

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Bath School

Bath, Beaufort County, BF0471, Listed 1/30/2008
Nomination by April Montgomery
Photographs by April Montgomery, August 2006 and July 2007 (façade)



Façade view of 1920 building on left; 1918 building on right



1921 Auditorium wing on left

**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 Bath School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number King and Carteret Streets not for publication n/a

city or town Bath vicinity n/a

state North Carolina code NC county Beaufort code 035 zip code 27808

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x 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:

<u> </u> entered in the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Bath School
Name of Property

Beaufort County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	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
1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS / Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof METAL / tin
walls BRICK
WOOD
other

Narrative Description

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

Bath School

Name of Property

Beaufort County, North Carolina

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)

[x] 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.

[x] 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

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1918 to 1957

Significant Dates

1918, 1920, 1921, 1939, 1948

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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.

[X] 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

[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[] Other State agency

[] Federal agency

[] Local government

[] University

[] Other

Name of repository: North Carolina Division of Archives and History

Bath School
Name of Property

Beaufort County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.61

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 18 335200 3927610
2

Zone Easting Northing
3
4
 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 April Montgomery

organization Circa, Inc. date August 1, 2007

street & number 16 North Boylan Avenue telephone 919-834-4757

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27603

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 Town of Bath James Latham, Mayor

street & number 109 Main Street telephone (252-923-0212)

city or town Bath state NC zip code 27808

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 _____ Page 1 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

Site Description

The Bath School is located in the northeastern portion of the Town of Bath at the north end of the block bounded by Harding, King, Carteret and Craven Streets. Set on a flat lot, typical of the topography of eastern North Carolina's coastal plain, the school's classroom buildings are set together tightly and in close proximity to the street at the northern end of the 2.61-acre parcel. The classroom buildings occupy the northern two-thirds of the parcel leaving the southern third as an open grassy area that served as the recreation area until the mid-twentieth century. The site has minimal landscaping with three cedars and bushes lining sections of the building foundations. The school faces west and overlooks a parking lot for the Bath State Historic Site Visitor Center across Harding Street.

The nominated parcel consists of five resources: the main building, constructed in phases between 1918 and 1966; the vocational building constructed in 1938; the shop building constructed in 1948; the flagpole located in the open area facing Carteret Street; and the metal awning connecting the main building with the vocational building and to King Street. A site plan illustrating how these resources relate to one another and the site is attached as Exhibit A.

Inventory List

<u>Main Building</u>	1918, 1920, 1921, 1966	Contributing
----------------------	------------------------	--------------

The main building of Bath School consists of three main components which were constructed in phases and connected to one another by a two-story hyphen: a 1918 classroom building, a 1920 classroom building, and a 1921 auditorium and classroom building. There is also a 1966 kitchen addition on the façade of the 1918 structure. The entire main building houses 16 classrooms, auditorium, library with office, cafeteria, kitchen, school office, book room, lounge, girls and boys bathrooms, and multiple closets and storage rooms. The main building faces west across Harding Street toward Bath Creek and remains largely intact with original window and door arrangements, wall finishes, flooring materials and a fundamentally unaltered floorplan. Each portion of the main building is a two-story, double pile hipped-roof block with exposed rafter tails and brick exterior walls laid in six:one common bond. Exterior alterations are limited to the replacement of the original shingle roof with a metal roof (date unknown), the enclosure of the original stairwells ca. 1930, and the 1966 kitchen addition. The interior of the main building is equally intact. With the exception of changes related to the cafeteria, all classrooms retain their original doors with transoms, blackboards, plaster and beaded-board interior walls and ceilings, coat closets, and hardwood floors. The universal interior change is the addition of modern lighting suspended from the original ceilings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 _____ Page 2 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

The first building to be constructed on the site was the 1918 classroom building. This west-facing two-story, five-bay structure has a brick chimney piercing the roofline at its north end. Windows on the lower level of the building are paired six-over-six double-hung sash, while upper level windows are six-over-six double-hung sash in sets of three. The building was originally accessed at the ground level through a central solid door with a six-light transom. This entry is no longer present. The upper level was accessed by a frame exterior stair on the south elevation that led to a solid door with three-light transom. The frame stair was removed and a semi-enclosed brick stairwell with arched openings and cast stone keystones was constructed in its place ca. 1930.¹ Each stair configuration is visible in historical photographs of the school.

The 1918 building has seen the most alteration due to the conversion of the lower level classrooms into a cafeteria and the addition of a kitchen in 1966-67 which obscured the entire ground level of the facade. On the interior, the ground level is now one large room with all support posts exposed. An original floorplan could not be found. However, based on the layout of the upper level and the location of the posts on the lower level, it is safe to assume that the ground level was bisected laterally (north to south) by a center hall with two classrooms on the east side and one classroom and one office on the west side separated by the entry hall. The upper level remains intact, and is bisected laterally by a center hall. There are two evenly sized classrooms on the west and a kitchen, classroom and storage closet on the east. The original kitchen on the upper level retains its stove and Hoosier cabinet which, along with its adjacent classroom, served as the Home Economics department until 1990.

The 1920 classroom building was the second building constructed on the site. This west-facing five-bay structure has multiple brick chimneys piercing its roof-line. Windows on both levels are six-over-six double-hung sash in sets of three. The central entry bay on the lower level façade is inset under a brick arch with a keystone. The paired entry doors are half-glazed with multi-light sidelights and transom. Exterior stairwells with framed entries of brick arches and cast stone keystones access the upper level classrooms on the north and south elevations.

The ground level of the 1920 classroom building is bisected laterally by a central hall with two classrooms on the east side. On the west side the original entry hall has been converted into a classroom and is flanked by a classroom on the south side and a classroom that was converted into an office in 1966-7 on the north side. The upper level is bisected laterally by a central hall with two classroom on the west side and three classrooms on the east side. The original plan of

¹ Wallace Interview, September 2006.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 _____ Page 3 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

the upper level called for two classrooms on the west side, but a third classroom was carved out in between the two to provide extra classroom space as the student population increased. The date of this alteration is unknown.

A two-story frame hyphen clad in vertical siding was also constructed in 1920 to connect the two classroom buildings. The addition of the flat-roofed connector provided a common area that was divided up into a small supply store, a lunch area, and bathrooms with flushing toilets, one of only three in the county's schools according to 1930 Beaufort County Schools records.² The rear wall of the hyphen was removed the following year when the auditorium building and a large two-story hyphen connecting the three buildings were constructed.

The 1921 Auditorium Building was the final structure to be built during the initial school construction phase. The façade of this two-story structure faces north toward Carteret Street on the short end of the building. Small brick chimneys pierce the roofline. The entirety of the building's lower level houses the auditorium, which remains intact with stage, side rooms and original seats. Paired double-leaf entry doors access the auditorium from the Carteret Street façade while additional access to the auditorium is provided through double-leaf entries on the east and west elevations. Access to the upper level is provided by an exterior metal stair on the east elevation and the two-story hallway and enclosed stairwell off the south end of the west elevation. The upper level houses four classrooms, two on each side of a central hallway that bisects the building from north to south. A library and adjacent office span the building's south end. The hallway wraps around the east side classroom at the north end leading to a door to the exterior metal stair. At the south end, the hallway turns and leads to a two-story hyphen connecting the auditorium building to the 1918 and 1920 classroom buildings.

The two-story, brick, gable-roofed hyphen that connects the auditorium building to the two earlier structures was constructed in 1921. This hyphen functioned as a hallway and housed the student's lockers, served as the lunchroom until the 1950s, and provided the school's only interior stair. The enclosure of small parts of the hyphen created additional space for student lockers, storage rooms, and a staff lounge. Windows in the hyphen are paired six-over-six double-hung sash. Exterior access is provided through a double-leaf entry, matching those on the auditorium building, on the north elevation.

² Beaufort County School Records, 1925, 1929, 1930, 1931. State Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 _____ Page 4 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

In 1966 Dewey Brothers, of Goldsboro, was contracted to design a kitchen addition to the Bath School.³ The one-story addition with a flat roof and exposed metal rafters was constructed in 1967, on the façade of the 1918 classroom building. The addition was constructed of concrete block with a brick veneer laid in common bond on the exterior. Because the addition was built as a service wing to the existing buildings, it does not address the street in its design. A loading dock and two metal doors are present on the west elevation, an exterior chimney is on the south elevation, and a recessed entry is accessed from the north elevation. The interior of the kitchen addition appears unchanged with block walls and tile wainscot and floors. The majority of the ceiling is no longer present from what appears to be water damage.

Floorplans of the Main Building are attached as Exhibit B-1 and Exhibit B-2.

Vocational Building 1939 Contributing

A vocational building was added to the Bath School campus in 1939. According to Beaufort County School Board minutes the structure was constructed with funds from the Public Works Administration (PWA). The one-and-one-half-story, west facing, front gable-roof structure has two one-story side gable wings off the north and south elevations. The building's brick facade is laid in running bond, and tall nine-over-twelve windows line the main block's north and south elevations. The one-story side-gable ells that flank the main block are each seven bays wide with nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows. The two entry doors on the west elevation of the main block have been bricked-in with a smaller-sized solid wood door added to the southern entry. Interior brick chimneys are present in each of the ells. An exterior stovepipe brick chimney is located on the rear elevation of the main block.

The original floorplan of the vocational building shows a gymnasium in the center front-gable portion of the structure with restrooms and a boiler room spanning the rear (east) end, a classroom, office and locker room in the south ell, and an all-purpose room with living quarters in the north ell. The layout of the north and south ells is unchanged. The original plaster walls and ceilings remain. The floors in the north ell have been covered with carpeting while those in the south ell retain their original hardwoods. The locker room in the south ell retains the original tiled shower area. The gymnasium has been divided into three classrooms. The gymnasium's original ceilings and lighting remain intact, but are obscured by a dropped ceiling of acoustical tile. All interior walls in this portion of the structure are not original. The interior finish of the

³ Beaufort County Board of Education Minutes, 1966.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 _____ Page 5 _____

Bath School _____
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

exterior walls is original brick topped, in the western portion, with an original, tall vertical wainscot which likely delineated part of the gymnasium area.

A floorplan of the Vocation Building is attached as Exhibit C

Shop Building

1948

Contributing

A one-story, front-gable, concrete block structure was constructed on the south portion of the parcel in 1948 by Beaufort County Schools to serve as a shop building. There are four three-pane louvered windows on both the north and south elevations. A garage door and pedestrian entry door are located on the east elevation. The west elevation has no fenestration. The gable ends are clad in vertical siding and the structure is topped by a metal roof. The shop building was once flanked by a 1943 frame science lab to its north and a 1967 block agricultural building to its south. The science lab and the agricultural building were demolished by Beaufort County Schools in the 1990s.

Flag Pole

pre-1948

Contributing

A flagpole is located in the open area between the 1920 classroom building, the auditorium building and the two-story hyphen. The pole is set on a concrete base facing Carteret Street. In 1948 a plaque was attached to the base commemorating sixteen alumni who were killed in World War II. The plaque was removed from the concrete base when the school closed in 1989 and placed on the flagpole at Bath Elementary across King Street. The date of construction of the flagpole is not known, but the addition of the plaque places it within the period of significance.

Metal Awning

ca. 1970

Non-Contributing

A metal awning connects the main building with the vocational building and extends to King Street. It was not present in the 1968 Department of Public Instruction report. Based on its design, material and level of deterioration it is estimated to have been built ca. 1970.

Integrity

The Bath School is an excellent and intact example of an early twentieth-century consolidation school executed in the Colonial Revival style. All of the original structures are extant and retain a high degree of integrity with few alterations. Each building maintains almost all of its original interior and exterior finishes including original windows, doors, wall finishes, and floorplan, with the exception of the 1918 building's lower level. The site retains a high degree of integrity as the buildings maintain their original locations and the original open spaces used for recreational and gathering purposes remain intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 _____ Page 6 _____

Bath School _____

name of property

Beaufort County, North Carolina

county and state

The Bath School is the only extant consolidation school in Beaufort County that retains classroom buildings dating to the 1910s and 1920s; the early phase of school consolidation in the county. The 1939 vocational building is an intact representation of the most active period of consolidation school construction in the county. Of the eight schools or school-related buildings constructed during this era, the vocational building at Bath School is one of only three that remain intact and unaltered.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 _____ Page 1 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Bath School meets Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture. Constructed in stages between 1918 and 1967 and started as part of the national trend to consolidate rural schoolhouses, the Bath School is an excellent example of a rural consolidation school in Beaufort County. The Colonial Revival-influenced buildings remain intact with few alterations. The buildings and site retain integrity of design, setting, materials, feeling and association. The period of significance is 1918, the year of construction for the earliest structure on the parcel, to 1957. The school remained in use until 1990 but its use past 1957 does not meet Criterion Consideration G for exceptional importance. The Bath School is included within the boundary of the Bath Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The school is not individually listed in the inventory, nor is a discussion of education or the twentieth-century community included in the district nomination. The Bath School is the largest and most significant structure in the Town of Bath that dates to the early-twentieth century and the earliest extant school building in town. It is also an excellent and intact example of a consolidation-era school that reflects the form and construction common to school buildings during that era.

Historical Background and Education Context

Incorporated in 1705, the Town of Bath is the oldest incorporated municipality in North Carolina. During the Colonial period, Bath was an important center of commerce due to its proximity to the Pamlico River which leads to the Atlantic Ocean. Bath was the first seat of Beaufort County, the site of three meetings of the General Assembly in the mid-1700s, and was considered as a possible capitol of the colony. Bath's importance as a trading port and the center of political life in the region waned in the late 1700s when the town of Washington was established fifteen miles upstream on the Pamlico River. Washington was a larger port and drew much of the commerce away from Bath. In 1785, Beaufort County relocated its county seat from Bath to Washington.⁴

Post-eighteenth-century Bath is treated as an epilogue in most local and regional histories. While the town continued to serve as the center of civic life for the rural agricultural communities of central Beaufort County, the political and commercial activities that made the town so prominent in its early years had diminished. The town's prominent families, Bonner, Marsh and Van Der Veer, kept the town alive as merchants, shippers and manufacturers. Bonner

⁴ www.beaufort-county.com/Bath/bath1.htm

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 _____ Page 2 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

and Van Der Veer were partners in the development of an early steam sawmill. In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries several large sawmills operated near Bath.⁵

The importance of education and the need for a school are noted in some of Bath's earliest papers. St. Thomas Parish, established in Bath in 1701, founded a free school for blacks and Indians. A 1722 deed refers to land being set aside in the original town plan for use as a public school. In 1730, Edward Moseley gave lots 30 and 31 to the St. Thomas Parish "for the use of a public school master, or reader, or minister." An 1807 map also shows lots 29-31 as being set aside for use as a public school. On the 1807 map these lots are located on Water Street, just north of Carteret Street, between the Marsh Wharf and Ferry Point.⁶

Where the first school in Bath was actually constructed is unknown. In a letter from Bath resident John Woodward dated 1734, he describes his property as "adjoining the school house."⁷ No photos or descriptions of this school house could be found. According to residents, a small local school existed in a lodge building (no longer extant) beginning sometime after the Civil War until the construction of the 1918 Bath School classroom building. This earlier school was located at the site of the town marker where the original road from Washington came into town. The small one-room school was used for the education of the white children of Bath.⁸ The use of one-room school buildings for the education of rural populations was a common nationwide approach that continued into the early 1900s.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, North Carolina began to consolidate its rural schools into larger regional schools. This practice, now referred to as the consolidated schools movement, occurred nationwide mainly during the early-twentieth century. The cause for this was principally economical. It was more cost effective to teach more children in one location than fewer children in the numerous one-room school houses that were scattered across the state. The development of new modes of transportation, such as cars and buses, and the paving of roads across the state as part of the Good Roads initiative brought the consolidated schools movement to its peak in the 1920s when the number of consolidated schools in the state grew from 300 to almost one thousand.⁹

The consolidated schools movement also changed the organization and management of county school systems. Where the rural schools that were predominant in the state prior to consolidation

⁵ www.beaufort-county.com/Bath/bath1.htm

⁶ Beaufort County Register of Deeds, 4/14/1925; 1807 map, State Archives.

⁷ Watson, 152.

⁸ Wallace Interview, September 2006.

⁹ Mattson and Alexander, 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 _____ Page 3 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

developed their own curricula and methods of instruction, the shift to consolidation resulted in standardized instruction. The State Superintendent developed standardized curricula for primary and secondary education. The implementation of these standards was the responsibility of the county boards of education. The county boards of education also assumed the tasks of hiring personnel, ordering of materials, reviewing student and school performance, and managing school construction and maintenance; all tasks that had previously been handled by each school's respective community.

Beaufort County constructed more than a dozen schools in the early decades of the twentieth century. The majority of these were located in small rural communities outside of Washington. There was no school planned in Bath, and instead, the county had planned to construct a school in Ransomville. When the materials for the Ransomville School arrived at the Bunyon depot in 1917, funds to pay for them were not available. A Bath resident, T.A. Brooks, offered to purchase the building materials provided the school be built in Bath on land that he owned.¹⁰

In 1918, the first of the Bath School buildings, a two-story masonry structure containing seven classrooms and an office, was constructed. An additional classroom building was constructed in 1920, and another building, which included an auditorium, library and classrooms, was added in 1921. The three buildings housed seventeen classrooms, an office, library, auditorium and cafeteria. The school served as an elementary, middle and high school for the rural communities of Everett's, Woodard's Pond, Possum Hill, Athens, Ransomville, and Douglas Crossroads.

Beaufort County School records from the 1930-31 school year show 218 students enrolled in the elementary school and 166 in the high school. Among the classes offered were home economics, 41 students; agriculture, 31 students; and biology, 41 students. The valuations of the county school buildings, collected for insurance purposes in 1934, show Bath School valued at \$868,239, the fourth highest valuation in the county behind Aurora, Belhaven, and Pantego. These records also indicate that Bath School was one of only three in the county with "flush" toilets.¹¹

Bath School students were offered standard coursework in the areas of science, mathematics, English language, history and social studies. Extra-curricular activities included sports, social and vocational clubs and community service organizations. The variety of organizations is reflective of how integral the school and its activities were in the local community.

¹⁰ North Carolina Department of Archives & History, CBX file.

¹¹ Beaufort County School records 1931.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 _____ Page 4 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

The stock market crash of 1929 and the succeeding Great Depression caused then President Franklin D. Roosevelt to develop programs to provide living wages for the unemployed while improving public facilities. The programs were known as the New Deal. The New Deal established numerous, often overlapping, relief agencies such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Civil Works Administration, the Public Works Administration (PWA), the Works Progress Administration, and the Rural Electrification Administration. These agencies channeled federal money to the states for public construction projects such as roads, infrastructure, housing, courthouses, post offices, and schools.

The financial and design assistance provided by the PWA allowed for the construction of 500 structures in sixty-two North Carolina counties.¹² In 1937, the Beaufort County Board of Education began a school building program under the PWA that resulted in new facilities in Aurora, Belhaven, Chocowinity, Pantego, Pinetown, and Bath. The towns of Aurora, Belhaven, Chocowinity and Pinetown constructed new schools while Bath and Pantego received additional classroom space, gymnasiums and/or auditoriums to complement their 1920s-era consolidated schoolhouses. The vocational building at the Bath School, completed in 1939, provided additional classrooms for the agricultural sciences and a gymnasium.

The final addition/alteration to the Bath School occurred in 1966 when a kitchen was attached to the façade of the 1918 classroom building. By this time approximately 1,500 students were attending the school. Prior to 1966 the kitchen was located upstairs in the 1918 building and students would eat their lunch in the adjacent hallway connecting the classroom buildings. The addition of the kitchen precipitated the removal of the classrooms and school office on the 1918 building's lower level and this space was converted into one large room for use as the cafeteria.

Kindergarten was added in the 1960s. Bath School remained in operation for Kindergarten through twelfth grade until the late 1980s when the high school was moved to the newly constructed Northside High School. The kindergartens through eighth grade classes were moved to a new structure for the 1989-90 school year. The Bath School classroom buildings have been used by the school board for storage since the early 1990s. The vocational building continued to be used as part of Bath Elementary as overflow classroom space until June 2007.

¹² Mattson and Alexander, 25.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 _____ Page 5 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

Five consolidation-era schools remain in Beaufort County: Bath, John A. Wilkinson High School, Chocowinity School, Old Ford School and Pinetown School. The John A. Wilkinson School was constructed in 1905 in Belhaven in the very early stages of school consolidation. The John A. Wilkinson School was determined eligible for listing in the National Register, through Section 106 review in 1998, under Criterion A for education and Criterion C for architecture. Chocowinity School was also reviewed through Section 106 in 1996 and determined not eligible due to alterations to the building and site. Chocowinity and Pinetown were constructed in the late 1930s during the later stages of consolidation-era schools. Both were constructed with funds dispersed by the PWA, like the vocational building at Bath School.

Architecture Context

The architecture of rural and small-town schools changed dramatically in the early twentieth century. Pre-twentieth-century schools were small community-based structures that were built by residents with locally available materials, and were largely reflective of local building practice rather than any national style. As part of the consolidation movement, the State Department of Public Instruction developed numerous guidelines and recommendations for the construction of new school buildings. Local school boards were given the option of using stock plans provided by the state or hiring their own architect. However, architect designed plans were subject to the review and approval of state officials. The result of these efforts was the proliferation of numerous schools that are remarkably similar in plan, design and material.

The architecture of consolidation schools across the state is divided into two phases. In the first phase of the consolidated schools movement, in the early decades of the twentieth century, the State Superintendent of Schools provided stock plans for school buildings. In addition to providing floorplans, these plans also included specifications for site work, materials, electrical systems and a bill of materials which detailed everything that would need to be ordered to construct the school. The second phase began in the early 1920s when the state stopped issuing stock plans. This change required that each county or local government hire an architect to design their school buildings. As a result there began to be a greater variety of design.

The Bath School belongs to the first phase of consolidation school architecture. A 1920 publication from the State Superintendent of Schools titled: "A Two-Story Frame Schoolhouse consisting of Six Standard Classrooms and Auditorium" outlines the floorplan for the school building along with interior specifications and a materials ordering list.¹³ The two-story, five-bay, hipped roof structure pictured in the 1920 plans is very similar, in form and scale, to the

¹³ State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Circular No. 601-2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 _____ Page 6 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

three classroom buildings of the Bath School. The similarity of the Bath School buildings to those in the State Superintendent's 1920 publication indicate that the 1918, 1920, and 1921 classroom buildings were likely constructed from stock plans. Beaufort County does not retain Board of Education minutes prior to 1937, so the actions of the Board regarding the design, materials and contractors for these buildings cannot be confirmed.

The Beaufort County School Property Report of 1934 provides photographs and brief descriptions of each of the county's schools. In that report there are five schools that match the standard plan that Bath was constructed from: Bath, Ransomville, Bear Creek, Pantego High (white), and John Small. Each is two stories in height, five-bays wide, topped with a hipped-roof, and has stairwells on both side elevations. There is some variation among them in entry details, some having attached pent roofs and others being recessed. The schools also differed in exterior material; Bath, John Small, and Pantego High (white) were constructed in brick veneer, while Ransomville and Bear Creek were of frame construction. Of these five schools, Bath School is the only one still standing; John Small, Pantego High (white), Ransomville and Bear Creek have all been demolished.

The 1939 vocational building is an example of the Depression-era consolidated school-related buildings constructed with funds provided by the PWA. Three PWA funded education-related structures remain in Beaufort County: Bath School vocational building, Chocowinity School, and Pinetown Elementary School. School buildings and supplementary school-related buildings in Aurora and Pantego were razed within the last decade. All three of these were constructed during the late 1930s and were executed in the Colonial Revival style. Both Pinetown and Chocowinity Schools consist of a long, rectangular, hip-roofed main block with flanking gable-roof classroom wings, and a rear, central auditorium wing. Due to its function, the configuration of the vocational building at Bath School is slightly different. The vocational building has nominal flanking classroom wings, providing only one classroom, and the building is entered through the gymnasium wing which projects forward from the rectangular gable-roofed block's façade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 _____ Page 1 _____

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

Major Bibliographical References

Beaufort County Architectural Survey Files for Bath Historic District, Chocowinity School, John A. Wilkinson High School, John Small School, Washington Historic District. Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, NC Department of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Beaufort County Board of Education Minutes. 1937-1990. Beaufort County Board of Education, Washington, NC.

Beaufort County Register of Deeds.

Beaufort County Tax Maps and Property Records. November 2006, July 2007. Online at <http://www.co.beaufort.nc.us/>

Beaufort County CBX file. North Carolina State Archives.

Inspection and Survey Report of Beaufort County School. C. Morgan Williams & Bro., Agents, Washington, NC. Insurance Company of North America. January 1934.

1807 Map of Bath. North Carolina State Archives.

Mattson, Richard L. and Frances Alexander. Phase II (Intensive) Architectural Resources Survey and Evaluations for US 17 Bypass Beaufort and Pitt Counties, North Carolina. North Carolina Department of Transportation, T.I.P. R-2510, September 1995.

Property Accounting for Beaufort County Schools. Department of Public Instruction. 1968.

Smith, Peggy D., Interview with April Montgomery, July 2006.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (1920). A Two-Story Frame Schoolhouse consisting of Six Standard Class-rooms and Auditorium. 5-21-20-1M-No. 601-2, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wallace, Jack, Interview with April Montgomery, September 2006.

Washington Daily News. Representatives to tour BHS building. October 12, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 _____ Page 2 _____

Bath School _____
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

Washington Daily News. State awards grant to help preserve Bath High School.
August 6, 2006.

Washington Daily News. Bath board delays decision on high school building.
November 16, 2005.

Watson, Alan D. with Eva C. (Bea) Latham and Patricia M. Samford, *Bath: The First Town in North Carolina*. Raleigh, N.C.: Office of Archives & History, 2005.

Online Resources

www.cfra.org/pdf/NRE%20Association%20Task%20Force%20School%20Consolidation%20Report.pdf; November 2006

www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/bath/bath.htm; November 2006

www.presbhs.org; November 2006; July 2007

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

Bath School
name of property
Beaufort County, North Carolina
county and state

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Bath School property is the 2.61-acre outlined area on the accompanying Beaufort County GIS map.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary includes the 2.61 acre legal parcel that was granted to the town in 1925, after the school's construction, and upon which the features associated with the Bath School still stand.