



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

August 10, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Vanessa Patrick  
Human Environment Unit  
NC Department of Transportation

**FROM:** Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*  
Environmental Review Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Historic Structures Survey Report, Upgrade US 421 between SR1140 and  
US 117, U-5792, PA 16-06-0023, New Hanover County, ER 16-0675

Thank you for your July 20, 2018, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the Sunset Park School (NH3656) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for Education for its association with the early-twentieth-century history of education in Wilmington and New Hanover County and Criterion C for Architecture. The 1920 restrained Neo-classical Revival style brick school, with its ca. 1925 rear addition, was constructed to serve students in the Sunset Park neighborhood, replacing a smaller school that opened just 5 years earlier, in an effort by the New Hanover County Board of Education to improve educational facilities. Sunset Park School remains the most intact representative in Wilmington of a modest, early-twentieth century, neighborhood school. The proposed National Register boundary provides an adequate setting to convey the property's significance.

We believe that the Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House (NH3655) is likely eligible for listing under Criterion C for its local architectural significance as it is a good representative example of the Mission Revival style. As a Mission Revival style residence, it is one of very few local examples of the nationally popular style. However, it is still not clear when the building took on its current form. While it was originally constructed ca. 1921-22, it is evident from archival research that the second story and south entry addition were constructed later, but before 1951. What is the date the house took its current form? This would be the Period of Significance, not the earlier date. The front elevation features a 2-story balcony and it appears the first story was enclosed with concrete block and picture windows later. Was this originally the main entrance? If so, when did the entrance on the south 1-story wing become the main entrance? Regardless, the building appears to have the requisite integrity for National Register listing under Criterion C. Since the front elevation of the house is very close to the road, the east boundary should extend to where the curb meets the road.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, [mfurr@ncdot.gov](mailto:mfurr@ncdot.gov)

Received: 07/23/2018  
State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

ER 16-0675

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 8/14/18

Date: July 20, 2018

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report for U-5729, Upgrade US 421 (Carolina Beach Road) between SR 1140 (Burnett Boulevard) and US 117 (Shipyard Boulevard), New Hanover County, North Carolina. WBS No. 54020.1.1. PA Tracking No. 16-06-0023.*

H-

*ER 16-0675  
8/7/18  
V.E.P.*

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting the evaluation of historic architectural resources in the U-5729, New Hanover County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and site forms are provided on the CD-ROM, and hard copies of the site forms are also supplied.

The report considers two resources – the Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House (NH3655) and the Sunset Park School (NH3656). The study recommends both as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Initial screening of the U-5729 project area by NCDOT Historic Architecture identified which resources warranted additional study.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [vepatrick@ncdot.gov](mailto:vepatrick@ncdot.gov) or 919-707-6082. Thank you.

V.E.P.

Attachments

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RALEIGH, NC 27610

**F I N A L**  
**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT**

**Upgrade US 421 (Carolina Beach Road)  
between SR 1140 (Burnett Boulevard) and US 117 (Shipyard Boulevard),  
New Hanover County, North Carolina**

**TIP #: U-5729  
WBS #: 54020.1.1  
PA # 16-06-0023**

**Prepared For:**

**Environmental Analysis Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation**

**Prepared By:**

**AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina, Inc.  
701 Corporate Center Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607**

**Marvin A. Brown, Principal Investigator  
Sarah Potere**

**July 2018**

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**Marvin A. Brown, Principal Investigator**

**Sarah Potere**

**July 2018**



**July 17, 2018**

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**Marvin A. Brown, Principal Investigator  
AECOM Corporation - North Carolina**

**Date**

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**Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor  
Environmental Analysis Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation**

**Date**

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Project between the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) of 2015. An NCDOT architectural historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted preliminary research to identify and assess all resources of approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Only two resources warranted an intensive evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and they are the subjects of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other resources and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina, Inc. (AECOM) prepared this report in May and June 2018 in support of NCDOT's proposed upgrade of US 421 (Carolina Beach Road) between SR 1140 (Burnett Boulevard) and US 117 (Shipyard Boulevard) in Wilmington, New Hanover County (TIP No. U-5729; WBS No. 54020.1.1; PA No. 16-06-0023). NCDOT requested that AECOM assess the NRHP eligibility of two specified resources and provide a written report that presents: photographs of the component buildings, structures, and landscapes; architectural and historical contexts; evaluations of NRHP eligibility including comparisons to similar properties in the region; and, if appropriate, carefully delineated and justified NRHP boundaries.

As result of its analyses, AECOM recommends that the resource identified by NCDOT as Apartment House at 1964 Carolina Beach Road—renamed here, following historical research, as the Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House (NH3655)—is eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C. AECOM further recommends that the Lucile Shuffler School at 2011 Carolina Beach Road—built as the Sunset Park School (NH3656) and now known as the Lucile Shuffler Building—is eligible for NRHP listing under Criteria A and C. The following table identifies the resources and summarizes the recommendations regarding their eligibility.

<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>NC HPO Survey Site #</b>	<b>NRHP Eligibility Recommendation and Criteria</b>
Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House	NH3655	Recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C
Sunset Park School	NH3656	Recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criteria A and C

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## I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Project between the NCDOT, the NCHPO, the FHWA, and the USFS of 2015. An NCDOT architectural historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted preliminary research to identify and assess all resources of approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Only two resources warranted an intensive evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and they are the subjects of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other resources and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

AECOM prepared this report in May and June 2018 in support of NCDOT's proposed upgrade of US 421 (Carolina Beach Road) between SR 1140 (Burnett Boulevard) and US 117 (Shipyard Boulevard) in Wilmington, New Hanover County (TIP No. U-5729; WBS No. 54020.1.1; PA No. 16-06-0023). NCDOT requested that AECOM assess the NRHP eligibility of the two specified resources and provide a written report that presents: photographs of the component buildings, structures, and landscapes; architectural and historical contexts; evaluations of NRHP eligibility including comparisons to similar properties in the region; and, if appropriate, carefully delineated and justified NRHP boundaries.

In May 2018 AECOM evaluated the resources as required, in compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (HPO) *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*. As a result of its evaluation, AECOM recommends that the Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House (NH3655) is eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C for its architecture. AECOM additionally recommends that the Lucile Shuffler School or Building at 2011 Carolina Beach Road, which was opened as the Sunset Park School (NH3656), is eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A for its history within the area of education and Criterion C for its architecture.

AECOM senior architectural historian Marvin A. Brown and AECOM architectural historian Sarah Potere, both of whom meet the Secretary of Interior's qualifications for architectural history (CFR 36 CFR Part 61), conducted fieldwork, researched and analyzed the resources, and drafted this report. As part of this effort, they visited, documented, and photographed the resources and conducted supplementary research. This effort included reviewing New Hanover County deeds, GIS data, plat maps, and property and tax records; conducting research at the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington; studying the New Hanover County files of the North Carolina HPO; reviewing architectural histories and reports; driving through historic neighborhoods in Wilmington to record comparable resources; and conducting online historical and genealogical research.

The project is located within the city of Wilmington in New Hanover County. Its location within the state and city, and the locations of the two inventoried resources, are depicted at Figure 1a and Figure 1b.



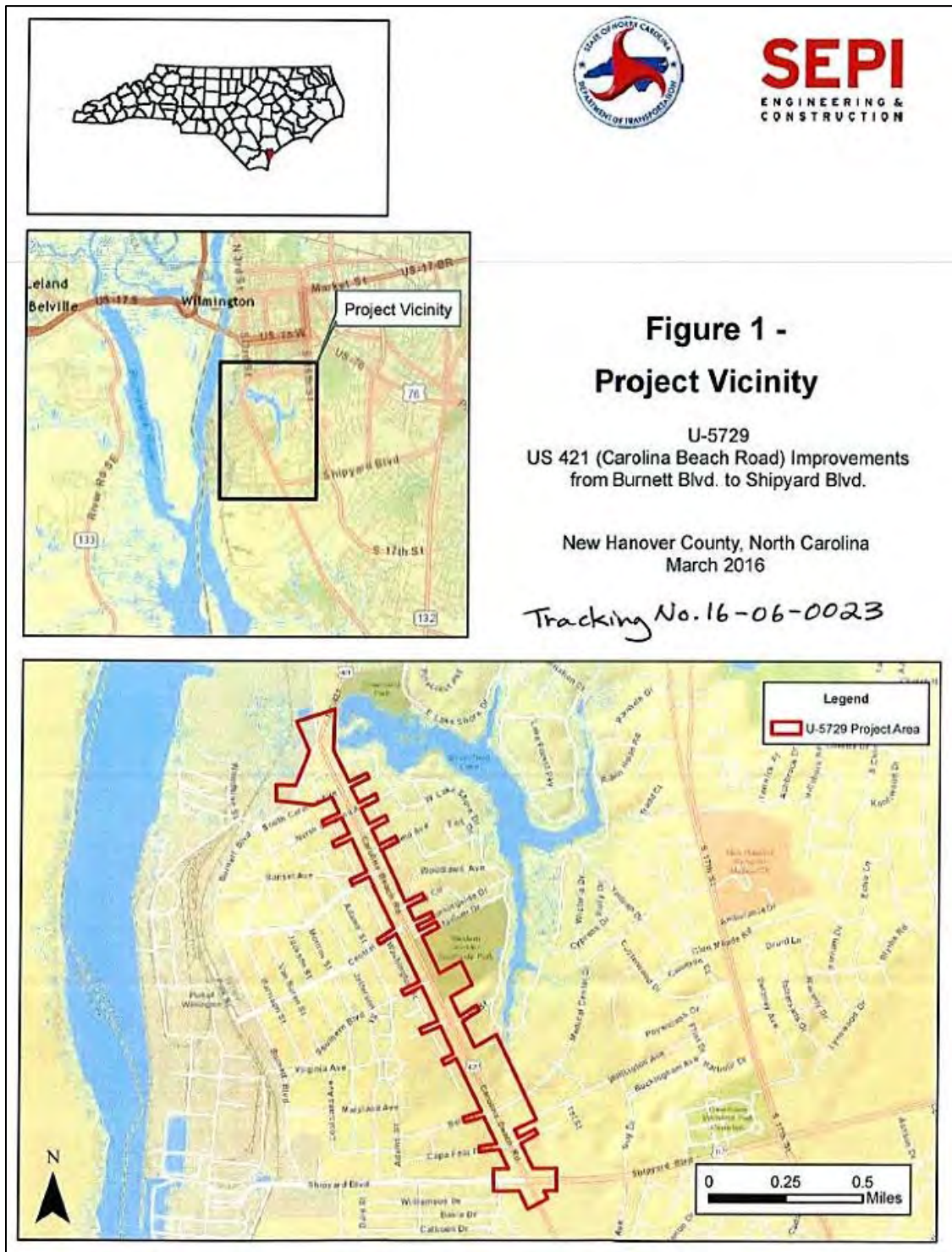


Figure 1a: Project locator and area maps (sources: Sepi Engineering and NCDOT)




Figure 2b: Resource locator map (sources: Sepi Engineering and NCDOT)



### III. INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

#### Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House

	Resource Name	Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House
	HPO Survey Site #	NH3655
	Location	1964 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington
	PIN/Parcel ID #	R06009-005-014-000
	Date of Construction	Ca.1921-1922
	Recommendation	Recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C

#### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

##### Site

The Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House (NH3655) stands on an approximately 0.29-acre parcel on the west side of Carolina Beach Road (US 421), in an area of Wilmington characterized by houses built between ca.1915 and ca.1965 and later commercial development. Immediately to its south is the Sunset Park Historic District, an NRHP-listed subdivision platted in 1912 (Figure 2). About a half-mile to its east stretches the Port of Wilmington along the Cape Fear River. Traveling the same distance to the west takes one to Greenfield Lake. Two miles north, along Carolina Beach Road/Front Street, is Market Street at the heart of downtown Wilmington. Sunset Park and the Horowitz House were built in Masonboro Township, which was later drawn into the limits of the city.



Figure 3. Horowitz House site, at center, and surroundings

### Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House

The Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House, as depicted on a 1995 survey drawing (and as it currently stands) is a rectangular, two-story, stuccoed dwelling built in the rare—for Wilmington and New Hanover County—Mission Revival style (Figure 3). A rectangular block with a partially enclosed balcony at its second story projects from the center of its east-facing front elevation. A one-story section at its south (its height not identified in the drawing) is extended at its rear by a multi-windowed rounded bay. The house's roofs are flat and edged by stepped parapets or crenellations. Some decorative flourishes—arched openings, an ornamental metal balustrade, applied diamond-shaped motifs, rough stucco, the projecting front block and side bay—accent its otherwise largely straightforward appearance.



Figure 4. Detail of survey of lot drawn for Charlotte K. Buckley, October 3, 1995 (source: Realtor.com)

Sanborn maps indicate the residence was initially smaller. Sheet 66, added in 1921 to the 1915 edition of the Wilmington atlas, depicts a one-story dwelling (Figure 4, at left). It identifies it as constructed of tile, an appropriate material for an overcoat of stucco. In 1946 Sanborn heavily amended the sheet with paste-over updates and added further updates in 1951 (Figure 4, at right). The house had changed in a few important ways over 30 years. Most notably, it gained a second story. The sheet's curious palette and color coding—there is no evidence that it is a brick-veneered building—suggest that this upper story may be of frame construction and that some fireproof construction was added at the front. The map clearly identifies the central front balcony as frame, along with another later-added feature, a narrow one-story wing appended to the south elevation. Not depicted is the one-story bay at the southeastern corner, which was present but not accounted for. In the face of the house's unified finish, without these contrasting images, one would assume it was built in its entirety at one time. (Alternatively, the mapmaker may have erred in assigning the house a one-story height).

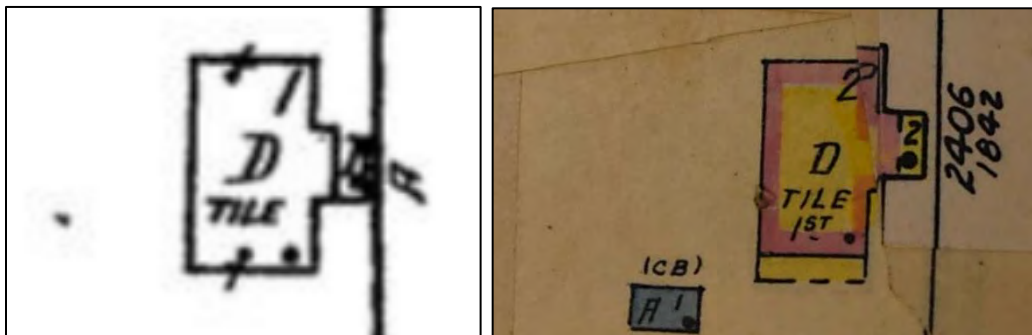


Figure 5. 1921 Sanborn image, at left (source: UNC-CH North Carolina Maps website), and updated image at right, imprecisely pasted over in 1946 and 1951 (source: New Hanover County Public Library main branch)



Brick and concrete block are visible at the first-story of the projecting block. Brick also forms the other first-story window sills. An exposed steel beam supports the front of the second-story balcony. Otherwise, the wall surfaces throughout are coated with rustically applied stucco and no internal tile construction is exposed (Figure 5). Three units of bays cross the façade. The windows on this elevation and throughout are largely six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash set in plain rectilinear surrounds. The projecting front block (as well as the side bay) is the notable exception. Three single-pane windows cross the front of its first-story elevation and its side windows are set in arched surrounds. Arches also mark the front and side openings of the balcony above. Metal sunshades screen the front elevation windows and many of the side and rear bays as well. They are in varying states of deterioration and some on the other elevations have entirely fallen or been removed. Downspouts at the front and other elevations are modern additions (Figure 6).



Figure 6: At left, east front elevation; at right, detail of elevation, depicting added one-story section to left and balcony to right



Figure 7: East front and north side elevations; note side entry at far right of both images

The north side elevation is largely marked by single and paired double-hung windows. It includes an entry towards its front and a hatch into the basement toward its rear. The rear elevation also has mixed sash units. An exterior stuccoed flue stack rises near the building's center. Downspouts climb its corners (Figure 6 and Figure 7).





Figure 8: North side and west rear elevations, at left, and west rear and south side elevations, at right

The one-story addition and bay dominate the south side elevation. Narrow windows that swing open march around the bay, which retains much of its metal sunscreen. A porch with arched openings extends forward of the bay. It shades a replacement double-door and two south-facing openings that have been sealed with plywood. The top of the addition, including the bay, is an open deck edged by crenellations. A central doorway lacking a door leads out onto the deck (Figure 7, at right, and Figure 8).



Figure 9. At left, south side and east front elevations; at right, detail of south side elevation with modern doors and boarded-over bays

The house has limited decorative finish beyond its rough stucco, parapets or crenellations, and occasional arches. Most notably a decorative metal balustrade spans the front of the balcony and curving Craftsman knee-braces, assisted by tubular metal posts, support the roof and shade the north side entry. Additionally, small painted diamond motifs, of wood and/or tile, are applied in pairs along the edges of the front elevation (Figure 9 and Figure 10).



Figure 10: East front elevation balcony supported by steel beam and protected by decorative metal balustrade, at left, and bracketed hood over north side entry, at right



Figure 11. Applied paired diamonds, painted blue, at front elevation

It is not clear if the house is more than intermittently occupied. Visits found no one at home and the second-story bays are missing some sash, multiple lights, and the deck door. The two rooms to the left and right of the projecting front bay, though, could be viewed. The left-hand room retains plaster walls and ceiling, along with an archway. The right-hand room is a kitchen with floor-to-ceiling white-tiled walls (Figure 12). A real estate notice dates the tile to 1965, but it may be later (source: Realtor.com).



Figure 12: First-story—southeast front room, at left, and northeast front kitchen, at right



The listing, dated December 20, 2014, describes the house in positive terms that nonetheless highlight its deteriorated condition:

Historic two-story with 2 curb cuts on Carolina Beach Rd. Zoned CB. Coffee house, wine shop (has a great full basement for a wine cellar), private dining, bed and breakfast? Your imagination is the limiting factor here. Ready for restoration with all issues exposed for inspection and repair. Ceramic walled kitchen, structurally reinforced from basement up, and ready for plaster and painting. Roof repair needed first.

It includes photographs that show some arched openings inside and a few rooms with arched niches set in the walls. The photographs also display plaster removed from ceilings and, in places, the walls as well (Figure 12 and Figure 13). Coupled with accelerated loss of window panes upstairs since 2014, the listing indicates the house is in deteriorated condition, inside and out.

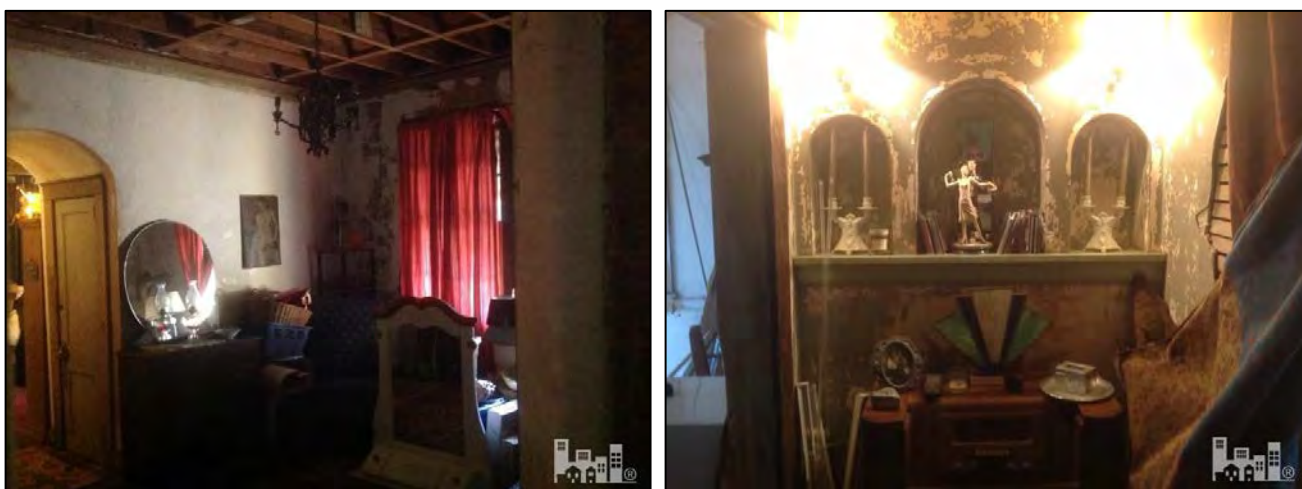


Figure 13: At left, first-story southeast front room with archway opening into stair hall and exposed ceiling lath; at right, unidentified room with three niches and fallen plaster, 2014 (source: Realtor.com)

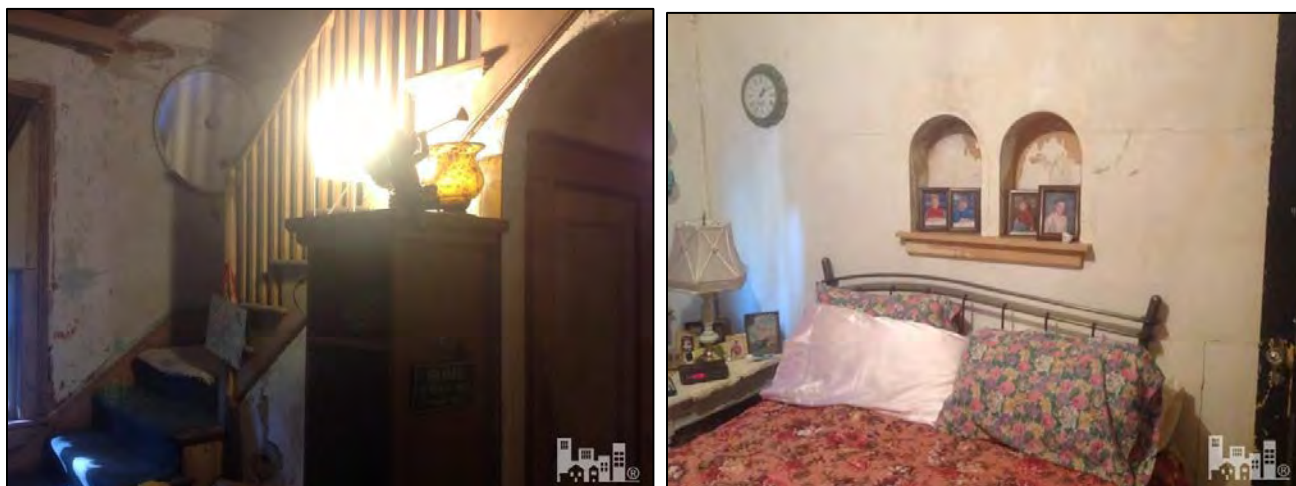


Figure 14: At left, stair with stick balusters at first story; at right, unidentified room with twin niches, 2014 (source: Realtor.com)

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Jacob and Sarah Horowitz erected their house in ca.1921 on land that was part of the 1,500-acre, antebellum, Summer Hill plantation (*Wilmington Daily Herald*, January 4, 1856). In 1916 Louis L. and Florence B. Hanby filed a plat map that subdivided approximately 250 acres of the former rice plantation under the names “Hanby Property” and “Summer Hill Tract” (New Hanover County Plat Book 2/Page 11). The Cape Fear River bordered the planned subdivision on the west. Greenfield Creek and the Greenfield mill pond effectively defined the borders to the north and east. The southern border extended east from the river along the property line of the 1912 Sunset Park subdivision and continued across Carolina Beach Road (then Boulevard) to the pond (Figure 14).

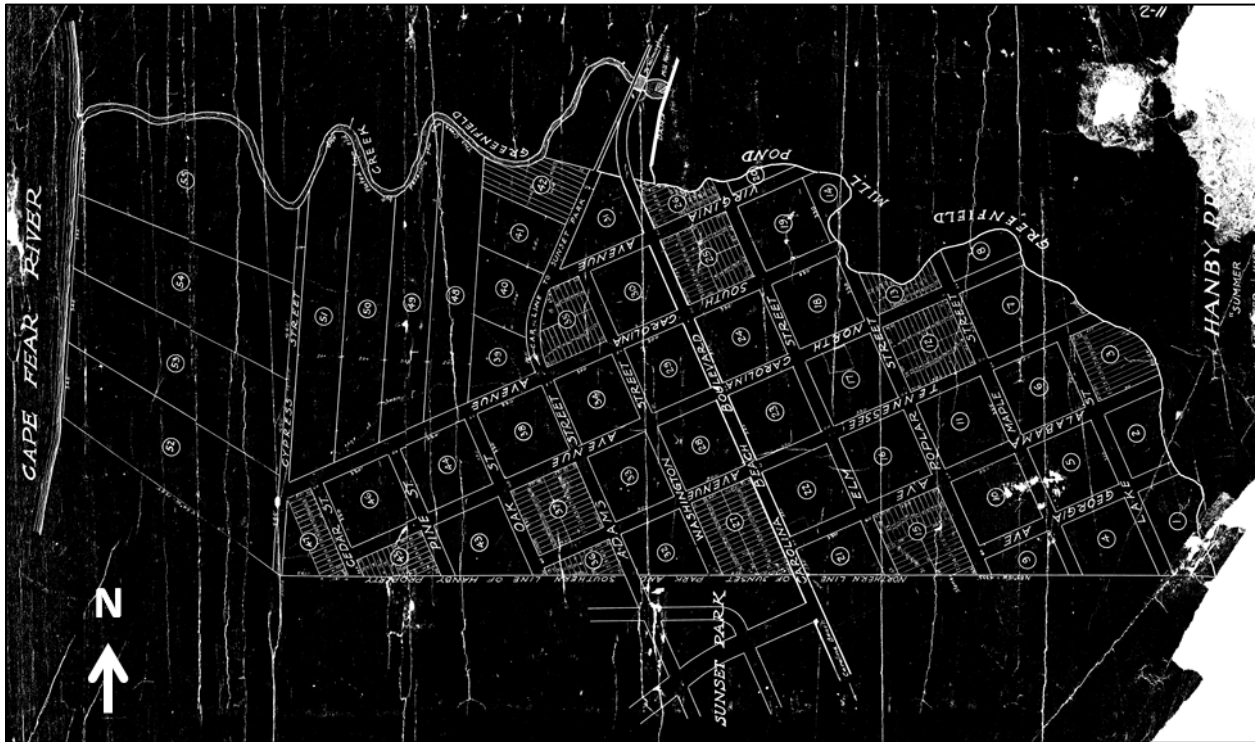


Figure 15: Plat map of Hanby Property or Summer Hill Tract, 1916 (Plat Book 2/Page 11)

While Sunset Park blossomed into a distinct neighborhood, the Hanby or Summer Hill subdivision failed to develop quickly or coherently. The Hanbys advertised lots for sale in local newspapers in late 1916 and early 1917 (see, for example, *Wilmington Morning Star*, December 22, 1916, and *Wilmington Dispatch*, May 27, 1917) and according to the deed record they made some sales. On March 13, 1920 they put 30 lots up for auction and sporadically continued to sell lots thereafter (Figure 15). No proper neighborhood arose, though. Some reference to the term “Summer Hill” continues in the area to the present, but the Hanby name survives only in deeds and their plat map. (The 1920 auction notice claimed that the Aladdin Company would provide ten kit houses at reduced prices in Summer Hill. A review of annual company sales catalogs from 1918 through 1925 revealed no designs that even roughly approximated the appearance of the Horowitz House.





Figure 16: Hanby Property at Summer Hill auction (Wilmington Morning Star, March 12, 1920)

In 1919 and 1920, the Hanbys conveyed multiple Summer Hill lots to L. Clayton Grant and J.O. Hinton, to pay off debts (Deed Book 103/Page 529 (1919); Deed Book 117/Page 261 (1920)). In 1921 L. Clayton and Margaret E. Grant sold a tiny part of these holdings—lots one, two, three, and four of Block 27, comprising less than 0.3 acres—to Sarah and Jacob Horowitz (Deed Book 123/Page 327; see also Deed Book 123/Page 326) (Figure 16). The Grants did not occupy the property, but rather lived downtown at 9<sup>th</sup> and Market streets (Hill 1919; Hill 1922). (L. Clayton Grant was a prominent Wilmington attorney and North Carolina legislator (Lumberton *Robesonian*, March 4, 1938)). Further, tax records assign the house a 1921 construction date, which postdates the Grants sale of the land.



Figure 17: Detail of 1916 plat map with Horowitz House lots outlined in red (base map: Plat Book 2/Page 11)

Jacob Horowitz, who was born in Russia in 1888, came to Wilmington with his parents, Joseph and Kula Horowitz, in 1909 and entered into a licensed scrap metal or junk business with his father (Wilmington *Morning Star*, March 5, 1917 and June 1, 1910). The Horowitzes and their only child first appear in the 1911-1912 city directory, living together at 104 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Joseph and Jacob operated the junk business together under the name “Joseph Horowitz & Son” (Hill 1911).

References to Jacob, Joseph, and their business occur regularly from 1910 through 1918 in various Wilmington and New Hanover County land records, city directories, and newspapers (Figure 17, at

left). Joseph was active in the Jewish community, serving on the building committee for the new Orthodox B'nai [or Bnei] Israel synagogue and the board of the Young Men's Hebrew Association (Wilmington *Evening Dispatch*, March 24, 1914; Wilmington *Morning Star*, February 1, 1918). The Wilmington *Morning Star* of March 5, 1917 quoted him extensively on how to solve "all the evils that have been complained of" associated with the junk industry. Jacob made occasional purchases of land. Financially and within their community, the two men were successful.

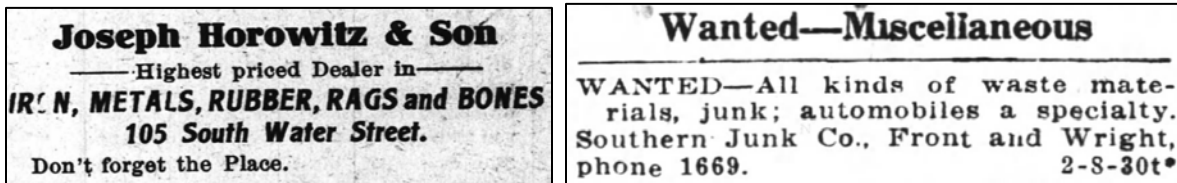


Figure 18: Advertisements for Joseph Horowitz & Son (Wilmington *Union Labor Record*, December 18, 1915) and Southern Junk Company (Wilmington *Morning Star*, February 15, 1921)

The family took a hiatus from New Hanover records and the county sometime between mid-1919 and mid-1920. Joseph was last mentioned in city newspapers in late 1918 in the funeral notice for his wife, Kula or Katie (Wilmington *Morning Star*, December 6, 1918), and is absent from the 1919-1920 city directory (Hill 1919). (Where he moved to was not determined, but according to his death certificate and cemetery records, he died in Wilmington and was buried next to Kula at the B'nai Israel Hebrew Cemetery in 1943.) A sale and a purchase of land by Jacob appeared in the June 17, 1919 issue of the *Morning Star* and he is included in the Hill 1919-1920 city directory (copyrighted in 1919) at the same house at 308 Anderson Street that he had shared with his parents. In January 1920, however, the federal census recorded Jacob living in New Haven, Connecticut.

The 1920 census is an important record in relation to the Carolina Beach Road house. It helps pinpoint the date of the house's construction and provides the first view of the Jacob Horowitz family. In 1920 Jacob was 31 and his household consisted of his wife, Sarah, age 26, and their three young children, Celia or Lucille (6), Esther (5), and David (3). Jacob was still in the junk trade: he identified himself as an iron dealer employed in a private family business. The family apparently intended to stay in New Haven, for they had taken out a mortgage to buy a house, which was the first one they owned. (Relatives in the New Haven area likely explained the move (see Wilmington *News-Dispatch* (?), October 29, 1943, and Wilmington *Star* (?), January 25, 1948).)

The census also noted that Jacob had arrived in the US from Russia in 1901 and that Sarah (whose maiden name was Shore), emigrated from Russia as well, in 1908. The only earlier records of Jacob and Sarah are their marriage certificate and a notice of their wedding. Both Wilmington residents, they were wed in the city in 1912 (Wilmington *Morning Star*, May 26, 1912).

The New Haven venture was short-lived. By late 1920, Jacob, Sarah, and their four children (the youngest, Coleman (or Colman), was born in Connecticut) had returned to Wilmington. Before the year's end, Jacob started a new junk business—Southern Junk Company—with partner Richard Retchin. They began to run ads regularly in the Wilmington newspapers starting no later than October 20, 1920 (Wilmington *Morning Star*) (Figure 17, at right).

In the latter half of 1921 or in 1922, Jacob and Sarah erected their new house on Carolina Beach Road. They acquired the parcel in June 1921 (Deed Book 123/Page 326 and 327) and Hill's 1922 city directory had them living in "Sunset Park," south of city limits. The same directory places Southern Junk one mile to the north, at 12 (actually 13) Wright Street, on the northwest corner of Wright and

Front streets near the Cape Fear. The partners had acquired that property in October 1920 (Deed Book 118/Page 289).

Jacob Horowitz lived in the Carolina Beach Road house with his family until 1955, when he died at age 66. The house was busy during most of these years. When Jacob and Sarah moved in, they brought along four children under the age of eight. By 1930, according to the federal census, they had added nine-year-old Dora (or Doris) and two-year-old Nathan to the family. In 1940 the residents of the house were Jacob and Sarah; their oldest, Lucille Bass (widowed or divorced), and one-year-old grandson, Bainett (?) Bass; as well as Colman, Doris, and Nathan. The family's size over the years, coupled with the financial success of the junk business, would explain an expansion of the house.

In 1952 Horowitz and Retchin sold their Southern Junk Company property on Wright Street to the Atlantic Piling Corporation (Deed Book 490/Page 427). In December 1954, a month before Jacob's death, Richard's wife, Ida, and Sarah Horowitz signed a quit claim deed to the property's new owners—the Alper brothers, doing business as the Southern Iron and Metal Company—which cleared the title (Deed Book 563/Page 58). The Alper family continues to operate the enterprise, now known as Southern Metals Recycling, out of the same functional, brick, parapet-walled building that Horowitz and Retchin built in 1920 or 1921 (<http://www.southernmetals.com/about-us/>) (Figure 18).



Figure 19: Former home of the Southern Junk Company, Wilmington

Sarah Horowitz continued to live in the Carolina Beach Road house after her husband's death. She occupied it with 43-year-old son Nathan Horowitz, a psychologist, until 1961. On May 15 of that year, Nathan was stabbed to death at a kitchen table while making a house call on a “studious”—and psychopathic—student who had “an aversion to going to school” (see Nathan Horowitz death certificate and Asheville *Citizen-Times*, June 16, 1961).

Sarah remained in the house until as late as 1969, when she sold it Ken Renè D'Aubour (Deed Book 854/Page 70). Following her 1974 death, she was buried in the B'nai Israel cemetery next to her husband. Others buried in the cemetery associated with the house and the junk business that built it include Jacob's parents; children Colman and Nathan; and the Retchins.

The Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House had multiple owners after 1969. In 1991 the D'Aubour heirs acquired title (Deed Book 9911/Page 1891), which they passed on to Bobbie G. Benson Enterprises two years later (Deed Book 1693/Page 124). In 1996 Charlotte K. Buckley purchased the house (Deed Book 2005/Page 144). She sold it to James J. and Lisa M. Wilkins in 2005 (Deed Book 4903/Page 1233). They in turn sold it back to her the following year (Deed Book 5049/Page 2665).

Charlotte Buckley remains the property's owner. According to a real estate listing website, the house was offered for sale, as a single-family residence, in 2014 ([www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-](http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-)



[detail/1964-Carolina-Beach-Rd\\_Wilmington\\_NC\\_28401\\_M55606-79897](#)). Tax records describe it as currently divided into two apartments, one on the first floor, the other above. Views through the downstairs windows, coupled with the presence of boarded-over downstairs bays and broken sash above, suggest that perhaps only part of the downstairs is occupied. A passing mailman confirmed that the house receives mail, but he has never encountered anyone at home.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

### Architectural Significance (Criterion C)

As the below survey and analysis indicates, the Mission Revival style influenced only a small number of buildings in New Hanover County, most of which are non-residential. Only a few dwellings, including the Horowitz House, notably represent the style. It is therefore recommended that the Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House is eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C as embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Mission Revival style. It is recommended as of local significance, with a ca.1921-1922 period of significance, its date of construction.

There is little Mission Revival or even Spanish Colonial Revival-style architecture in Wilmington and New Hanover County, as indeed there is little throughout North Carolina (Bishir 1990). Only seven individually listed NRHP properties in the state are identified as using, in part, the Mission or Spanish Mission or Mission Revival style: Beam's Shell Service Station in Cherryville (ca.1930) (GS0032), Baker Sanatorium in Lumberton (1920) (RB0480), L. Richardson Memorial Hospital in Greensboro (1927) (GF1137), the Salisbury Southern Railway Depot (1907) (RW0010), and High Point's Hardee Apartments (1924) (GF1001), A.E. Taplin Apartment Building (1920) (GF3001), and J.C. Siceloff House (1920) (GF1002).

A review of secondary sources identified few examples of the Mission or even the Spanish Colonial Revival styles in Wilmington or New Hanover. These sources included Tony Wrenn's 1984 architectural history of Wilmington; Hood, Martin, and Turberg's 1986 county architectural history; the NRHP nominations for Wilmington's Wilmington Historic District (HD) (Wyatt and King 2003), Carolina Heights HD (Keane 1999), Sunset Park HD (Keane 2003), Westbrook-Ardmore HD (Turberg and Seapker 2009), Carolina Place HD (Black and Black 1992), and Brookwood HD (Slane and Stewart 2014); and the individual NRHP nomination for the Joy Lee Apartment Building in Carolina Beach (Keane 1996). Local landmarks identified by the Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission and resources located within New Hanover identified under the search terms "Mission" and "Spanish" at the North Carolina HPO's <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/> were also considered. Additionally, the streets of the Wilmington, Carolina Heights, and Sunset Park HDs were driven to seek out Mission or Spanish Revival-style buildings.

Four non-residential buildings within the Wilmington HD are good local examples of the Mission Revival-style: a commercial building at 107 North Second Street (ca.1925), the Wallace Building (ca.1925) at 240-244 Princess Street, the adjacent Progressive Building and Loan Association Office (1921) at 222 Princess, and the Princess Tea Shop Building (1940) at 232 Princess (Figure 19 and Figure 20). All are stuccoed with arched parapets; two have overhangs finished with rounded red tiles. Each contributes to the historic district. Two former city fire houses are particularly well-fashioned representatives of the style: Fire Station No. 2 (1915) at 602 South Fifth Street, yet another contributor to the Wilmington HD, and Fire Station No. 5 (1931) at 1702 Wrightsville Avenue, which contributes to the Westbrook-Ardmore HD (Wyatt and King 2003; Turberg and Seapker 2009) (Figure 21).



Figure 20: Wallace Building (ca. 1925), at left, and adjacent Progressive Building and Loan Association Office (1921), at right

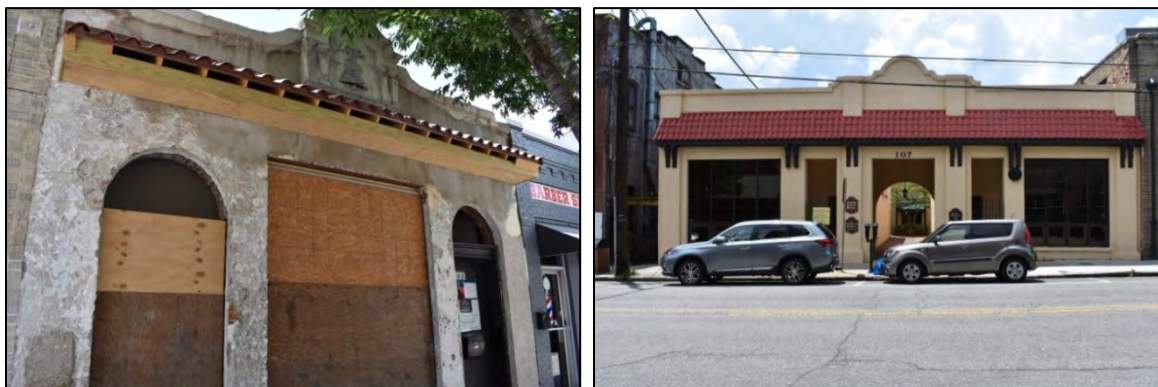


Figure 21: Princess Tea Shop Building (1940), at left, and commercial building at 107 North Second Street (ca. 1925), at right



Figure 22: Fire Station No. 2 (1915), at left, and Fire Station No. 5 (1931), at right

With the exception of the Horowitz House, only two Mission Revival-style residences were identified within Wilmington. The Joseph Hatch Hinton House at 1919 Market Street (1912-1913) (contributes to Carolina Heights HD) is an imposing, two-and-a-half-story, brick house with a pair of ornately curved parapets edged in molded stone (Figure 22, at left). A central curved parapet crowns the 1911 brick duplex of Edward E. David at 111 South Fifth Avenue (Wilmington HD contributor) (Figure 22, at right). The Mission Revival-influenced single-family residence with the most similarities to the Horowitz House is not tall and brick, but rather small, stuccoed, and located beyond city limits. Known



as the Shore Acres Model Home, it was erected in 1928 at 121 Live Oak Drive as a model for the Shore Acres development company. One-story tall, it is built of concrete block, roughly stuccoed, and minimally adorned with flat roofs edged by stepped parapets and a central porch entered via archways. A New Hanover County landmark—its plaque describes it as a “Mediterranean style house”—it remains with the family that built it and has been little altered over the years (see Louis T. Moore collection images and information at <http://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15169coll6/id/903/rec/4>; <http://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15169coll2/id/435/rec/7>; <http://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15169coll6/id/666/rec/2>) (Figure 23).



Figure 23: Joseph Hatch Hinton House (1912-1913), at left, and duplex of Edward E. David, (1911), at right



Figure 24: Shore Acres House (1928) in Wrightsville Beach just after construction in Louis T. Moore photograph, at left, and in June 2016, at right

Wilmington also has few houses that fit within the broader Spanish Colonial or Mediterranean Revival style (as the Shore Acres House might). The Emmett Bellamy House at 1419 Rankin Street (ca.1929-1930) (contributes to Carolina Heights HD) is stuccoed and topped by a widely overhanging roof of rounded red tiles (Figure 24, at left). A similarly fashioned house, erected for Charles B. Parmele at 2315 Oleander Drive, has changed little since its 1925 construction. A contemporary description stated that it was an “adaptation of modern Spanish architecture” (Block 2001:231) (Figure 24, at right). As broadly defined, the stuccoed Greenmyer House at 417 Central Boulevard (1924)—a contributing building to the Sunset Park HD located just a block south of the Horowitz House on Carolina Beach Road—might also be considered inspired in part by the Mediterranean or Spanish Colonial revivals (Figure 25).

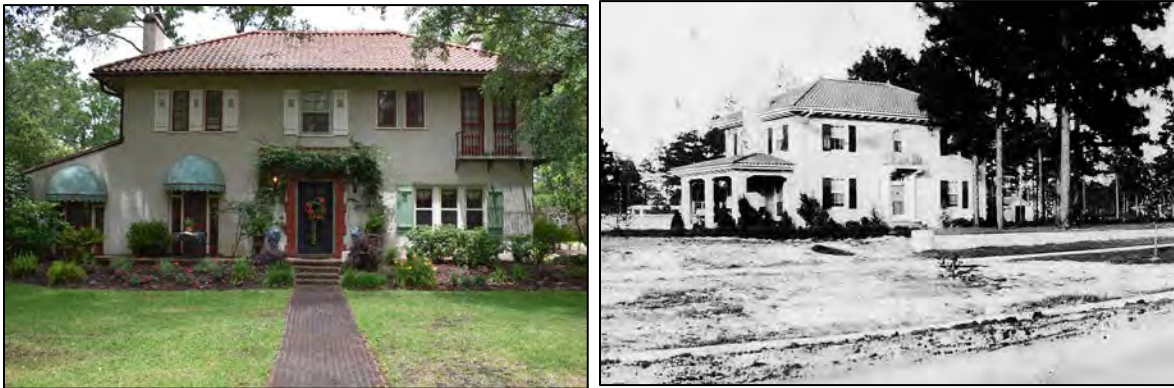


Figure 25: Emmett Bellamy House (ca. 1929-1930), at left, and Charles B. Parmele House around 1925 construction date, at right (source: Block, *Wilmington Through the Lens of Louis T. Moore*)



Figure 26: Greenmyer House (1924) in Sunset Park HD near the Horowitz House

The best example of the Mission Revival-style in New Hanover County—St. Andrew’s-on-the-Sound Episcopal Church (1924) (NH0580)—stands at 101 Airlie Road near Wrightsville Beach. Its fidelity to the style is likely due to its use as a church, as were the original Spanish California missions, and the talents of its architect, Leslie N. Boney (Block 2001:240). In spite of expansion, it still retains much of its original appearance and character (Figure 26).

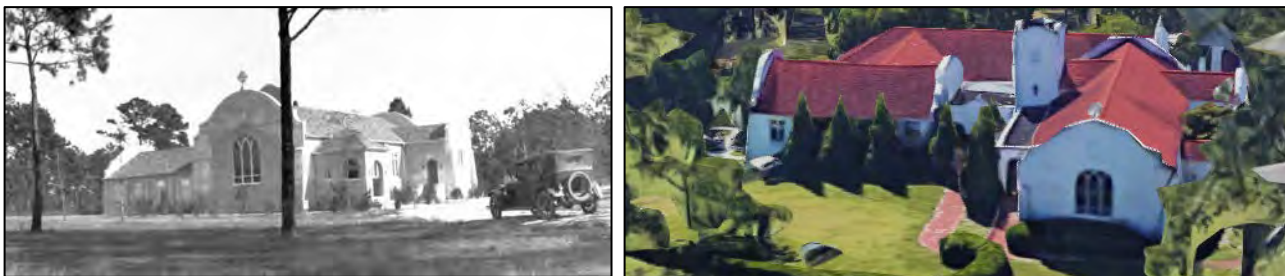


Figure 27: St. Andrew’s-on-the-Sound Episcopal Church, around 1924 date of construction, at left (source: Block, *Wilmington Through the Lens of Louis T. Moore*), and in recent Google 3D view, at right

The New Hanover County resource that looks most like the Horowitz House, however, is the stylistically polyglot Joy Lee Apartment Building (NH0628), built in 1945 at 317 Carolina Beach Avenue N (or N Carolina Beach Avenue) in the town of Carolina Beach (Figure 27). The summary description in its NRHP nomination (Keane 1996) could largely be applied to the Horowitz House:



A two-story, double-pile concrete block building covered with stucco . . . characterized by three arched bays which open onto lower and upper story porches. The straight forward block form is enlivened by molded plaster diamond-shaped lozenges beneath the windows, fanciful concrete balustrades and walls, as well as a shaped parapet roof line concealing a built-up tar covered roof.

The nomination identifies the building as a mixture of “Mission Style, Art Deco, and Art Moderne.” National Register listed in 1996, it continues to retain its integrity.



Figure 28: Joy Lee Apartment Building (1945), June 2016, at left(source: Google.com), and June 2018, at right (photographer: Brian Orol)

**Historic, Association, and Information Potential Significance (Criteria A, B, and D)**

The Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House has no known association with historic events or significant persons, and is unlikely to yield important historical information. It is therefore not recommended as NRHP-eligible under Criteria A, B, and D.

JACOB AND SARAH HOROWITZ HOUSE		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	High	Stands on site where it was built
Design	High	Appears to retain almost all original design elements on its exterior and throughout much of its interior
Setting	High	Retains setting on Carolina Beach Road in association with intact contemporary Sunset Park neighborhood immediately to its south and former Sunset Park School across the street; some later development on Carolina Beach Road
Materials	High	Appears to retain almost all original materials on its exterior, other than later downspouts, and throughout much of its interior, other than tile-walled kitchen
Workmanship	High	Appears to retain almost all original elements of workmanship on its exterior and throughout much of its interior
Feeling	High	High degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship; therefore, high degree of integrity of feeling
Association	High	High degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship; therefore, high degree of integrity of association


## NATIONAL REGISTER PROPOSED BOUNDARY

The NRHP boundary of the Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House is proposed to be its current lot—parcel ID #R06009-005-014-000—which is the same as its historic lot. The polygonal parcel encompasses approximately 0.29 acres. It terminates at its east at the right-of-way of Carolina Beach Road/US 421 and at lot lines at its north, west, and south (Figure 28).



Figure 29: Proposed National Register of Historic Places boundary of Jacob and Sarah Horowitz House, outlined in red (base map: New Hanover County property maps)

### Sunset Park School

	Resource Name	Sunset Park School or Lucile Shuffler School or Building
	HPO Survey Site #	NH3656
	Location	2011 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington
	PIN/Parcel ID #	R06009-004-017-000
	Date of Construction	1920
	Recommendation	Recommended eligible for NRHP listing under Criteria A and C

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

#### Site

The Sunset Park School (NH3656) stands on an approximately 1.72-acre parcel on the east side of Carolina Beach Road (US 421), in an area of Wilmington characterized by houses built between ca.1915 and ca.1965 and later commercial development. Immediately to its west is the Sunset Park Historic District, a National Register-listed subdivision platted in 1912 (Figure 29). About a half-mile to its east stretches the Port of Wilmington and, beyond, the Cape Fear River. Traveling about the same distance to the west takes one to Greenfield Lake. Two miles north, along Carolina Beach Road/Front Street, is Market Street at the heart of downtown Wilmington. The school was built in Masonboro Township, which was later drawn into the limits of the city.



Figure 30: Sunset Park School site, at right, and surroundings



### Sunset Park School

The Sunset Park School was built in two stages—its front block in 1920 and its rear addition later in the decade. The entire building is one-story tall, of brick, and crowned by hipped roofs. The front block, looking west across a lawn to Carolina Beach Road, is seven bays wide. A trabeated entry opens at the façade’s center. Its 12-light transom and surround are original; its metal and wired-glass door and sidelights are later additions. To either side of the entry is a double-hung sash window. A Neoclassical Revival-style portico shades these three central bays. Of wood, the portico is supported by four square piers connected by a balustrade with square stiles. Inset panels climb these columns. They also mark the triangular pediment set between the portico’s entablature and gabled roof. The remainder of the elevation—and the building—is plainly finished. Four additional windows cross the front elevation, two to the portico’s left, two to its right (Figure 30 and Figure 31, at left). As a 1931 photograph indicates, the only notable changes to the front elevation are the replacement of the front doors and truncation of a chimney stack (Figure 31, at right).



Figure 31: South side and west elevations, at left, and west front elevation, at right



Figure 32: Detail of portico and original transom, at left, and west front elevation in 1931, at right (*Miami Daily News*, May 24, 1931)

Two clusters of five window bays at the block’s north side elevation locate two classrooms (Figure 32). A door has replaced the central window at the forward cluster. One of the building’s few notable alterations marks the rear of this elevation. A notched setback is bricked in to form a small room lit by



a multi-light, metal-casement window. The front block's south side elevation also holds two groups of windows marking its pair of classrooms, along with a bricked-in rear corner room with a metal casement window.



Figure 33: West front and north side elevation of front block, at left, and north side elevation and corner of auditorium, at right

A narrow brick hyphen connects the front block with the added L-shaped block to its rear. This block holds an auditorium and two classrooms. Jutting out to the north is the auditorium, delineated by pilasters with concrete caps (Figure 33). Windows with fanlights light the room's west elevation. An original entry here retains its hood and triangular braced supports, although the door has been replaced. The fanlights at the room's rear east-facing elevation are boarded over. The door into the auditorium here has also been replaced. A windowless wall with pilasters marks the rear of the stage at the north.



Figure 34: At left, west elevation of auditorium and, at right, east rear and north side elevations of auditorium/classroom addition

The addition's two classrooms at its south elevation are aligned with the classrooms of the front block and served by the same five-window arrangement (Figure 34). The classroom at the rear extends to the east, giving the addition its L-shaped form.





Figure 35: At left, rear elevation with long auditorium and blank walls of rearmost classroom and, at right, south elevation with added classrooms at center and right and original block at far left

The school’s interior, into which there were limited views, is straightforward (Figure 35 and Figure 36). A central corridor runs from the front to the back, with a row of two classroom and the auditorium opening to its left and four classrooms to its right. The large auditorium features a stage edged by pairs of pilasters.



Figure 36: Looking east down central corridor from front entry, at left, and looking west from opposite end of corridor, at right

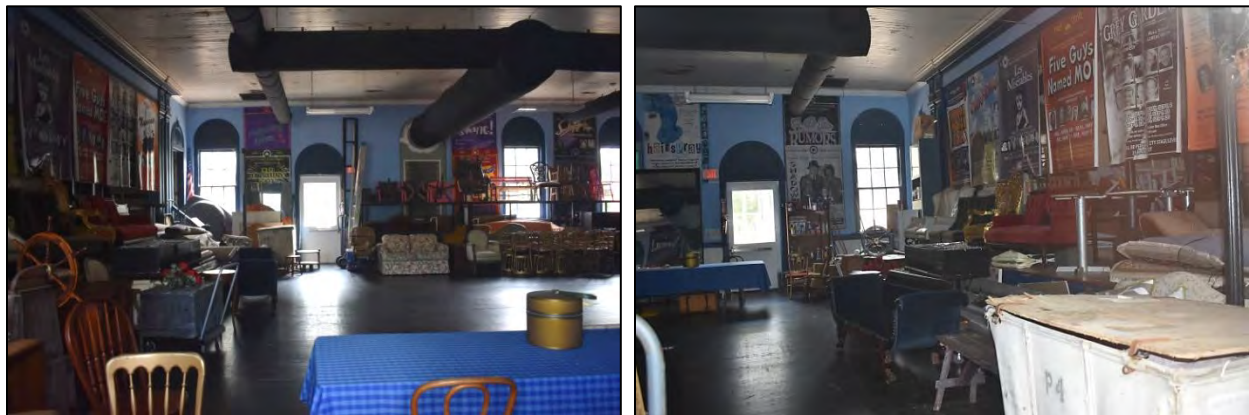


Figure 37: Looking east at auditorium stage overhung with posters and eat rear wall, at left, and looking in opposite direction, at right

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The original Sunset Park School, the predecessor of the current building, opened in late 1915. In September 1915 the New Hanover County Board of Education was considering whether to open a school for the neighborhood and Sunset Park's developers—Fidelity Trust and Development Company—offered to provide the building, and the neighborhood, the teacher (*Wilmington Morning Star*, September 26, 1915 and October 3, 1915). On May 26, 1916 (*Wilmington Morning Star*), the school celebrated commencement. Housed in a small building, it had one teacher and 14 students. Whether this building was erected on land opposite Northern Boulevard and Sunset Park proper, as suggested in an early promotional drawing, could not be determined (Figure 37, at left).

Near the beginning of the 1919 school year, the Board of Education announced plans to buy seven lots from Fidelity Trust, upon which they would erect a new Sunset Park school. For the lots they paid the not inconsiderable sum of \$2,000 (*Wilmington Morning Star*, September 1, 1919). In early September the Board purchased the polygonal parcel, which stood immediately across Carolina Beach Boulevard from Sunset Park's Northern Boulevard entrance. The lots constituted a portion of Sunset Park Block 56, which was the only piece of the subdivision that extended east across the boulevard. According to the deed (Figure 37, at right), they also included an unspecified portion of Block 21 of the Hanby Property/Summer Hill subdivision (Deed Book 110/Page 212). (By 1919 Fidelity Trust had acquired portions of that unsuccessful subdivision from the Hanby family.)

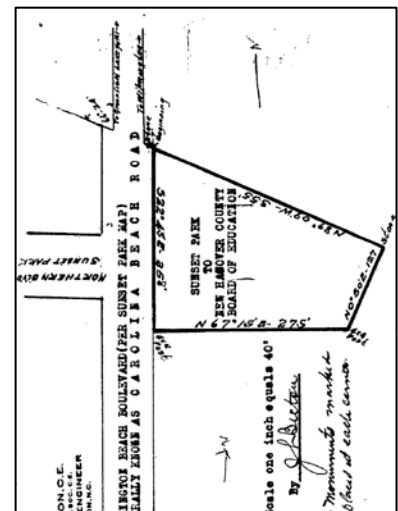


Figure 38: At left, Sunset Park promotional image with mocked-up building on east side of Carolina Beach road at lower right, ca.1912 (source: <https://www.coastalreview.org/2016/11/whats-name-new-hanover-county/>); at right, school lot purchased in 1919, on east side of road opposite Northern Boulevard



In mid-October the Board was still trying to determine how large a building was required (Wilmington *Morning Star*, October 19, 1919), but in January it allocated \$15,000 for local contractors Rhodes & Underwood to construct it. The Wilmington *Morning Star* reported (January 7, 1920):

At Sunset Park, it was at first believed that a three-room building would be sufficient to accommodate the needs of the community for some time, but a petition from citizens was presented requesting the board to erect a four-room building and this was yesterday agreed on. It is said that the building, when completed, will be one of the prettiest school houses in the county.

The school was to open, apparently for the first time, on September 27, 1920, in concert with the schedule of Wilmington's schools, even though at the time it was located beyond city limits and part of the county system (Wilmington *Morning Star*, October 19, 1919, and September 8, 1920).

A new 1921 Sanborn map sheet depicted the footprint of the new building shortly after its construction. That building remains the front block of the current Lucile Shuffler Building (Figure 38). It was, and is, approximately 55' wide and 75' deep, with four classrooms, two of which open to either side of a central corridor.

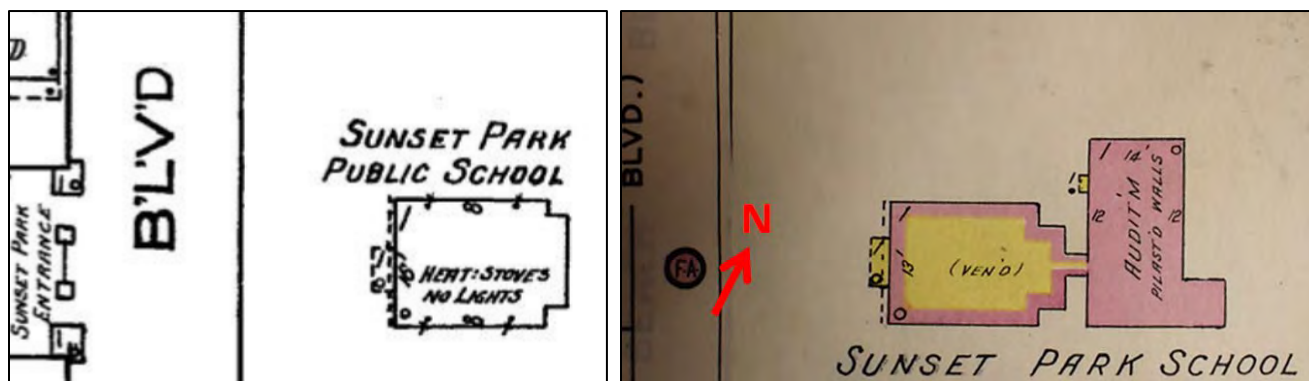


Figure 39: 1921 Sanborn image, at left (source: UNC-CH North Carolina Maps website), and updated image, at right, pasted over in 1946 or 1951 (source: New Hanover County Public Library main branch)

The 1921 Sanborn map indicates that the rear block of the Sunset Park School is not original. It was added before May 1931, however, when it appears in a photograph of the school (Figure 39). This image briefly brought the school into the national spotlight, when it accompanied a story about 10-year-old Bobby Blecker, who sold the hope of enforced absence from school by offering exposure to his measles. The syndicated account, complete with the school's photo, occupied all or almost all of an entire page of the magazine sections of such publications as the *Detroit Free Press*, *Miami Daily News*, *Muncie Morning Star*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Salt Lake Tribune*, and ran in dozens of other smaller papers as a news item, invariably accompanied by the mischievous visage of the "Modern Tom Sawyer."



Figure 40: The measles-for-sale tale, with the little-changed Sunset Park School at center, the still intact Blecker House in the Sunset Park HD across the street, and Bobby Bleecker, his cohort, and teacher (Miami Daily News, May 24, 1931)

The first identified teacher at Sunset Park—the predecessor one-room school—was Miss Mary Wright Taylor (Wilmington Morning Star, October 1, 1916). Other teachers included Miss Ida Caldwell, Bobby Bleecker’s instructor. The individual so closely identified with the school that her name was appended to it, however, was Lucile Kasehagen Shuffler (1904-1948). According to a 1928 alumnae newsletter from the North Carolina College for Women (now University of North Carolina at Greensboro), Shuffler graduated in 1924. It encapsulated her life in the ensuing four years (North Carolina College for Women 1928:31):

Lucile Kasehagen Shuffler (Mrs. M. J.) is in the school room again this winter, teaching fifth grade and part sixth, at Sunset Park School, in Wilmington, her home. Lucile has two children, whom she leaves in the care of an old nurse, thus demonstrating again that one may make a home and also carry on her work.

In 1948, “Sybil Lucille [sic] K. Shuffler”—her full name, according to her death certificate—died of ovarian cancer in Wilmington. She was 44 years old and had likely spent her entire working life at Sunset Park School. She was its principal at her death. The certificate notes that she was divorced, perhaps highlighting the difficulty of balancing full-time work, children, and the expectations of husbands and society in the early twentieth century, in spite of the sunny summary in the women’s college newsletter. (The 1940 federal census places her in the house of her parents, Felix and Mary Kasehagen, along with her children, Marion and Anne. For her most recent 37-week school year, she had been paid \$900.) The certificate stated that she had been born in Wilmington, but the 1930 federal census identified her birthplace as Virginia. Shuffler is buried in the Kasehagen/Shuffler family plot in Wilmington’s Oakdale Cemetery with her parents, who outlived her, and her son, Marion J. Shuffler, Jr., who died five years before her, at 18, of muscular dystrophy. Her marker spells her name with a single “L.”

In 1940 the School Board acquired additional property to the north of the school building for the nominal sum of \$350 (Deed Book 290/Page 475) (Figure 40). This was part of the remaining portion of Summer Hill Block 21 and is located north of where the school building had been erected. As addressed further at the NRHP boundary discussion, below, a portion of this parcel may comprise part of the current building parcel.



Figure 41: The School Board added a portion of Block 21 of Summer Hill, outlined in red, to the school’s grounds in 1940 (Plat Book 2/Page 11 (1916))

The building reportedly continued to serve as a school until 1979 (Wilmington *Star-News*, April 22, 1980). Exactly how it functioned within the school system is not clear, for it had been replaced by a new Sunset Park Elementary School, located a block to its northeast, in the 1940s. It is also not clear when it took on Lucile Shuffler’s name. The 1947 Hill’s city directory referred to it as the Old Sunset Park School and Hill’s directory of 1956 called it the Sunset Park School Annex. The earliest identified reference to it as the Lucile Shuffler School appears in a somewhat offhand way in Hill’s



1959 directory. That name appears only once in the directory, as the place of work provided by a school system cafeteria worker. At the list of public schools, however, the building was still referred to as the Annex. This suggests that there was a transition from an informal to a formal renaming of the building.

In 1980 the school was recast as a senior citizens center (Wilmington *Star-News*, April 22, 1980). In 1986 the County Board of Education transferred it to New Hanover County (Deed Book 1318/Page 184). It finally left public hands in 1992, when the senior center relocated and the former school was acquired by Wilmington's Opera House Theatre Company, which remains its owner (<https://src.nhcgov.com/about-us/senior-resource-center/>; *Brunswick Beacon*, July 2, 1992; Wilmington *Star-News*, August 19, 2010). The company uses its classrooms to store costumes and props and for rehearsal. Musicals are performed in the former school auditorium (Figure 41). Through these changing uses, the former school has remained the Lucile Shuffler Building.



Figure 42: At left, production of 1776 on the auditorium stage, 2016 (source: <http://operahouse.squarespace.com/>); at right, classroom in front block replete with theatrical accessories

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

### Historic Significance (Criterion A)

The NRHP nominations of the (former) William Hooper School (Keane 1997) and Delgado School (Gaweda 2001) establish a historic context for pre-1947 schools in Wilmington and New Hanover County (Figure 42). Within this context, the Sunset Park School is recommended as eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A as significant for its association with the early-twentieth-century history of education in Wilmington and New Hanover County. As Keane (1997) states in the Hooper context:

The administration of Governor Charles B. Aycock (term 1901-1905) ushered in a new era of education reform in North Carolina. State-mandated efforts aimed at curriculum expansion and improvement also resulted in the construction of a generation of handsome school buildings. Enlightened leaders in New Hanover County invested over \$100,000 toward building new school buildings in Wilmington and the county between 1914 and 1915. The opening of the William Hooper School, as well as three additional new school buildings during the 1914-15 school year, made Wilmington's one of the most up-to-date and substantial school systems in the South.



Figure 43: William Hooper School, 1914 (source: <http://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15169coll5/id/687/rec/32>)

This educational and financial commitment continued through the late teens, 1920s, and 1930s. Even limiting an overview to schools of the period that yet stand—as follows—examples are many.

In 1915, just three years after it opened as a two-classroom school, two more rooms were added to the Winter Park School (NH0619) (Wilmington *Morning Star*, January 3, 1915). This was just a taste of things to come in the system. In late 1919, the Board of Education completed plans for spending \$500,000 in buildings and equipment. The program included the addition of six rooms to the William Hooper School and, most notably, a new and grand Wilmington High School, which consumed half of the funding (NH1423) (Figure 43). Construction began on the high school in 1920 and was completed in 1922 (Wilmington *Morning Star*, October 19, 1919; Wyatt and King 2003). The Tileston School (NH0220), formerly the high school, was not forgotten. Built in 1871 and expanded in 1910, it grew again in 1919 (Figure 44) (<http://www.tileston.org/history.htm>; Wyatt and King 2003).



Figure 44: At top “Wilmington’s New High School Building” (Wilmington *Morning Star*, August 10, 1919); at bottom, as built, ca. 1922 (photographer: Louis T. Moore; source: <http://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15169coll6/id/29/rec/1>)





Figure 45: Tileston School with original 1871 block at left and later addition at right, prior to 1937 (photographer: Louis T. Moore; source: <http://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15169coll6/id/888/rec/4>)

Further in 1920, the Board allocated \$8,500 for yet another two-classroom addition to Winter Park and let a \$15,000 contract for the construction of the four-classroom Sunset Park School (Wilmington *Morning Star*, January 3, 1915 and January 7, 1920). In 1924 the Delgado School, which began with two classrooms in 1914, received additional classrooms and an auditorium (Gaweda 2001). Also in 1924, the Board constructed a one-story brick school in Wrightsboro (NH0551) north of Wilmington, which saw its staff increase from five to nine teachers by 1930 (Figure 45, at right) (<http://www.nhcs.net/wboro/history.html>). During this same period, Sunset Park received its addition.



Figure 46: Wrightsboro School in 1924, at left, and 1939, at right (source: <http://www.nhcs.net/wboro/history.html>)

The new brick African-American Williston High School (NH0220)—two stories tall with a portico of monumental columns—opened in 1932 (Figure 46) (Wyatt and King 2003). In 1937 a massive, Neoclassical Revival-style front addition transformed the already-much-added-to Tileston School (NH0220) (Wyatt and King 2003).



Figure 47: Williston High School under construction, 1931 (photographer: Louis T. Moore; source: <http://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15169coll6/id/136/rec/20>)

In 1938 two wings holding a total of four classrooms were appended to the Delgado School (Gaweda 2001). And in 1939 a second story rose atop the Wrightsboro School (Figure 45, at right) (<http://www.nhcs.net/wboro/history.html>).

The Sunset Park School is a part of this story. As discussed along with its architecture, below, it differs from these extant representatives in one notable way. It received only one addition, and that being at its rear, and remains the best surviving representative in Wilmington of a modest, early-twentieth-century, neighborhood school.

### **Architectural Significance (Criterion C)**

The NRHP nominations of the Hooper and Delgado Schools also establish an architectural context for pre-1947 schools in Wilmington and New Hanover County. Gaweda (2001) notes in his context for Delgado:

Prior to 1900 there were no brick public schools within the county and very few throughout the state. After 1900, numerous large schools were built in New Hanover County. The proliferation of school construction in the early 1900s was the result of statewide compulsory education laws passed in 1900. ...

The current 1914 brick [Delgado] school was typical of its time... During the early 1900s, many civic buildings, including schools, were designed in the Neo-classical Revival style. School building designs incorporated these stately characteristics because the formality raised the level of significance society placed on a particular building. John J. Blair, Superintendent of Wilmington City Schools presented a paper at the State Teachers Assembly in 1914... [where he] stated "The buildings in which the school system is housed should rank with churches and public buildings in beauty of architecture". In New Hanover County, these popular styles were vividly exhibited in masonry educational buildings after the local passage of a school bond in 1912. As funds became available from the bond in 1914, school construction began to proliferate.

...

Delgado School and its school district was smaller in size than many other schools and districts of the same era. Its original design was particularly stately due to its prominent front portico and relatively short building length. ...

As the review of many of the surviving city and county schools from the early-twentieth-century indicates, the Sunset Park School is even smaller and more restrained than both Delgado and the once-small Winter Park School. Yet it still was carefully finished of brick in a modest Neoclassical Revival style. The Sunset Park School is recommended as NRHP eligible under Criterion C for the form and style of its architecture, within the broader context of Wilmington and New Hanover County's early-twentieth-century architecture of education.

Due to their generally additive building periods, the surviving early city and county schools do not necessarily present as their earliest dates of construction. Tileston School (NH0220) at 412 Ann Street (contributes to Wilmington HD), for example, retains a uniquely early 1871 block; however, it was expanded in 1910 and 1919, and is dominated by its two-story-over-basement, Neoclassical Revival-style, brick front block—complete with full-height portico—that dates from 1937 (Figure 47). Its style, size, and presence is much like that of two other contemporary schools. New Hanover County High School (NH1423) (DOE 1997; contributes to Wilmington HD), built at 1307 Market Street in 1920-

1922, has been greatly expanded over the years, but its first and principal building remains its focal point (Figure 48, at right). The former Williston High School (NH1374) at 401 South 10th Street has also been much enlarged since its ca.1932 construction (DOE 1997; contributes to Wilmington HD). Yet it too is dominated by its original Neoclassical Revival-style central block of brick with stone trim and a full-height portico (Figure 48, at left).



Figure 48: Tileston (now St. Mary) School, 1937 front block



Figure 49: Williston School, ca.1932, at left, and New Hanover County High School, 1920-1922, in May 2018, at right (source: <https://www.wwaytv3.com/2018/05/03/student-accused-of-social-media-threat-against-new-hanover-hs-identified/>)

Other surviving schools started out relatively small, but grew into substantial buildings. As noted above, the Wrightsboro School (NH0551) at 640 Castle Hayne Road (DOE 1997) was long but only one-story tall when opened in 1924. It doubled in size in 1939 when crowned by a second story (Figure 45, above). Two others had even more modest beginnings. Delgado School (NH1637) (NHRP 2001) at 1930 Colwell Avenue had only two classrooms and a central hallway when built in 1914, though it was fronted by a *distyle in antis* arrangement of columns and pilasters crowned by a triangular-pedimented pediment. Although it remained one-story tall, 1924 and 1938 additions make it difficult to perceive the original small building at its center (Figure 49, at left). The 1914 (former) William Hooper School (NH1636) (NRHP 1998) at 410 Meares Street was expanded by six classrooms ca.1920, at a cost of about \$25,000, also obscuring its original proportions (Wilmington *Morning Star*, November 26, 1919; *Manufacturers Record*, August 14, 1919) (Figure 49, at right).





Figure 50: Delgado School, now a transitional living center, at left; William Hooper School, now the Hooper School Apartments, at right

The surviving early Wilmington school that is closest to Sunset Park in size is Winter Park School (Figure 50). A one-story, symmetrically articulated, brick building more Prairie than Neoclassical Revival in style, it was built in 1912 at 204 South McMillan Avenue in the Winter Park community. The original building—marked by rows of long windows, flush walls, an overhanging hipped roof, and a projecting parapet-topped entry—remains the focal point. It was extended by two classrooms around 1915 and another two around 1920 (*Wilmington Morning Star*, January 3, 1915 and January 7, 1920). Since then, as the school has stayed in the system, the building has spread to the sides and rear and occupies a large campus. One can nonetheless still get a sense of its initial modest size.



Figure 51: Winter Park School, 1912 and later; original central block easily discernable in both images

#### Association and Information Potential Significance (Criteria B and D)

The Sunset Park School has no known association with significant persons and is unlikely to yield important historical information. It is therefore not recommended as NRHP-eligible under Criteria B and D.

SUNSET PARK SCHOOL		
Element of Integrity	Level of Integrity	Assessment
Location	High	Stands on site where it was built
Design	High	Appears to retain almost all original design elements on its exterior and throughout much of its interior
Setting	High	Retains setting on Carolina Beach Road in association with intact contemporary Sunset Park neighborhood immediately to its west; some later development on Carolina Beach Road
Materials	High	Appears to retain almost all original materials on its exterior, but for replacement doors, and throughout much of its interior, particularly in auditorium
Workmanship	High	Appears to retain almost all original elements of workmanship on its exterior and throughout much of its interior
Feeling	High	High degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship; therefore, high degree of integrity of feeling
Association	High	High degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship; therefore, high degree of integrity of association

### NATIONAL REGISTER PROPOSED BOUNDARY

The NRHP boundary of the Sunset Park School is proposed to be its current lot, parcel ID R06009-004-017-000, which encompasses approximately 1.72 acres (Figure 51). This parcel comprises all of the school’s original parcel, the section of Sunset Park Block 55 acquired by the New Hanover County Board of Education in 1919, and perhaps a portion of Block 21 of the Summer Hill/Hanby Property purchased by the Board in 1940. It terminates at its west at the right-of-way of Carolina Beach Road/US 421 and at lot lines at its north, east, and south.



Figure 52: Proposed National Register of Historic Places boundary of Sunset Park School, outlined in red (base map: New Hanover County property maps as depicted at <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/>)

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