the east-west corridor. The fourth and fifth grade classrooms are also on the north side and flank the gymnasium. The classrooms on the east side of the gymnasium were converted from shower rooms to classrooms in 1990. At the same time, the gymnasium was reduced in size when a portion of it was dedicated for a dance studio and an art room.

Concrete block walls are evident in the hallways and classrooms. The concrete floors are covered with tile, while the original height of the plaster ceilings has been modified with the installation of a suspended ceiling of acoustical tiles and fluorescent lights. Original five-panel doors with upper lights have been retained throughout the school.

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**J. T. Barber School
Craven County, NC**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J. T. Barber School meets Criterion A, significant for its association with African American education in the City of New Bern and Craven County from 1951 through 1956. The period of significance begins in 1951 when the J. T. Barber School began operating and extends to 1956 when the school graduated its first class of high school seniors. J. T. Barber School is an outgrowth of the 1905 West Street Graded School, New Bern's first free public school for the education of African American students. Although the school continued to provide educational services in New Bern after 1956, this period is not of exceptional significance.

During its years as a segregated school, the J. T. Barber School graduated many students who went on to achieve outstanding careers in business, law, education, and health. The school also excelled in the area of sports with several of the school's athletes becoming professional basketball and football players. The J. T. Barber School evolved through the years from its beginning as a segregated black middle school when it opened in 1951, to a segregated black high school upon its completion in 1955, to an integrated middle school in 1970, to an elementary "school of excellence" in 1990. The initial five years of the school's existence, however, laid the groundwork for New Bern's African American citizens' sense of pride and ownership in their association with J. T. Barber School.

Historical Background and Criterion A – Ethnic Heritage, Black, and Education

The first public school in the town of New Bern, known as the Academy, opened in 1766. This building burned in 1795 and a new Federal-style brick building replaced it in 1810. A public election held in 1874 resulted in the election of several black citizens to the board of trustees of the all-white-student Academy school. Although they were soon replaced and authority returned to an all white board, the election demonstrated an acute interest in education on the part of the town's black population (Wilson, p. 44).

In 1873, the trustees of the New Bern Academy resolved to provide a school for the town's black children. The trustees may have responded to pressure from the New Bern Educational Association, chartered on behalf of prominent blacks in 1872, and the Young Men's Intelligent and Enterprising Association. Devoted to the cause of education, the organizations secured the privilege from the state of establishing schools and academies for the black population. In addition, the state constitution, as amended by the convention of 1875, provided for the establishment of separate but equal educational facilities for white and Negro children (Watson, p. 568).

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A lack of qualified teachers, however, hindered the advancement of public education for the African American population. In 1877, the state legislature created a state-supported teacher training school, known as a normal school, for blacks to be located in Fayetteville. In 1881, New Bern was selected as the site of one of four additional normal schools for training “Negro” teachers. Instructors were recruited from Washington, D.C., and by 1883 seventy-five pupils were enrolled in the school (Watson, p.569).

In 1883, legislation authorized a segregated school system for New Bern in which tax collections from whites would be used to maintain schools for white children and collections from blacks would be used similarly for maintenance of schools for the black children. The graded school system as approved by the city electorate proved costly and discriminatory. By 1884, the taxes provided \$2,779.29 for the white schools and only \$188.82 for the black schools. The graded schools continued on that financial basis until outlawed by the state supreme court in 1886 (Watson, pp. 570-572).

By the turn of the twentieth century, the public school system in New Bern was not much more effective than it had been at its inception. The average attendance of eligible white and black children was forty-eight and eighteen percent, respectively. For the 1899-1900 school term, the average teacher’s salary was \$600 for white males, \$240 for white females and black males, and \$200 for black females. New Bern’s two public schools for white children were valued at \$30,000, while the one structure for blacks, a frame building known as West Street School, was valued at \$5,000 (Watson, p. 574).

New Bern and Craven County became more attuned to the needs of education when Governor Charles B. Aycock instigated educational reform in North Carolina at the beginning of the twentieth century. At the time twenty-six percent of the population of Craven County over the age of ten was illiterate. Less than half the children in the county attended school daily and the terms were no more than three months. Samuel M. Brinson, elected the superintendent of Craven County schools in 1902, assisted Aycock’s reform efforts. By 1904, \$10,000 in school bonds were issued by the City of New Bern to fund the erection of new school buildings. At the close of the 1904-05 school year, the money spent for schools had nearly tripled the amount expended in 1900, daily attendance had risen by eleven percent, the length of the school term had increased to four months, and every district in the county had a satisfactory schoolhouse (Watson, p. 599).

The educational facilities of New Bern consisted of Central School for the white students, a collection of buildings grouped around the old Academy Green, and the West Street Graded School for the black children. St. Joseph’s Parochial School also served the blacks as did more advanced institutions-- the New Bern Collegiate and Industrial Institute and the Eastern North

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**J. T. Barber School
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Carolina Industrial Academy. In 1905, the West Street Graded School burned and two years later, the first brick school constructed for the education of African American children in North Carolina was opened on the old West Street School grounds. By 1910, there were three public schools for whites in New Bern valued at \$100,000 and only the West Street Graded School for blacks valued at \$10,000 (Watson, p. 500).

John Thomas Barber became principal of West Street School in 1905 and remained in that position until 1944. It was Barber's philosophy that an opportunity to learn was the birthright of every American child. Barber often felt compelled to subsidize school projects, including the formation of the first band in 1915, with his personal funds. Under the leadership of Barber, the faculty grew in number as the enrollment increased and many additional courses were added to the curriculum. By 1925, the West Street School expanded to include a high school department and ten students comprised the first graduating class. As the school grew, other additions were built on the site. In a history of West Street School, Arabelle M. Bryant states: "Upon the retirement of Barber in 1944, Mr. F. R. Danyus, a successful and popular teacher, assumed the position of principal. During Mr. Danyus' administration, many changes took place. The faculty grew from twenty-one to forty-one members, which included a music teacher, a bandmaster, a librarian, and a special education teacher" (Bryant and Mosely-Bell, p. 1).

The first half of the twentieth century brought about far-reaching changes to the public school system in the county. Schools were consolidated, curricula offerings were expanded, and the school term was expanded to nine months. By the late 1940s it became apparent that the schools were too crowded and money would need to be expended on building new schools for both the white and the black student population. John Cameron, Director of the State Division of Schoolhouse Planning, suggested that the plans for the new white high school and the new "colored" high school should be developed simultaneously. The school board hired Raymond Fuson to design the new high school for the black students and Burett H. Stephens to design the high school for the white students (Craven County School Board Minutes, February 1, 1951).

Raymond Fuson (1888-1977), a Kansas native, served in World War I, later graduating from the University of Illinois School of Architecture. After initially setting up practice in Indiana, he moved to New Bern about 1930 and became very involved with the New Bern Elks Lodge (*The Sun Journal*, August 2, 1977). Fuson is responsible for the design of many of New Bern's industrial and municipal buildings including the City of New Bern Auditorium, the New Bern Fireman's Museum, the remodeling of City Hall, the New Bern Recreation Building, the New Bern Building Supply building, and the remodeling of the Dr. Pepper Building and the New Bernian Hotel. In addition to his design for the J. T. Barber School, Fuson designed the Duffyfield Elementary School, the Oaks Road School, additions and alterations to the Ghent

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School and West Street School, a new facade for the Academy Building, and the Riverside School cafeteria (original drawings in the office of Peterson, Eure & Associates, PA, New Bern). Fuson was also the architect for many of New Bern's Neo-Colonial Revival-style residences of the late 1940s and 1950s (Sandbeck, p. 169).

The August 31, 1949 edition of *The Sun Journal* reported that "the county school system will institute a building program for the Negro schools that will provide a first-class high school and elementary school for every Negro child in the county. A sum of \$492,000 from the state school bond issued in Craven County would help finance the new schools." The site selected for the new high school was in the Jackson Terrace neighborhood, a mid-twentieth-century residential development for African Americans, located several miles northwest of downtown New Bern, just south of Jack Smith Creek and the Atlantic and East Carolina Railroad tracks. On November 14, 1950, the Craven County School Board voted to accept the following bids for the new "colored school" General Contractor: M. L. Skinner (\$62,298); Plumbing: Sales & Service, Inc. (\$7,184); Heating: Hinnant Plumbing and Heating Company (\$8,000); and Electrical: C. J. DeMers (\$4,200). The sum of \$70,037.43 was to be obtained from the School Plant Construction, Improvement, and Repair Fund for the State of North Carolina (Craven County School Board Minutes).

The J. T. Barber School was constructed in three phases between 1951 and 1955. Named after the long-time principal of the West Street School, the J. T. Barber School opened in 1951 with the seventh and eighth grades attending class in the first-completed wing of the building. The wing included nine classrooms, restrooms, and a boiler room with a coal furnace. On January 15, 1952, the County School Board approved the plans for the second phase of the J. T. Barber School with several adjustments to the original plans. Modifications included an enlarged class room wing on the southwest end of the building, a larger library, and additional entrances to the cafeteria. According to the minutes, Fuson stated "the present plan of construction had been worked out by the State Division of Schoolhouse Planning and did not represent his original idea for the school."

On March 11, 1952, the school board minutes noted that the County School Board voted to accept the bid of Strause Company of Richmond, Virginia, for the cafeteria contract in the amount of \$15,250.00. On May 12, 1952, School Board voted to direct Fuson to proceed with plans for the remaining portion of the J. T. Barber High School. The following bids were approved on June 15, 1954 for completion of the school--P. S. West Construction Company (\$316,242.40); heating: Ideal Plumbing and Heating Company (\$25,864.00); plumbing: J. T. Pearson Company (\$15,775.00); and electrical: Robbins Electric Company (\$23,789.00).

In 1955, the high school classes transferred from West Street School to the completed

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J. T. Barber High School and Wallace M. Booker, a former teacher from West Street School, was named principal. The completed school housed approximately twenty-five classrooms, as well as biology and chemistry laboratories, a choral room, a band room, a library, a cafeteria, a large auditorium, a gymnasium, and administrative offices. The school offered programs in commercial education, vocational bricklaying, industrial arts, and home economics. The curriculum included classes in English, French, mathematics, social studies, history, typing, and physical education in addition to chemistry and biology. Students were also involved in extracurricular activities such as chorus, band, student council, cheerleading, drama, and choettes, and a variety of sports.

Several problems remained with the completion of the school however. According to the Craven County School Board minutes of November 8, 1955, the heating plant was not working at the school and equipment had not yet been installed in the science laboratories and the industrial shop room. It was also mentioned that “no work had been done about replacing the gymnasium floor since the recent hurricane (Hazel).” By June 10, 1956, it was reported that the installation of the laboratory equipment and restroom facilities had been completed, however, “there was still a lack of a sewer connection to put these facilities to use.” Apparently these problems were rectified by the following school year.

Wallace M. Booker remained principal at J. T. Barber High School until 1963, when he became principal at the new West Street School (later named F. R. Danyus School). Grover C. Fields, principal of Duffyfield School, became the principal of the J. T. Barber High School and served in that position until after the schools were integrated in 1970 (Bryant and Mosely-Bell, p. 2).

J. T. Barber High School’s first graduating class in 1956 consisted of fifty-two graduates, while the last graduating class in 1970 totaled 128 graduates. During those fourteen years, many of the students overcame the deficiencies of a black school in a segregated school system. They received a quality education and became successful citizens after graduation. This achievement occurred despite unequal educational funding and second-hand text books from the white school system. J. T. Barber High School gained prestige in North Carolina for its excellent scholars. The students were also acclaimed for their outstanding performances in music, chorus, band, and drama clubs. J. T. Barber High School has graduated many professionals in education, social work, engineering, the law, medicine, politics and the arts through its years as a black segregated high school in New Bern (Bryant and Mosely-Bell, pp. 4-5).

In athletics, the “Warriors Football and Basketball Teams” were exceptional throughout the city and state. In 1956, the school’s football team won the State Triple AAA Football Championship against High Point, NC, at Kafer Park in New Bern, the first championship for a

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City of New Bern school, black or white, during the segregated period. The 1956 State Football Championship team record has not been duplicated in fifty years by the segregated white school athletes or the integrated New Bern Bears team. In 1957, the basketball team was one game away from winning the state championship game. The captain of those teams was Edward Bell, a 1957 graduate of J. T. Barber School. In 1966, J. T. Barber High School football team shared a co-state football championship with Dudley High School in Greensboro (Bryant and Mosely-Bell p. 3).

The high school athletic teams in football and basketball produced outstanding athletes. Several of the school's athletes went on to become professional basketball and football players. Walt Bellamy, a 1957 graduate of J. T. Barber High School went onto to play for a number of professional basketball teams including the Chicago Packers, Chicago Zephyrs, the Baltimore Bullets, the New York Knickerbockers, the Detroit Pistons, and the Atlanta Hawks. He was nominated to the National Basketball Association Hall of Fame in 1993. Aaron "Pete" Martin, a 1960 graduate, was a member of the National Football League and played for the Los Angeles Rams and Philadelphia Eagles. John ("Johnnie") Pearsall, a 1958 graduate, was a New York City professional heavyweight boxer (Bryant and Mosely-Bell, p. 3).

Although the Supreme Court ruled segregated school systems were unconstitutional in 1954, it was not until 1964 that the New Bern City School Board adopted a freedom-of-choice plan, allowing students from grades seven through twelve the privilege of selecting the school they wished to attend. The first year, only four black students chose to attend the previously all-white New Bern High School. Two years later, the federal government ruled that the schools become integrated, and a bus system was organized to transport the black children to schools outside of their neighborhood. In addition, the teachers were to be reassigned with some of the white teachers being sent to J. T. Barber High School and some of the black teachers assigned to New Bern High School (Wilson, p. 145).

Full integration of the schools was achieved by 1970 at which time J. T. Barber High School became an integrated middle school and remained so for approximately twenty years. J. T. Barber's current status as an "ABC Elementary School of Excellence" provides New Bern's students with an opportunity for a superb education. The legacy of West Street and J. T. Barber schools has long been supported within the community with the forming of an alumni association in 1983, which remains active today.

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Bibliography

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Craven County School Board Minutes, 1951 through 1955. Craven County School Board, 3600 Trent Road, New Bern, NC.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the approximate eleven-acre nominated tract are delineated by the heavy line on the accompanying 1 inch = 122 feet scale Craven County Tax Map and includes all of parcel 8-020-005.

Boundary Justification

The nominated tract includes the parcel of land acquired by the Craven County Board of Education on which to construct the 1951/1955 J. T. Barber School. The nominated acreage has historically been associated with the J. T. Barber School.