

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

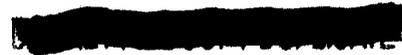
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Section 73.202(b),)
Table of Allotments,)
FM Broadcast Stations.)
(Rose Hill and Trenton,)
North Carolina))

MM Docket No. 95-88
RM-8641

To: Chief, Allocations Branch



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REPLY COMMENTS OF DUPLIN COUNTY BROADCASTERS

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August 25, 1995

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SUMMARY

Duplin County Broadcasters ("DCB"), licensee of FM Station WBSY, replies to comments filed by Topsail Broadcasting, Inc. ("TPI"), licensee of WZXS(FM), Topsail Beach, North Carolina, and W&B Media, Inc. ("W&B"), licensee of WSFL-FM, New Bern, North Carolina, with respect to DCB's request for an amendment to the FM Table of Allotments, to reassign Channel 284 from Rose Hill to Trenton, North Carolina, upgrade the allotment from Class A to Class C2, and modify the license of WBSY accordingly. DCB's proposal would introduce first local aural service to Trenton, which is not in an Urbanized Area (but is the county seat of Jones County, North Carolina), as well as provide service to increased populations and areas. The proposal would be a preferential arrangement of allotments, as Trenton would receive its first local aural service, while Rose Hill would continue to receive local service from WEGG(AM). Any loss areas would continue to be well-served by at least five aural services.

There is no basis in law or fact to deny Trenton a first local service preference applying the criteria set forth in RKO General, Inc. (KFRC) and Faye and Richard Tuck. When the established criteria are applied to Trenton, it is clear that Trenton is a self-governing, independent and historical community, deserving allotment of its first aural service. Contrary to the Commentors' allegations, Trenton does not depend on, and does not perceive itself as a part of, one or more of the scattered, non-adjacent North Carolina

communities of Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock, and/or Goldsboro mentioned by the Commentors.

It is further demonstrated that Trenton should not be deemed a "quiet village." Allotments have previously been made to communities with attributes similar to Trenton, notwithstanding efforts of objectors to depict those places as falling under the "quiet village" policy.

Although Trenton presently receives aural service from out-of-town stations, it is axiomatic that such reception is not a substitute for local service.

The proposed relocation will not deprive Rose Hill of its only aural service. Rose Hill will continue to be served by WEGG(AM), which is simulcast by WBSY for a substantial part of the day.

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

To: Chief, Allocations Branch

REPLY COMMENTS OF DUPLIN COUNTY BROADCASTERS

Duplin County Broadcasters ("DCB"), by its attorneys and pursuant to Notice of Proposed Rule Making, DA 95-1277, released June 19, 1995, hereby replies to the August 10, 1995 "Comments in Opposition To Proposed Rule Making" filed by Topsail Broadcasting, Inc. ("TPI"), licensee of WZXS(FM), Topsail Beach, North Carolina; and the August 10, 1995 "Comments of W&B Media, Inc." filed by W&B Media, Inc. ("W&B"), licensee of WSFL-FM, New Bern, North Carolina (hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Commentors")^{1/}. In reply thereto, the following is respectfully shown:

1. DCB, the licensee of FM Station WBSY, Channel 284A, Rose Hill, North Carolina, seeks reassignment of Channel 284 from Rose Hill to Trenton, North Carolina; an upgrade of the allotment from Class A to Class C2; and modification of the license of WBSY accordingly. DCB's proposal would introduce first local aural

^{1/}DCB intends to reply to counterproposals filed in this proceeding by Aurora Broadcasting (RM-8688) and JEE Broadcasting (RM-8689), on or before the September 5, 1995 deadline for reply comments established by FCC Public Notice, Report No. 2092, dated August 21, 1995.

service to Trenton, which is not in an Urbanized Area (but is the county seat of Jones County, North Carolina), as well as provide service to increased populations and areas. The proposal would be a preferential arrangement of allotments, as Trenton would receive its first local aural service, while Rose Hill would continue to receive local service from WEGG(AM). Any loss areas would continue to be well-served by at least five aural services.

2. The Commentors apparently perceive DCB's proposal as introducing new competition to their stations, and have asked the Commission to deny Trenton a first local service preference. W&B would rely on the policy of RKO General, Inc. (KFRC), 5 FCC Rcd 3222 (1990), vacated as moot pursuant to settlement, 6 FCC Rcd 1808 (1991) ("KFRC"), and Faye and Richard Tuck, 3 FCC Rcd 5374 (1988) ("Tuck"), as a basis to attribute to Trenton aural services licensed to the North Carolina communities of Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston and Havelock. TBI would attribute to Trenton not only the stations licensed to those communities but also those licensed to distant Goldsboro, North Carolina.

3. There is no basis in fact or law to attribute to Trenton the aural services licensed to the scattered, non-adjacent communities of Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock, and/or Goldsboro. Under KFRC and Tuck, only communities that are shown to be dependent upon and contiguous to a dominant central city are attributed with the aural services of the greater metropolitan area. Thus, in KFRC, the Commission examined the independence of Richmond, California, a community in the San Francisco Urbanized Area, from the San

Francisco Urbanized Area. In Tuck, the Commission examined localities within the Dallas-Fort Worth Urbanized Area. In contradistinction, Trenton is not located in an Urbanized Area, and is not a suburb of any core city, be it Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock, or Goldsboro. Trenton is in a different county than those cities, is not adjacent to any of those cities, and does not receive municipal services from any of those cities. Rather, Trenton is a self-governing, historical community with distinct local characteristics and interests.

4. Neither Commentor has presented evidence that Trenton is dependent on Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock or Goldsboro. Indeed, in endeavoring to perform an analysis under KFRC and Tuck, W&B admitted numerous facts which demonstrate Trenton's status as an independent community. Attached hereto at Exhibits 1-14 are additional materials, including the pertinent portion of the local phone book and declarations by Trenton community leaders, which demonstrate conclusively the independence of Trenton as a community, and that Trenton cannot properly be construed as an appendage to Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock or Goldsboro. To summarize:

- The town of Trenton is a historic place, certified in the National Register of Historic Places^{2/}. Trenton was established by an act of law in 1784, and the town

^{2/}See Exhibit 2 hereto, Harritt, Julia Pollock, History & Genealogy of Jones County, NC, "Trenton Historic District," Owen D. Dunn, Inc., New Bern, NC (1987).

was subsequently incorporated^{3/}. A portion of the present city consists of a scenic historic district^{4/}.

- Trenton has an elected form of government. Trenton elects a Mayor and a Town Board. A Town Clerk is appointed. Trenton also has a Town Attorney. The city offices are located in the courthouse building in Trenton^{5/}.

- The City of Trenton operates under a corporate charter and tax authority. Currently, Trenton taxes \$.50 per \$100.00 property value^{6/}.

- The City of Trenton provides such services as maintaining the sewer system, the streets and street lights. Recently the City of Trenton signed a cable television franchise for Trenton. The City of Trenton has a cemetery association, administered by the Mayor. The City does not obtain services from Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Goldsboro or Havelock^{7/}.

- Residents of Trenton do not perceive Trenton as being an integral part of a Jacksonville-New Bern-Kinston-Havelock metropolitan area^{8/}.

^{3/}See Exhibit 2 hereto, Harritt, Julia Pollock, History & Genealogy of Jones County, NC, "Town of Trenton," Owen D. Dunn, Inc., New Bern, NC (1987). See also Exhibit 3 hereto, Riggs, Sondra Ipock, History of Jones County, NCR 975.621H at page 80.

^{4/}See Exhibit 1 hereto, Harritt, Julia Pollock, History & Genealogy of Jones County, NC, "Trenton Historic District," Owen D. Dunn, Inc., New Blern, NC (1987).

^{5/}See Exhibit 5 hereto, Declaration of Joffree Leggett, Mayor of the City of Trenton, at paragraph 1.

^{6/}Id. at paragraph 2.

^{7/}Id. at paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6; and Exhibit 6 hereto, Declaration of Robert Mason, Jones County Sheriff, at paragraph 4.

^{8/}In a declaration supporting W&B's comments, Bruce T. Simel, General Manager of WSFL-FM, represented that based upon research and a conversation with the Trenton Town Clerk, "[c]ommunity leaders and residents of Trenton perceive Trenton as being an integral part of the larger Jacksonville-New Bern-Kinston-Havelock metropolitan area, rather than as being separate from it." However, Town Clerk Glenn Spivey, in his Declaration attached hereto as Exhibit 7, states that he never told Mr. Simel such a thing. In addition, Sheriff Robert Mason, in his Declara-

- Some residents of surrounding Jones County, an agricultural area, consider themselves to be "from Trenton," although Trenton has not formally annexed any additional land^{9/}.

- There are a number of businesses located in Trenton which are patronized by, and which serve the needs of, the people of Trenton, including a bank, a dry goods store, a hardware store, an auto repair shop, a drug store, a restaurant, an automobile dealer, a game room, a tire and feed store, a hair stylist, attorneys, accountants, and a medical center with five doctors^{10/}.

- Trenton has a post office^{11/}.

- Trenton has a library^{12/}.

- North Carolina State University offers extension courses at the Agriculture Building in Trenton^{13/}.

tion attached hereto as Exhibit 6, states that he "strongly disagrees" with Mr. Simel's statement.

^{9/}See Exhibit 5 hereto, Declaration of Joffree Leggett, Mayor of the City of Trenton, at paragraph 12, and Exhibit 7 hereto, Declaration of Robert Mason, Jones County Sheriff, at paragraph 5.

^{10/}See Exhibit 7 hereto, Declaration of Glenn Spivey, Trenton Town Clerk, at paragraph 11; Exhibit 6 hereto, Sheriff Robert Mason, at paragraphs 6 and 7; and Exhibit 8 hereto, The Official Directory Of Sprint/Carolina Telephone, New Bern (November 1994) at pages 223-228. See also Comments of W&B Media, Inc.," pages 9-10, paragraph f.

^{11/}Exhibit 6 hereto, Declaration of Sheriff Robert Mason, at paragraph 6 and The Official Directory Of Sprint/Carolina Telephone, New Bern (November 1994) at page 227 "U.S. Postal Service - Trenton Post Office."

^{12/}Exhibit 6 hereto, Declaration of Sheriff Robert Mason, at paragraph 6 and The Official Directory Of Sprint/Carolina Telephone, New Bern (November 1994) at page 227 "Trenton Public Library." See also Exhibit 3 hereto, Riggs, Sondra Ipock, History of Jones County, NCR 975.621H at page 80.

^{13/}See Exhibit 9 hereto, "North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, North Carolina State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Jones County Cooperative Extension Summer Programs."

- Trenton telephone number listings are in a separate section of the local telephone book^{14/}. Calls to Kinston and New Bern require "extended local service" from Trenton. Calls to Jacksonville, Goldsboro or Havelock are long distance calls from Trenton^{15/}.

- As the seat of Jones County, Trenton is the hub of Jones County government. Located in Trenton are: the Jones County Courthouse, the Sheriff's office, and other County facilities^{16/}. Official notice may be taken that no local aural service presently is licensed to any community in Jones County.

- The Sheriff's Department provides 100% of the law enforcement needs of the city of Trenton. Trenton does not depend on the outside areas of Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Goldsboro or Havelock, for policing Trenton^{17/}.

- The Trenton volunteer fire department and rescue department handle the city's fire and rescue needs. Trenton also has two county-paid, full-time Emergency Medical Technicians^{18/}.

- Trenton is served by the Jones County Post, a bi-weekly newspaper published in Trenton. As of September 1, 1995, the City will have a cable television franchise. Although some out-of-town radio signals reach Trenton, those stations do not serve the particular needs and interests of Trenton. Trenton has peculiarly local concerns of no interest to news editors in Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Goldsboro or Havelock, such as inci-

^{14/}See Exhibit 8 hereto, and The Official Directory Of Sprint/Carolina Telephone, New Bern (November 1994) at pages 223-228.

^{15/}Id. at "Community Information: Trenton" page.

^{16/}See Exhibit 6 hereto, Declaration of Sheriff Robert Mason, at paragraphs 6 and 7.

^{17/}Id. at paragraphs 3 and 4.

^{18/}See Exhibit 7 hereto, Declaration of Glenn Spivey, Trenton Town Clerk, at paragraph 8. See also Exhibit 3 hereto, Riggs, Sondra Ipock, History of Jones County, NCR 975.621H at p.80.

dents of clogging in the city sewer system, flooding by the Trenton River, and local election campaigns^{19/}.

- Trenton is the site of the John D. Larkins Federal building^{20/}.

- As many of the working residents of Trenton remain in Trenton to work as commute to other places^{21/}.

- Trenton has an Agricultural Center that serves as a civic center. The "Committee of 100" was formed to promote economic activity in Trenton. Indeed, Trenton competes with Jacksonville, New Bern, Havelock, Kinston and Goldsboro for economic development^{22/}.

- Trenton has a Moose Lodge, a Masonic Lodge, an American Legion Post, and several clubs including the Methodist Women, Men and Young Adults. There are a number of churches in Trenton, with organizations within them^{23/}.

- The people of Trenton take pride in their community^{24/}. Some Trenton families go back many generations.

^{19/}See, Exhibit 5 hereto, Declaration of Joffree Leggett, Mayor of the City of Trenton, at paragraph 11 and Exhibit 6 hereto, Declaration of Sheriff Robert Mason, at paragraphs 8 and 9.

^{20/}See Exhibit 10 hereto, Harritt, Julia Pollock, History & Genealogy of Jones County, NC, "The John D. Larkins, Jr. Federal Building, Trenton, North Carolina," Owen D. Dunn, Inc., New Bern, NC (1987).

^{21/}"Comments of W&B Media, Inc.," at page 9, paragraph a.

^{22/}See Exhibit 5 hereto, Declaration of Joffree Leggett, Mayor of the City of Trenton, at paragraph 10.

^{23/}See Exhibit 5 hereto, Declaration of Joffree Leggett, Mayor of Trenton, at paragraph 9; and Exhibit 8 hereto, The Official Directory Of Sprint/Carolina Telephone, New Bern (November 1994) at "Community Information: Trenton" page.

^{24/}See Exhibit 7 hereto, Declaration of Sheriff Robert Mason, at paragraph 5.

More than on-third of the population of Trenton is Black^{25/}.

5. The foregoing demonstrates that under the factors set forth in KFRC and Tuck, Trenton is an independent community. Specifically, applying the factors enunciated in KFRC and Tuck as evidencing independence, it has been shown that:

- (1) Extent to which community residents work in the community. W&B has conceded that as many of the working residents of Trenton remain in Trenton to work as commute to other places^{26/}. As the seat of Jones County, Trenton has numerous governmental, business, service, and ecclesiastical employers.
- (2) Extent of local media. A bi-weekly newspaper is published in Trenton. Next month, the city cable franchise will commence service. Trenton residents perceive that out-of-town radio stations do not serve Trenton's needs and interests.
- (3) Perception of Trenton as separate from Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock or Goldsboro. Trenton residents consider themselves to be "from Trenton," and do not consider themselves to be part of the communities of Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock or Goldsboro.
- (4) Local government. Trenton is self-governing and its residents elect their Mayor and Town Board.
- (5) Telephone book. The local telephone book has a separate Trenton section. "Extended service" or long-distance calling is required to call Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock or Goldsboro.
- (6) Local Establishments and Health Facilities. The needs of Trenton are served by numerous local businesses and the Trenton Medical Center.

^{25/}1990 U.S. Census. See also Exhibits 11 and 12 hereto, Harritt, Julia Pollock, History & Genealogy of Jones County, NC, "Elder Statesmen of Trenton," and "Brock Mill" at column 2, Owen D. Dunn, Inc., New Bern, NC (1987).

^{26/}"Comments of W&B Media, Inc.," pages 9-10, paragraph f.

- (7) Advertising market. Political candidates in the Trenton area have not advertised on radio due to high rates to advertise on Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock or Goldsboro stations.
- (8) Municipal services. Trenton does not receive any municipal services (i.e. police, fire protection, schools, libraries) from Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock or Goldsboro.

Thus, applying the KFRC/Tuck test advocated by W&B, Trenton is shown to clearly deserve the allotment of its first aural transmission service.

6. The foregoing further demonstrates that Trenton cannot properly be deemed a "quiet village." The Commission previously has rejected "quiet village" allegations and allotted frequencies to small communities with attributes similar to Trenton. For example, in Bloomington and Nashville, Indiana, 4 FCC Rcd 5765 (Chief, Alloc. Br., 1989), first service was allotted to an alleged "quiet village" of a few hundred people which was the county seat (as is Trenton). Likewise, in Bartow, Chauncey, Dublin, Eastman, Jeffersonville, Lyons, Soperton and Unadilla, Georgia, 4 FCC Rcd 6876 (Chief, Alloc. Br., 1989), recon. dismissed, 5 FCC Rcd 442 (Chief, Alloc. Br., 1990), a channel was allotted over "quiet village" objections to a self-governing community of 350 persons. Moreover, in the instant case, Trenton's population count for census purposes is artificially small as the City has not formally annexed areas just outside Trenton proper whose residents consider themselves to be part of Trenton. Approximately 1,000 people live within a couple of miles of Trenton's formal borders.

7. Although W&B endeavors to show that Trenton presently receives radio signals licensed to Jacksonville, New Bern, Kinston, Havelock and Goldsboro, it is axiomatic that the signals of out-of-town stations are not a substitute for local service. Conklin, New York, 5 FCC Rcd 1104, 1105 (Chief, Alloc. Br., 1990); Clinton, Louisiana, 45 RR 2d 1587, 1588 (Broadcast Bur., 1979). The evidence submitted herewith clearly shows that Trenton has different needs and interests from those out-of-town communities.

8. The Commentors' claim, that DCB's proposal will deprive Rose Hill of "its only FM transmission service" and "its only nighttime service," is not legally cognizable. What is significant for purposes of the Commission policy stated in Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Modification of FM and TV Authorizations to Specify a New Community of License, 4 FCC Rcd 4870, 4874, recon. denied in part, 5 FCC Rcd 7094, 7097 (1990) ("New Community of License"), is that DCB's proposal will not deprive Rose Hill of its sole local transmission outlet. DCB's proposal satisfies all requirements stated in New Community of License. In particular, Rose Hill will continue to be served by presently co-owned WEGG(AM). In addition, the attached Engineering Exhibit (Exhibit 13) by William Culpepper & Associates shows at least 22 additional aural services, including FM and nighttime services, within the existing WBSY 60 dBu contour, so those areas also will continue to be well-served^{27/}.

^{27/}See also "Comments of Duplin County Broadcasters," dated August 10, 1995.

9. In Atlantic and Glenwood, Iowa, MM Docket No. 94-122, DA 95-1583 (Chief, Alloc. Branch, rel. July 25, 1995), it was similarly argued that the existing license community would lose its "sole FM" and "local nighttime service" if service was reallocated to a different community and that there would be a loss area. However, as here, the loss area would continue to receive FM service and nighttime service from at least five aural services. Also as in the instant case, the reallocation was proposed for a community that was the county seat. The Commission approved the reallocation. The Commentors have shown no reason why Atlantic and Glenwood, Iowa should not be followed in the instant case.

10. It also should be noted that WBSY presently simulcasts a substantial portion of the WEGG(AM) programming, and signs off during the late night hours^{28/}. WEGG(AM) is the number one station in its market, while WBSY has yet to show up in the ratings. Under the circumstances, there is no evidence that the Rose Hill audience has come to rely on the service provided by WBSY, or that the removal of WBSY from Rose Hill would disrupt local listening patterns.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, Channel 284C2 at Trenton, North Carolina, should be substituted for Channel 284A at Rose Hill,

^{28/}See Exhibit 14 hereto, Declaration of Patricia Pratt, Operational Manager, WEGG(AM)/WBSY(FM).

North Carolina, and the license of WBSY should be modified accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

DUPLIN COUNTY BROADCASTERS

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August 25, 1995

Trenton Historic District

H 67

The town of Trenton was certified by the National Register of Historic Places on May 31, 1979. Documentation is in the Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Trenton Historic District consists of a grid of streets flanking N.C. 58, which serves as the main street, and includes Brock Mill Pond to the southwest. The small-scale buildings, nearly all frame, are dwarfed by massive trees heavily draped with Spanish moss, which gives Trenton much of its character. Within the district are found representative examples of nearly two centuries of domestic, ecclesiastical and commercial architecture in the vernacular mode.

Probably the oldest house remaining in Trenton is the small dwelling at the corner of the Grace Episcopal Church Parish House, northwest corner of Weber and Lakeview streets. Many changes have been made, but some of the original fabric remains, including beaded weatherboards on the interior, hall and parlor plan, beaded beams, molded chair rails and baseboards, board and batten doors hung on HL hinges and Georgian mantels.

From a slightly later period, there is the Jacob Huggins House (west side of Weber Street between Trent and Jones streets), which is modest but handsomely executed in traditional Federal style; it is said to have been built between 1810 and 1825. Its exterior appearance is somewhat altered by the front central gable and Victorian shed porch, but it retains very handsome Flemish bond chimneys with single smooth shoulders, a simple transomed entrance, molded window frames (containing nine-over-six and six-over-six sash), and some molded weatherboards. The interior, which follows a hall-and-parlor plan with an enclosed stair, is impressively finished and well preserved. The hall has a flat-paneled wainscot composed of two ranges of panels and a two-part Federal mantel with paneled pilasters and a dentil cornice shelf; the parlor has a flush wainscot and a rather elaborate three-part mantel with pierced and gouged ornament and undercut dentils. The second-floor mantels follow simple Georgian lines. Six-panel doors in molded frames recur throughout the house.

The Smith House (northeast corner of Jones and Weber streets), said to have been built about 1820, is an ambitious two-story side-hall-plan Federal-style house with some Greek Revival elements. Its plan and fine Federal finish exemplify the New Bern influence in the area, particularly the doors, each of which has six panels, the upper four flat and the lower two flush—a typical New Bern characteristic. The graceful open string Federal stair has a ramped, rounded handrail terminating in a scrolled newel on a curtail step. The two first-floor mantels are academic Adamsque three-part ones, each with symmetrically molded pilasters and well-executed sunbursts on the end blocks and center tablet, beneath a dentil cornice and molded shelf. The second-story mantels are similar but simpler. Greek Revival elements are seen in the use of symmetrically molded architraves with corner blocks, which occur around some interior windows and doors, on the front door which has a wide transom and sidelights and on the facade windows. A colossal porch replaced a two-tier porch, and a two-story wing with a projecting front bay is a later addition.

Probably also dating from the early nineteenth century, but much simpler, are the Kinsey House (southeast corner of King and Jones streets), a rambling two-story house covered with beaded weatherboards, probably built in several sections; and the Franks House (across the street) which retains some early features including Flemish bond chimneys despite extensive early twentieth century remodeling.

Also quite simple, but with Greek Revival characteristics, is the Henderson House (southeast corner of Trent and Weber streets), a one-story house with a central breezeway joining two hip-roof sections; the hip-roof entrance porch has square posts and corresponding pilasters.

The most distinctive example of the Italianate mode is the McDaniel-Dixon House (northwest corner of Market and Lakeview streets), a two-story frame dwelling with a low hip roof with a wide overhang above a frieze punctuated by paired brackets; this cornice is repeated on the one-story full-width porch. The interior is consistent, with wide architraves and mantels with various paneling schemes.

Post-Civil War buildings in Trenton include Gothic Revival, Italianate, and a blend of Queen Anne and Eastlake styles. Three Gothic Revival churches show the potential for variety and style offered. Of particular importance is Grace Episcopal Church (NR) (northwest corner of Lakeview and Weber streets), a delightful Carpenter Gothic board-and-batten building whose character derives from the skillful use of triangular forms and a wealth of scalloped ornament. Also quite interesting is United Methodist Church (Market Street north of Jones Street), a frame gable-roof structure with simple pointed arched openings, distinguished by an eccentric tower. It rises in two stages, both square in section, and is topped by a polygonal shingled spire; breaking out from all four corners of the base of the spire are curious polygonal cylindrical bartizans, with conical lower termini and conical, polygonal shingled caps, each with a finial like that on the main spire. Less distinctive is the Trenton Pentecostal Holiness Church (west side of Market Street, south of Jones Street), a gable roof building with acutely-pointed triangular-arched openings with heavy hoodmolds. These recur, filled with louvers on the three-stage corner tower, which is capped by a slim spire and weather-vane.

Possibly the earliest standing brick building in Trenton is the old jail, (south side of Jones Street near Market Street), a small one-story structure of brick laid in common bond. It is distinguished by the frieze and corbel cornice that carries around the building, defining at each end a pedimented raised gable. The large segmental-arched windows, filled with bars, have heavy stone stilted segmental arches and stone sills. The iron door has four flat panels and is surmounted by a barred transom.

Similar in the use of brick and of segmental-arched openings is the 1908 Bank of Jones County (southwest corner of Jones at Cherry streets), a two-story commercial building. Corbel cornices and panels are employed as well as stuccoed arches over openings. Segmental-arched openings and corbel ornament are repeated as well in the row of brick commercial buildings across Jones Street from the bank building, also probably dating from the early twentieth century.

'Trenton Historic District' cont'd.

The domestic buildings of this era are for the most part simple one or two-story dwellings with sawn or turned ornament (particularly on porches), projecting bays, and the ubiquitous central gable. The Back House (southwest corner of Market and Lakeview streets) is a simple one-story L-shaped house, but it is ornamented by a fanciful scalloped cornice that suggests a connection with Grace Episcopal Church. Another house (on Jones Street between Weber and Market streets), has an extraordinary roof configuration, with a very steep pyramidal roof, peaking at an interior chimney and interrupted by multiple cross gables; there is a two-tier central entrance porch. Also interesting is the Dr. Monk House (on the south side of Jones Street), which is a large two-story house with a two-story pedimented, demihexagonal projecting central entrance bay. Across the facade and around the sides carries a wide, one-story porch with turned, bracketed posts and a series of small gabled interruptions of the roof.

As important to Trenton as its architecture is the old mill pond within its boundaries. The pond is a large body of quite, dark, reflecting water supplied by underground streams and surrounding land drainage. It is essentially unencroached upon, and provides a strikingly beautiful natural resource surrounded by aged cypress trees hung with long trails of Spanish moss. A frame mill building sits adjacent to the pond at the point where the water spills over the dam into the creek. This mill was built in the 1940's on the same site as earlier structures.

The streets were laid out near a large cypress pond which still figures prominently in the townscape. There had been a mill on this pond for many years before the establishment of the town. Title of the mill and pond can be traced back to Anthony Hatch, who obtained it in 1776. This may be the same mill pond as that owned in 1774—and perhaps much earlier—by Anthony's brother Lemuel, a Revolutionary period leader and member of the Assembly and Provincial Congress, who obtained land in the neighborhood as early as 1758. Older than the town itself, the cypress mill pond with its mill (a later structure) is an area of remarkable beauty, its picturesque serenity giving Trenton, as a recent newspaper column said, "that special thing a place needs to make it good to be there." (The mill pond has been owned since 1969

by a non-profit corporation that intends to preserve it.) The townscape of Trenton is in keeping with its history as the small county seat and market town of a farming county, since its founding in 1784. The architectural fabric of the village consists—with the exception of two Carpenter Gothic churches of considerable distinction—of modest vernacular frame dwellings of various periods ranging in a traditional grid from a central brick commercial row. The consistency of small scale and simple details throughout nearly two centuries' building, the towering trees hung with Spanish moss, and perhaps most important, the unique loveliness of the mill pond at the town's boundary—all these combine to make Trenton a little country town of serene and unpretentious charm.

The Jones County area had been settled early in the eighteenth century: as early as 1709 the Lawson map showed "Mr Jones 4000 acres," and the 1733 Moseley map showed "Mr Frederick Jones 7375 acres." This map also showed a ferry on the Trent River, run by Franks. After the county was established in 1779, the first county court was directed to be held at the home of Thomas Webber, whose large plantation was located at Trent Bridge. The court continued to meet at Webber's until the courthouse was built. On June 2, 1784, an act was passed authorizing a town by the name of Trenton to be laid out where the courthouse stood (the home of Thomas Webber). Abner Nash (later governor of the state), Frederick Hargett, Lewis Bryan, John Bryan, William Randall, John Isler, and Edward Whitty, esquires, were appointed commissioners to buy land for the town of Trenton, which probably took its name from its location near the headwaters of the Trent River. The land was divided into half-acre lots and laid out as a town and common. The lots were sold with the usual requirements.

One of the most memorable occasions in the history of Trenton was the visit in 1791 of President George Washington on his Southern Tour. In his diary he recorded that "under an escort of horse, and many of the principal Gentlemen of Newbern, I recommenced my journey; dined at a place called Trenton, which is the head of boat navigation on the River Trent, which is crossed at this place on a bridge and lodged at one Shine's, 10 m. farther both indifferent Houses."

Neither the War of 1812, nor the Civil War, saw significant action in Trenton, although in both Trenton and Jones County, citizens joined the ranks. In 1862, New Bern was captured by Union forces and occupied; in 1863, 1864 and 1865, skirmishes took place in and near Trenton, and citizens of the town took part in the Battle of Wyse Fork (March, 1865), fought in defense of the town of Kinston. Federal troops advancing from New Bern met Confederate resistance, and about 50,000 troops were involved.

Besides its primary function as county seat, Trenton has depended economically upon its role as a market town for a farming county. Its location "at the head of boat navigation of the River Trent," and the proximity to a ferry and bridge naturally attracted trade. In addition, the eighteenth century maps and the 1808 Price-Strother map show Trenton at the juncture of major east-west and north-south roads, including a road from Wilmington to New Bern. By 1833, as shown on the MacRae-Bentley map, the north-south route apparently bypassed Trenton, which remained on the east-west road from New Bern to Kenansville and points west. By 1861, as shown on the Colton map, railroads had been completed from Beaufort via New Bern and Kinston to Raleigh and from Wilmington via Goldsboro to Weldon and north—bypassing Trenton altogether. This, together with the lessening importance of river traffic, directed commercial growth away from Trenton. It has continued to function steadily as a local market town. Before the Civil War, the plantations produced wheat, oats, rice, rye, corn, peas, and cotton as well as raising cattle, sheep, and hogs. More lately, truck crops and tobacco have been the predominant farm products; lumbering has been the chief nonagricultural industry until recent years, when some manufacturing has come into the country.

Thornton W. Mitchell
Acting Director
Division of Archives
and History
31 May 1974

Town Of Trenton

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On June 2, 1784, an act was passed by the General Assembly for establishing a town to be called Trenton, North Carolina. Seven men were appointed commissioners to buy the land for this purpose. They were Abner Nash, Frederick Hargett, Lewis Bryan, John Bryan, William Randall, John Isler, and Edward Whitty, Esquires. The land for the town was bought from Thomas Webber, Louis Bryan, Henry Smith and Samuel Hill. It was to be divided into half-acre lots and laid out as a town and to be commonly known as the Town of Trenton. The lots were to be balloted for three pounds, requiring that a tenable house or structure be built thereon in a reasonable amount of time, not less than sixteen feet square and with a ten foot pitch. If regulations were not met by the owner, then the lot or lots would be returned to the commissioners. The Town of Trenton was incorporated in 1874.

*Source Jones County Records, 136-139-Jan, 2, 1784
Deed Book D (1784-1787)*

Genealogy begins as an interest,
becomes a hobby,
Continues as an avocation,
takes over as an obsession,
And in its last stages is an
measurable disease.

Amen

History of Jones County
NCR 975 621 LA
Sandra Ippock Reggs

HISTORY OF TRENTON

On June 2, 1784, an act was passed by the General Assembly for establishing a town to be called Trenton, North Carolina. Seven men were appointed commissioners to buy the land for this purpose. They were Abner Nash, Frederick Hargett, Lewis Bryan, John Bryan, William Randall, John Isler, and Edward Whitty, Esquires. The land for the town was bought from Thomas Webber, Louis Bryan, Henry Smith and Samuel Hill. It was to be divided into half-acre lots and laid out as a town and to be commonly known as the town of Trenton. The lots were to be balloted for three pounds, requiring that a tenable house or structure be built thereon in a reasonable square and with a ten foot pitch. If regulations were not met by the owner, then the lot or lots would be returned to the commissioners.

The town of Trenton was incorporated 1874 of about 500 people, and the county seat of Jones County, located on the winding dark brown Trenton River and on the picturesque Brock Mill Pond.

At the time the town was formed in 1784, the old stage coach road from Wilmington to New Bern, through Trenton, was visited by many prominent persons. George Washington, on his southern tour, stopped at the little town on the Trent on April 22, 1791, and he and his entourage had their dinner at a tavern known as "Shingle House." From Trenton, Washington went to Comfort and spent the night at the Shine House. When Alfred F. Hammond got ready to go to Wake Forest College, he went from town to town by stage coach. Other means of early transportation were no railroads in Trenton, so many people went to Cove City (Craven) County, on the A & N. C. "Shoofly" would get off and then ride ten miles in the mailman's buggy to Trenton.

A leisurely stroll through the old town cemetery gives one a sense of the historic beginnings of this old town of Trenton. The corner of the cemetery is where the first town hall or community building was built. It was here that town meetings, church meetings and services, and community functions were first held in Trenton.

Trenton has a well-trained and equipped volunteer fire department and rescue squad. They do a superior job in helping the communities.

The town has a public library, a new and very useful building, to promote and encourage the reading of books and the use of visual aids.

The first bank in Trenton, named Bank of Jones, was organized in 1908. The first directors were John Lowery, J. K. Warren, and Fred W. Foscue. This bank closed during the depression. Today we have the Branch Banking and Trust Company.

The Trenton Woman's Club was built in the 1930's with the W. P. A. and the help of the community. This building has been used beneficially and many enjoyable evenings have been spent in this building by members of the community.

In the 1960's, Quaker Neck Country Club was built and it also has meant a great deal to this community.

The town of Trenton has been entered as a Historic District of the National Register of Historic Places.

Trent River is not navigable for steam boats beyond Trenton, but logging and rafting is done on the river far past Trenton. The bridge over Trent River is just below the warehouse and large boats do not pass the bridge. The tall steamer "Howard" was one of the boats that were used to haul freight up and down Trent River from New Bern to Trenton. The Howard Steamer loaded with cotton, sank three times on one trip from Trenton to New Bern.

The oldest grave in Trenton Cemetery was Christopher Bryan (1785-1827) for man and the oldest grave for a woman was Nancy Askew (1786-1848).

Confederate Soldiers: A. P. McDaniel, Co. E. 3rd N. C. Reg. and L. F. McDaniel, Co. E. 3rd N. C. Reg.

Brock Mill of Trenton has had this name since 1899 when the Brock Family bought the pond. Brock Millpond is listed among other historical places in the National Historical Register. The pond dates back prior to the American Revolution. The original mill site dam was built by slave labor during the 1700's.

The Brocks resumed operation of the mill and added a saw mill, and a cotton gin. The cotton gin was installed in the three-story mill house. The type of gin used the method of pressing the bales of cotton in the press until it would hold no more. The bagging and ties were then placed around the bales.

Cotton was shipped to New Bern on the Howard Steamer and sold to merchants but it was a slow process for the farmers.

This first gin was run by water from the pond. It was a slow method; so a few years later, a steam boiler was installed which furnished power for two steam presses. Then another gin was added. The two gins operated for forty-two years until the boll weevil damaged the cotton; therefore, making cotton production unprofitable. In 1944, the gin was closed and in 1947, it was torn down. In 1917, Furnifold Brock installed a turbine in the mill house. A room was built around the generator. Late in the afternoon, the turbine would be turned on, therefore furnishing Trenton with electricity. After a few years, the franchise was sold to the Tidewater Power Company and later to Carolina Power and Light Company. During the time that electricity was being generated, the mill was still being operated, for the purpose of grinding corn into meal, grits, and the cracking corn.

The grist mill ceased operation in 1964; however, all the machinery is still in place.

On Friday, February 21, 1941, a disastrous fire destroyed a big business block section in Trenton, the worst blaze in the history of Jones County. There were seventeen buildings destroyed and two scorched and for a time the whole business district was threatened. By working together, the men, women and children with the help of the fire department of New Bern, and Kinston helped save the buildings on the other side from burning.

Trenton Elementary School is located on School St. off highway 41, one-half mile from the Trenton town limits. The school is behind the old Trenton Feed Mill and across from Trenton Middle School.

In 1958, Trenton Elementary was built to serve the black children in grades one through eight. Miss Edna Smallwood was the first principal. With intergration, the school became Trenton Primary, grades one through three. Grades four through six were at Trenton Elementary School. Then in 1973, grades four through six joined grades one through three to make the present Trenton Elementary School. Following the retirement of Miss Smallwood in 1975, Mr. Daniel Murrell became the second principal. With his retirement in 1980, Mrs. Lucille Banks Tyndall transferred from Maysville Elementary and continues to serve as principal at Trenton Elementary School.