

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Craven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Baxter Clock

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
323 Pollock Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern (First Congressional District, The Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Craven	CODE 049
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
B. H. Baxter

STREET AND NUMBER:
1509 Lucern Way

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bern

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Craven

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On Pollock Street opposite the front entrance of Baxter's Jewelry Store, rising to a height of approximately twenty feet from the sidewalk, is the Baxter Clock, manufactured by the Seth Thomas firm. The early twentieth century post clock has brass and steel works contained in a cast-iron case which consists of three stages. A tall pedestal square in section supports a slender column which carries the spherical clock with four flat faces. Metal supports embedded in the concrete sidewalk extend some ten feet below street level to anchor the clock.

The pedestal stands on a molded base which is painted black; the remainder of the clock is painted a flat brown. Each face of the pedestal itself contains three square flat panels within a vertical panel. Fluting covers each of the small panels. On the north and south sides, the panels cover a door with an iron knob, allowing access to the clock works inside. The brand name "Seth Thomas" is imprinted at the top of each pedestal face. An arcaded corbel drip molding adorns the projecting shelf at the top of the pedestal. The pedestal terminates in two stepped stages which serve as the platform for the column. The column consists of a molded base, a slightly tapering fluted shaft and a stylized Corinthian capital, ornamented with abstract plant forms. The fern palmettes which form the body of the capital splay out from the necking and terminate at each corner in a tightly scrolled fern frond. A rosette occurs between each pair of fronds. The spherical area which contains the clock faces is actually supported on a molded base with an egg-and-dart molding.

The clock head was cast in four sections, and the wide bolted seam is visible at each corner. A lion's head encircled by an anthemion border is centered over each seam below the clock face. Each lion glares uncompromisingly frontally, gripping a large iron ring in his bared teeth. A small iron knob at the top of the border can be turned to depress the head, allowing access to the clock face. A rosette occurs above each lion's head. Each face, with a two-and-a-half to three-foot diameter, is protected by a glass cover. Capital Roman numerals signify the hours, with squares around the perimeter marking minute intervals, triangles marking hour divisions, and lozenges marking three-hour intervals, all of which are black. Iron hour, minute, and second hands indicate the time. Black letters around the center of the north and south clock faces advertise "Baxter The Jeweler" and on the east and west faces, "Dr. J. O. Baxter Eyesight Specialist." The wide scroll border above each face has a central finial accent and curvilinear side terminations. An arabesque crocket follows each seam line from the scroll border to the summit finial. The three-tiered finial with abstract leaf molding and twisted fluting provides a striking accent to the bulbous clock head.

The clock mechanism within the pedestal can be seen when the three-panel door is opened. As an iron weight is pulled by gravity down two iron rods, the steel and copper pendulum is swung, moving in turn the hands of the small face behind the pendulum. The hands on the exterior clock faces are in turn regulated by this interior clock. The following inscription appears on this clock face: "Seth Thomas, No. 2139, July 24, 1920." The clock was electrified at the time of its installation, and each face is illuminated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Advertising;</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>street furniture</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The four-dial post clock on Pollock Street known as the Baxter Clock was manufactured by the Seth Thomas Company, Thomaston, Connecticut, and completed for shipment to New Bern on July 24, 1920, at about the time when Baxter's Jewelry Store moved to Pollock Street from Middle Street. The clock works are number 2139, and the installation is listed in the circa 1930 Seth Thomas catalog of works erected by the company as "J. O. Baxter, Newbern, N.C." The clock still operates; its faces, hands, printing and all component parts are original.

Though the date of the Baxter Clock is 1920, the style and design are earlier. This type of clock was manufactured by the Seth Thomas Company from 1879 until at least 1928. The design of the column, sides, and cresting appeared on a two-dial street clock in the 1886 company catalogs, and the exact design appeared in the 1907 Post & Bracket catalog of the company. By 1930, however, the general design of these clocks had changed, and the Baxter Clock in New Bern is one of the later installations of the early design.

In the 1907 catalog, in which an exact prototype of the Baxter Clock appears, this description is given:

FOUR DIAL POST CLOCK

Dials, 36 inches in Diameter

Height from the sidewalk to the center of the dials, 13 feet, 3 inches

We can furnish either glass or iron dials

The shields above the dials can be lettered, such as diamonds, watches, etc.

Base of the column, 24 inches square.

Unfortunately both of the Baxters for whom the clock was erected are dead, and the documentation concerning its installation seems to have been lost. The clock is still used by the current owner of Baxter's Jewelry Store, however, and is kept in perfect repair and operation.

Though the 1930 catalog of Seth Thomas Tower and Street Clocks lists hundreds of such clocks as having been installed by that date, most of these were tower clocks, and probably a relatively small number were the expensive and ornate four-dial post clock of the kind erected by the Baxters. It is the only clock of its type known to have survived in North Carolina, and according to the records of the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol,

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(Number all entries)

8.

Connecticut (which has the largest collection of Seth Thomas material), the Smithsonian, and the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Experts Committee, probably only three other similar clocks are still operating: National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C.; Main and First South, Salt Lake City, Utah; Market Street, San Francisco, California. There are probably more surviving four-dial post clocks in the United States than these, and probably more which are in operating order; nevertheless, such items of street furniture are now quite rare.

The Baxter Clock dominates Baxter's Jewelry Store, the business establishment which it has come to symbolize. This turn-of-the-century commercial building, constructed of polychromed brick and tile in a Dutch Revival style, provides the supporting context for this relic of the opulent Twenties. The Baxter Clock epitomizes the exuberant pre-Depression era when stylistic flamboyance was the embodiment of commercial dignity and provides an element of pre-utilitarian charm in the heart of downtown New Bern.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, Chris H. (Curator of American Clock and Watch Museum, Bristol, Connecticut), to T. P. Wrenn, February 24, 1972, in Survey files, State Department of Archives and History.
 Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds).
 Craven County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds).
 Terwillinger, Charles (National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Experts Committee), to T. P. Wrenn, December 17, 1971, in Survey files, State Department of Archives and History.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 06' 12"	77° 02' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 2 September 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 2 September 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

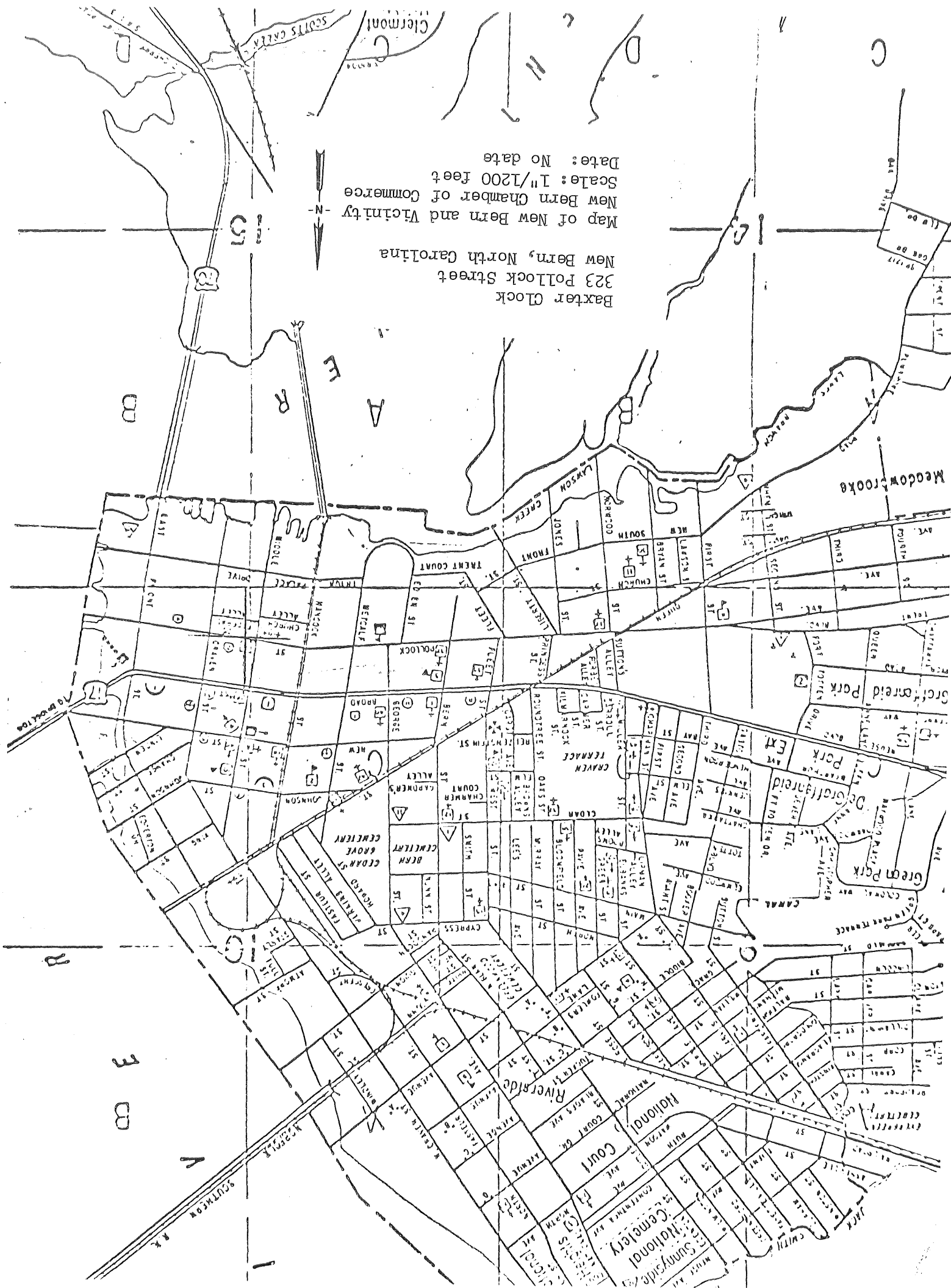
Keeper of The National Register

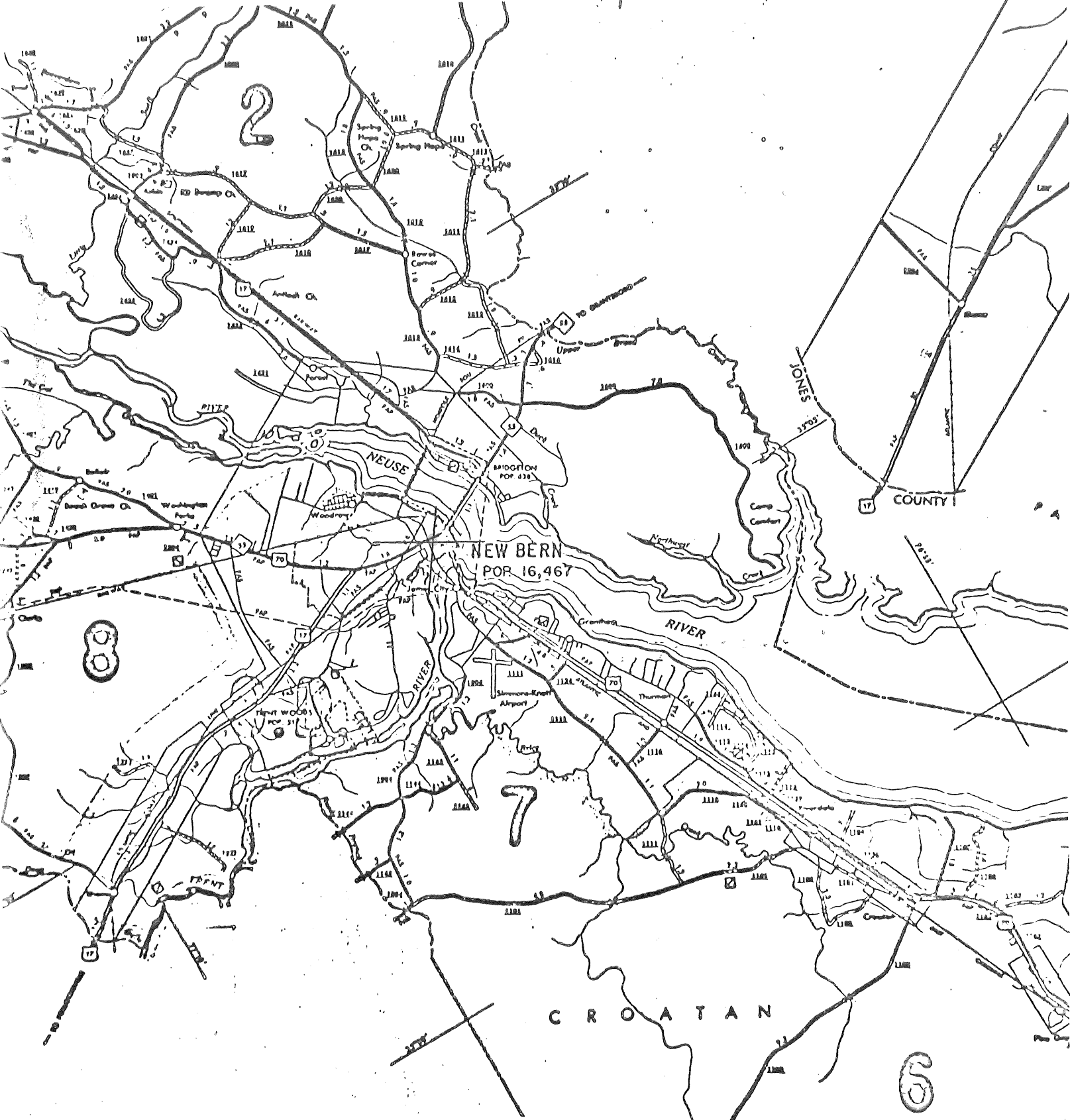
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Baxter Clock
323 Pollock Street
New Bern, North Carolina

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

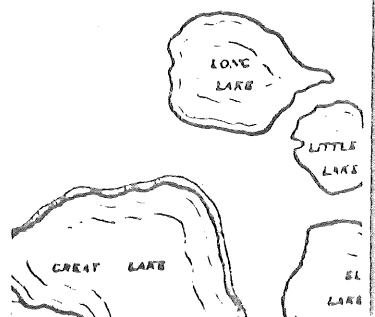
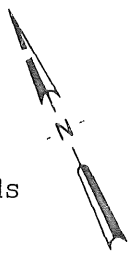




Baxter Clock
 323 Pollock Street
 New Bern, North Carolina

Map of Craven County
 New Bern Chamber of Commerce
 Scale: 3/8" : 1 mile
 Date: No date

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	06	12	77	02	25



I A T I O N A L