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JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MR. HARVEY'S BRICK HOUSE: A RELIC OF NEW BERN'S MARITIME HEYDAY

John B. Green III

In 1784 the German traveler Johann David Schoepf toured the crumbling and vandalized governor's palace in New Bern. Describing North Carolina's inability to dispose of the abandoned building, Schoepf noted in his journal that "The state would be glad to sell it, but there is nobody who thinks himself rich enough to live in a brick house" (2, 128-29). This cannot have been literally true for one or two brick residences had probably existed in New Bern prior to the 1790s, though certainly no house as large as the palace had existed. In 1787 William Attmore of Philadelphia confirmed New Bern's overwhelmingly wooden nature, recording that the town contained "about 500 or 600 Houses which are mostly built of Wood" (qtd in Rodman 45). Attmore's remarks echoed the comments made by many visitors to eighteenth century New Bern. Public buildings excepted, New Bernians built even their costliest homes from the cheapest and most readily available material: wood. Yet by the end of the century, at least three large and fine brick residences graced the town. Although wooden buildings would always dominate New Bern's landscape, brick would remain the preferred building material for New Bern's wealthiest citizens for the next 50 years. What brought this change about?

New Bern had been a regional trade center since the early decades of the eighteenth century. But it was not much different from or more important than North Carolina's other river ports—Edenton to the north and Brunswick Town and Wilmington to the south—until its central location won it the position of capital of the colony

in 1765. With the centralization of North Carolina's government at New Bern, a growing stream of merchants, planters, professional men, and artisans soon made New Bern the most prosperous and populous town in the colony.

Drawing on the forest and agricultural resources of a large area of the central coastal plain, and with access to a relatively stable ocean inlet at Ocracoke, New Bern's merchants became active players in the coastal and West Indian shipping trade. This trade would continue to grow and sustain New Bern through the end of colonial rule and into the early decades of the republic. The strength of this trade even allowed New Bern to survive the final removal of state government more than 100 miles inland to Raleigh after 1794. While the town's political influence would gradually decline, its social and economic importance and its wealth would increase through the 1820s. This was the New Bern that John Harvey came to and in which he and a handful of prosperous merchants built houses with an urban scale and refinement previously unknown in North Carolina.

John Harvey was born in Somersetshire, England, in the 1750s (Harvey gravestone). Harvey was living in New Bern by 1797 when he purchased the eastern half of the waterfront of lot 13 on South Front Street where the Harvey Mansion now stands. John Harvey would eventually purchase the waterfront of the adjacent lot 12 which gave him increased access to the Trent River and additional space for structures associated with his shipping and mercantile business. The ca. 1822-24 Price-Fitch Map of New Bern shows a wharf labeled "Harvey" straddling the property line between lots 12 and 13. Of New Bern's two river fronts—the Trent and the Neuse—the Trent had since the mid-eighteenth century been the more commercially important of the two. The 1769 Sauthier map and the Price-Fitch map of 50 years later show the Trent waterfront of the town crowded with buildings and wharves of all sizes.

The first block between Union Point and Craven Street, where the Harvey Mansion stands, and the next block to the west between Craven and Middle streets were long the most densely utilized portion of New Bern's harbor. The two publicly maintained wharves—the "Old County Wharf" and the "New County Wharf"—were located at the foot of Craven Street and the foot of Middle Street respectively. These public wharves were reserved for the unloading and loading of ships bearing goods for merchants and others who did not have access to private wharves. John Harvey thus purchased property within the heart of New Bern's most important commercial district, with private access to the Trent River harbor, and less than half a block from the public wharf on Craven Street.

When John Harvey purchased the eastern half of the waterfront of lot 13 on October 25, 1797, for \$3500, it is possible that the building we know today as the Harvey Mansion was already standing. Harvey purchased the lot from New York City merchant Christopher Lewis Lente, formerly of New Bern. Lente had purchased the lot seven years earlier on May 20, 1790, from Richard Dobbs Spaight for \$750. Whether this substantial increase in value during Lente's ownership indicates that he made significant improvements to the property—the building now known as the Harvey Mansion—or whether this increase merely reflected a greater demand for prime waterfront property is uncertain. In any event, whether John Harvey purchased his house complete or had it built, he thus secured a most remarkable structure to house himself and his business (Craven 27: 233; 33: 93).

John Harvey's brick house belonged to that first group of large Adamesque townhouses built in New Bern in the 1790s. This group included the Isaac Taylor House, built about 1793 and still standing on Craven Street one-half block north of the Harvey Mansion, and the immense Devereux Building (later the Gaston House Hotel), built one block west of the Harvey Mansion ca. 1795-1800 and

destroyed by fire in 1965 when it was the Hotel Governor Tryon. These imposing three-story houses were probably the tallest structures erected in New Bern to that date and may have inspired remarks similar to those made by the itinerant Methodist minister Jeremiah Norman, who visited the town in the fall of 1796 and recorded in his journal a visit to an unidentified New Bern residence.

[M]y mind was tolerably composed while I walked to and fro beholding the Scenes of Life. My guide carried me on the top of the noblest Edfice I have yet seen. There is a sceller three stories & the garret. I walked on winding stairs through the first second & third stories, passed through the garret and out at the top of the Building. There on a banistered platform walked from End to end of the structure. There is a large prospect of Newbern situate in fork of Neuse & Trent Rivers. When I had come here & taken all my views, it occurred to my mind the saying of the Indians, White men build great & fine Houses as if they were to Live allways, but White men must Die as well as Red men. While this passed I Looked Down on the Lime Kiln. There I beheld the possessor of all These [things] working on the top of ye kiln (307).

Another house which probably belonged to this group was the residence of merchant James McKinlay. This long-gone structure, which stood one-half block west of the Devereux Building on the northwest corner of South Front and Middle streets, is today known primarily from information found in James McKinlay's estate inventory of 1819. The house was again three full stories tall with a garret or attic level above. The garret contained two rooms and each lower floor had three rooms and a stair hall. McKinlay's house sported "piazzas", expensive and elaborate furnishings, and a separate kitchen and "Counting room" or office for Mr. McKinlay. Two recently discovered, signed architectural drawings indicate that

some of the interior woodwork was designed by prominent New Bern builder John Dewey. A visitor calling on Mrs. McKinlay in 1824 breathlessly reported that "her house is like a palace, she has the most splendid drawing room I ever beheld, quite new and the latest fashion, she told us the furniture of that room cost 1500 doll[ar]s, it almost surpasses description and to grace the room in a peculiar manner her portrait is on one side and Miss M. Jones's is on the other" (McKinlay; Dewey; Lemmon II: 51).

Although we do not know whether the McKinlay House was built of brick, the other three houses in this group were. To build a very large house in brick was obviously a sign of wealth and social standing. That John Harvey chose brick over wood probably indicates that he wanted a grand residence. But it may also have indicated a certain practicality, considering the location Harvey selected for his home and business. New Bern's crowded, mostly frame, waterfront buildings were always in danger of being washed away or burned to the ground.

The horrific hurricane of 1769 had scoured the Trent and Neuse waterfronts. Stores and houses were "undermined with the washing of the waves and tumbled done and broke to Pieces and scattered along the Shore" and ships were "stove to Pieces" at the wharves or driven far onto land. Other powerful hurricanes would strike the area in 1795, 1802, 1815, 1821, and 1825.

The other great danger—fire—tended to level New Bern's commercial and waterfront districts with depressing regularity. The great fire of 1791 began in a house on the county wharf at the foot of Craven Street and raged up and down Craven and South Front streets, possibly burning over the future site of the Harvey Mansion. "Sixty-three houses were destroyed, as well as an immense quantity of goods. The loss sustained on this occasion amounts to upward of one hundred thousand pounds." Small wonder that John Harvey chose a strong

brick house with a fire-proof slate roof (Powell II: 362; Stick 79; Barnes 36; Knoxville).

Whereas most New Bern merchants maintained freestanding warehouses separate from their homes, John Harvey combined warehouse, office, and residence in one building. Mr. Harvey's brick house was a broad and deep five-bay structure, essentially a double townhouse, divided through the middle at ground level by a brick-arched, open passage or drive wide enough for a carriage or wagon. The eastern half of the building served as a fine residence. The western half served as a warehouse and office, its oversized and closely spaced floor joists providing the extra strength needed to support heavy and tightly packed goods. The open wagon passage had been an absolute necessity when the house was constructed, for the Harvey Mansion took up the entire 53-foot width of the lot. The passage provided the only land access to Mr. Harvey's wharf to the rear of the house. Only when he later purchased part of the adjacent lot would John Harvey have additional access to the waterfront. The larger Devereux building in the next block also had a central wagon passage, and like the Harvey mansion, appears to have combined residential and commercial spaces.

John Harvey's social and economic position in New Bern can be inferred from a number of things. His ability to purchase some of what must have been New Bern's most valuable real estate and live in one of the largest and finest houses ever erected in the town is ample evidence of his success as a merchant and shipper. An indirect indication of John Harvey's wealth and social position is found in the 1808 marriage of Harvey's daughter Elizabeth to James Green Stanly, a son of John Wright Stanly—at one time New Bern's wealthiest merchant. Like most of the town's influential citizens, John Harvey was a member of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 3 and contributed toward the construction of the lodge building. Harvey was a director of the Newbern Marine Insurance Company incorporated in 1804 and of the Bank of Newbern which

first opened its doors in 1805 (Neal I: 475; Carraway 64a, 222; Watson 135, 138).

When a vacancy occurred on the town board of commissioners in July 1807, John Harvey was appointed to fill the position. Harvey would serve as a commissioner of the Town of New Bern from 1807 to 1808 and again from 1814 to 1815. Among other duties Harvey served as one of three town tax assessors in 1808. John Harvey's first brush with civic duty, though, had actually come some years earlier. On May 21, 1799, the town commissioners, faced with the perennial problem of keeping the public wells and pumps clean and in good repair, ordered that,

the several pumps in the Town be placed under the care of some Gentleman living near them, who are hereby empowered to employ proper persons to repair the same when necessary, which repairs shall be paid for by the Commissioners the account of the same being proved.

The pump "in Craven Street near Jn^o Harvey" was duly placed "under the care of Jn^o Harvey". John Harvey's reaction to this high appointment is not recorded. Likewise, when in February 1804, it was made known to the board of commissioners,

that public wharves erected at the East end of Front Street on Union point, and at the South end of Handcock Street on Trent River, would be of great use to the Citizens of this Town, and that many persons are willing to Contribute Considerable Sums toward Such an undertaking—

the commission appointed John Harvey, George Ellis and John Justice "agents for Union point to Solicit Subscriptions, receive the money and carry on Said work according to their own judgment". John Harvey would continue to be actively engaged in the civic and

commercial life of New Bern until his death in 1828 (New Bern; Harvey).

John Harvey had arrived in New Bern at the beginning of the port's greatest period of prosperity and had established his family and business in one of the largest and probably the most expensive private structures erected during New Bern's maritime heyday. The Harvey Mansion would remain in the family until the 1870s. It thereafter served variously as a private residence, a military academy, a boarding house, and an apartment building. An insurance map of New Bern prepared by the Sanborn Map Company in 1931 provides us with our last glimpse of the town's once vibrant waterfront. Although the buildings still stood, the district was rapidly falling silent in the grip of the Great Depression and modern times. Of the more than 200 stores, warehouses, packing houses, shipyards, saw and grist mills, residences, and wharves standing at that time along the Trent River from Bern Street east to Union Point and along the Neuse River from Union Point north to Broad Street, only *two* still stand today—the Thomas Sparrow House on the Neuse and John Harvey's brick house on the Trent.

Though it seems to stand today lost and alone amid modern buildings, the Harvey Mansion is once again serving its original purpose as business and residence. It remains as an imposing and remarkable relic of New Bern's maritime history.

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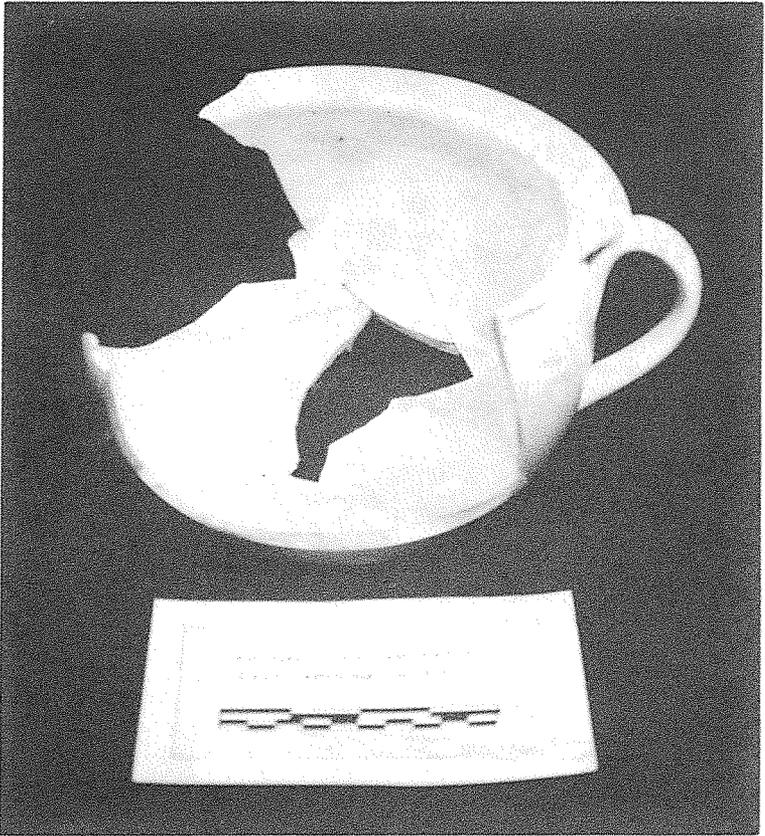
NEW BERN ARCHAEOLOGY: DIGGING UP THE PAST

Thomas E. Beaman, Jr.

Introduction by Richard Lore
Photographs by Carolyn Züttel

The artifacts described on the following pages are typical of those which can be found whenever one digs into the ground in New Bern. These buried remnants from the past are particularly common throughout all of the old waterfront area of New Bern. The items presented here were collected by Mrs. Carolyn Züttel at a small construction site in the vicinity of the Harvey Mansion.

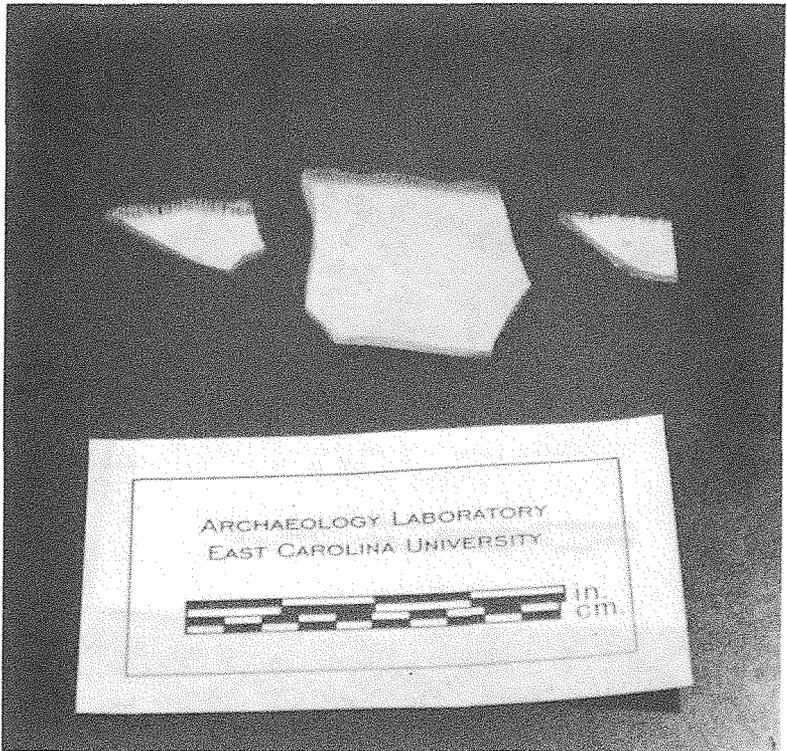
Excavation of these old objects represents only the first phase in their treatment. To be of historic value, they must be cleaned, identified, and placed into proper historic context. In eastern North Carolina we are fortunate to have the expertise of Dr. Charles Ewen and the staff of the Phelps Archaeology Laboratory at East Carolina University. Professor Ewen and his students do not mind getting their hands dirty, and they have a great deal of archaeological field experience in the New Bern area. Hence, if you unearth some interesting but mysterious object while planting collards or setting a fence post, call Dr. Ewen or members of his staff for help identifying it.



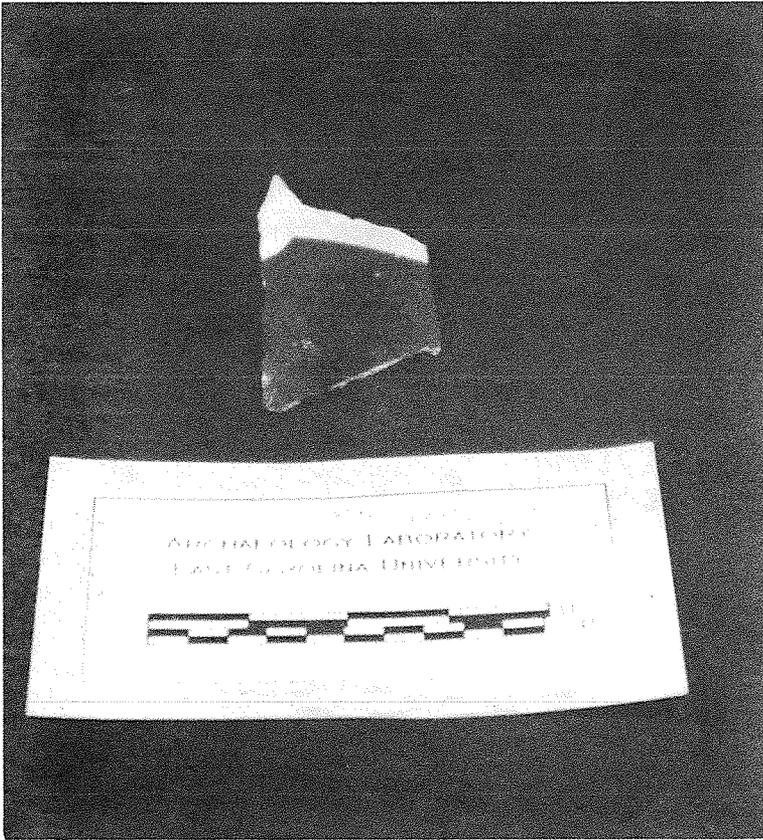
Cream ware chamber pot. Cream ware chamber pots similar to this one would have been very common to households in New Bern during the late 1700s and early 1800s. This style of chamber pot would have fit on a shelf under a specially designed chair seat with a hole cut into it. Once used, the pot would be inconspicuously emptied, probably out a back window into the yard. The chamber pot would then be returned to the chair, ready for use again!



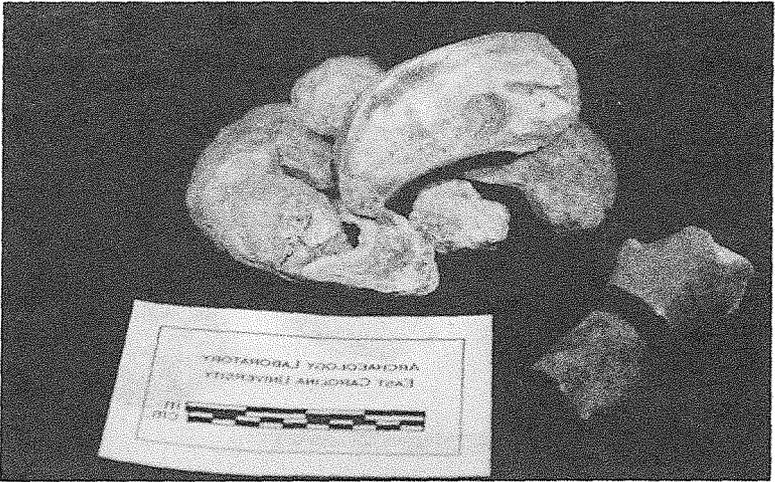
Cream ware and pearl ware as porcelain imitate. Imported Chinese porcelain was the most expensive and desired ceramic in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. English potter Josiah Wedgwood experimented with various glazes on refined earthenwares in an attempt to reproduce inexpensive dishes that resembled Chinese porcelain. His experimentation led to the production of cream ware and pearl ware. Cream ware began being produced around 1760 and appeared yellowish in tint because of the copper added to the glaze. Pearl ware was not produced until about 1780 and appeared bluish in hue due to the addition of cobalt. These two types of ceramic were very popular in England and in America and represent the first mass produced ceramic that both the wealthy and the not-so-wealthy could afford.



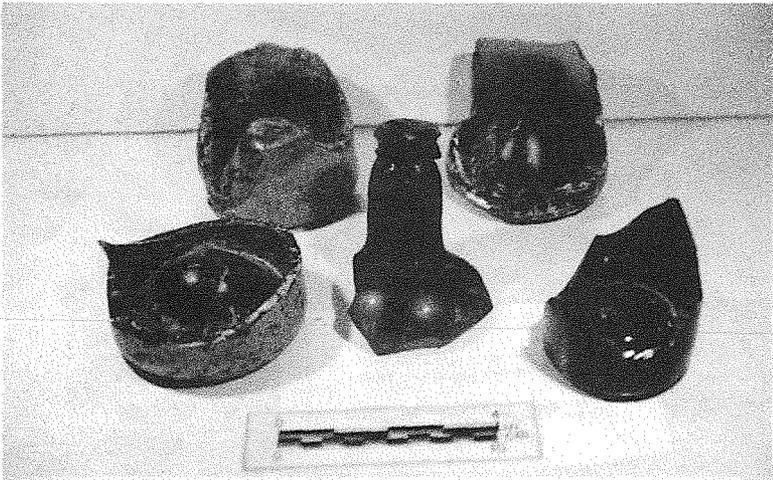
Edged ware. Shell edging was one of the more common decorative techniques of early nineteenth century plates and platters. The edges of these pieces were molded to look like the serrated edge of a clam shell, then the rims were painted for additional decoration. Blue was the color most often used to decorate shell edged wares, but sometimes green, red, and purple painted edges are seen. Shell edged wares were so affordable and widely used in America that archaeologists George Miller and Robert Hunter have referred to them as “the Corelle ware of the nineteenth century”.



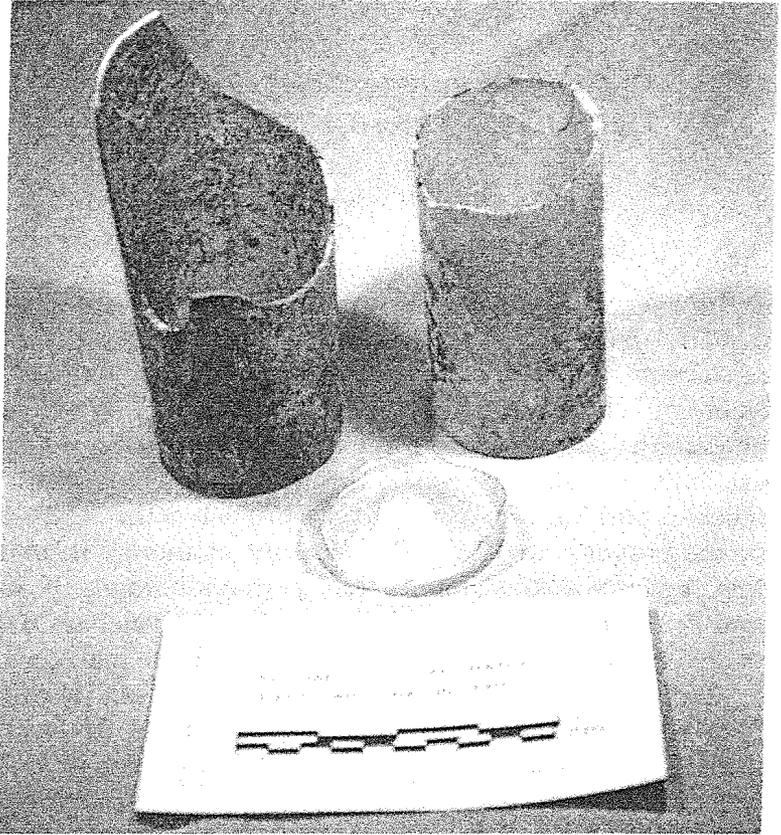
Mocha ware. An interesting decorative trend in early nineteenth century ceramics was to take mugs, jugs, and bowls, and decorate them with colored annular bands, usually in either blue or earth tones. On these bands, a tree-like design was painted. The paint for this dendritic design was created from a mixture of tobacco juice and stale urine! These designs appeared on both cream wares and pearl wares and is referred to as mocha ware.



Dietary practices. Surf and turf is not only a popular menu item in restaurants today, but was a popular dish in eighteenth and nineteenth century New Bern as well. These long bone pieces of a cow exhibit cutting or sawing marks, indicating that people butchered the cow with the thought of having beef for dinner. The oyster shells could have been harvested from the Trent River, the Neuse River, or the nearby Pamlico Sound. After eating the oyster an interesting thing many people did with the shells was to use them to line walkways within their gardens.



Black glass. Thick, black glass on eighteenth and nineteenth century archaeological sites is usually the remains of handblown bottles. Upon closer examination, the “black” glass is actually dark olive green. Round bottles might have originally contained wine but were often reused to store liquids and as containers for preserving small fruits, such as cherries. Square bottles of the dark olive glass, called “case bottles”, were designed specifically to fit in a traveler’s case and would most likely have held gin or other liquors.



The cost of antiquity. Part of how an archaeologist looks at a site is based on the material remains of what he or she finds. Unfortunately, as time passes, more fragile artifacts are lost due to decay. While these bottles may look old, their exterior covering, or "patina", is breaking down because of being hidden in the ground for so long. Fortunately, these bottles were found before they dissolved away . . . but how many others weren't found?

PAST TO PRESENT OWNERS OF HARVEY MANSION PROPERTY

Gordon Ruckart

To discover who owned a property and when is the goal of many old house researchers. Unfortunately the first transactions were not always recorded, or, if so, were lost. Records for the Harvey Mansion site begin in 1790 when the eastern half of lot 13, the parcel on which the house was built, was sold for \$750. The next transaction clearly indicates that John Harvey paid the princely sum of \$3500 for the property in 1797. This amount of money in that time suggests a substantial value, perhaps because of an improved wharf, a warehouse, or even a residence on the lot. On this speculation we may never know the real story.

Early plans for lots in the Town of New Bern labeled the street running along the two river fronts as Front Street. Lot 1 was at the southeast corner of Broad and Front streets. The numbers ran south from there, turning west at the Union Point corner, lot 9, to lot 14 at Craven Street. Lot 15 was across Craven Street, and the numbers went up along the street all the way to lot 54 at End Street (the end of town).

To help distinguish the river front street, people soon used Front and South Front as labels, and often South Front became Water Street. End Street is now known as First Street, South Front is Tryon Palace Drive, and East Front officially became East Front Street.

Richard Dobbs Spaight Sr.¹ owned lots 12, 13, and 14. A safe assumption is that Spaight inherited these lots from his father or acquired them through his marriage to Elizabeth Wilson, the daughter of "Madame Moore" (whose husbands were Frederick Jones, William Wilson, and

Roger Moore). Might one suppose this waterfront spot was the landing for the boats bringing Mrs. Moore and the Spaight's across the Trent from their Clermont Plantation? It would have put them ashore at the center of town.

Lots on Front Street consisted of two parts: the lot, or portion on the town side of the street, and the "front" of the lot, that portion on the waterside of Front Street. Because of the greater value of waterfront property, this portion was usually sold off first. The sellers of the South Front Street lots tended to divide the fronts of the lots, first from north to south, then east to west. We therefore see descriptions reading "half of the front", which meant the street frontage was divided in half, and the half lot ran from street to river, creating two half lots of a single numbered lot, in addition to the town side lot, across the street, which also may have been divided. Later a half "front" of the lot was often divided, creating a river front lot, a south street-front lot, and a north street-front lot, all of the same number. Further discussion here refers only to the front portions of the lots.

To trace the divisions of the Spaight properties on South Front Street and the exchanges of these divisions—and determine what really happened—is a daunting task. Suffice it to say that the Spaight family held interests in these lots to at least 1853 when the March Term of the Court of Pleas recorded a division of Richard Spaight Jr.'s estate into five parts. South Front Street parts included the western half of lot 13 and parcels of lot 14. Since he never married, his estate went to his sisters' children.

Because deed transactions concerning the Harvey Mansion site revolve around both lots 12 and 13 (for instance, a slice of lot 12 was carved out and annexed to lot 13 to provide an alley access to the rear when it was sold separately), we include here a tracing of both lots.

We can see in Craven Deed Book 24, p. 336, that Richard Dobbs Spaight Sr. sold lot 12 to Richard Ellis in 1781. In January 1790, Spaight sold the western half of the front of lot 13 to Edward Tinker for 250 pounds; the frontage

was 53 feet and 7½ inches, running back to the river channel (Craven 27: 190). In May 1790, Spaight sold the eastern half of lot 13 to Christopher Lewis Lente for 750 "Spanish milled dollars". This parcel measured the same (Craven 27: 223) and became the site for the brick building we know as the Harvey Mansion.²

Tinker got into debt trouble, and on March 18, 1796, Sheriff William Good Sr. Seized the western half of lot 13 and entered the high bid of 60 pounds, 18 shillings, and 5 pence for the parcel (Craven 32: 495). On June 17, Good conveyed to Harris Tinker and William Tinker, sons of Edward Tinker, and their mother Sarah Rayer this same parcel (Craven 32: 581). Harris Tinker sold the above parcel to Pierre Brugman on June 14, 1820, for \$2175, and Brugman sold it to Moses Jarvis Jr. the next day for \$3000 (Craven 42: 53, 54). By 1829 Jarvis was deep in debt; he made an agreement with the State Bank of North Carolina that gave the bank most of his holdings, which included the lot 13 parcel and part of lot 15 where he operated a store, to pay off \$5362 of his debt to the bank (Craven 46: 465 and 47: 270).

On October 25, 1797, Christopher Lewis Lente of New York City and his wife Dorothea Barbara sold the eastern half of lot 13, for which they had paid \$750 in 1790, to John Harvey for \$3500 (Craven 33: 93). The deed described the parcel as beginning at the northeast corner of lot 12, running west 53 feet 7½ inches to the western half of the said front, then south to the river channel, then east the same measure, then to South Front Street and the beginning, containing one-half of lot 13.

John Harvey acquired from the estate of George Ellis, heir of Richard Ellis, in 1803 a 10-foot strip off lot 12 for \$740 to add to his lot 13. In 1809 he bought from Ellis heirs the remainder of lot 12 (Craven 36: 521 and 37: 23, 708) for 3300 pounds. These deeds described the property as beginning at the northwest corner of lot 11, running west along Front Street 77 feet 3½ inches to Harvey's easternmost corner, then south along the east side of Harvey's lot

and parallel with Craven Street to the river channel, then the same measure to the west side of lot 11, then to the beginning. The property was the same as that purchased by Richard Ellis from Richard Spaight on February 28, 1781, descended from Richard Ellis to George Ellis at a courthouse sale on January 11, 1803, then descended to heirs of George Ellis, and now sold at public auction by Sheriff Reuben P. Jones to John Harvey. With this purchase, John Harvey now owned all of lot 12 and half of lot 13.

Before his death in 1828 John Harvey appointed James G. Stanly his power of attorney. Stanly was his son-in-law, married to daughter Eliza Harvey. Interestingly, John Harvey died intestate. He left his widow Mary with large debts, owed banks and others, with small debts due him. One of the items Mary Harvey sold was his schooner named the Tillman to Capt. Richard Fisher for \$5.25.

On one summation page in Harvey's estate papers, the debts totaled more than \$18,000, which after paid left Mary with \$863.85. Through court decisions for and against the estate, Mary tried to manage the debts but in 1829 sought the help of Sheriff Elijah Clark. Her two sons John Jr. and Henry were entangled in financial arrangements with their father and others and soon decided to release their interests in the estate to their mother (Craven 46: 111, 372, 392, 415).

When Mary and her daughter Mary Jr. and granddaughter Julia petitioned the court to assign John's property, the court gave Mary parts of lots 12 and 13; Julia received lot 61 (which was the very large corner lot at the southwest corner of Craven and Broad streets) and part of lot 12 (20-foot frontage on South Front Street); and Mary Jr. received the "residue" of lot 12 which amounted to 53 feet 10½ inches fronting on South Front Street (Craven 47: 393, October 26, 1830). All their Front Street parcels ran to river channel.

On August 6, 1833, Mary Harvey Sr. gave her property on South Front Street to Mary Jr. and Julia Harvey (Craven 50: 4).³

Another division of the two lots occurred in 1866. Mary Jr. and her brother John Jr. employed Alonzo T. Jerkins and Charles Slover to draw up two parcels. One parcel included the house, the kitchen, and a shed; the second parcel included an annexed portion of lot 12, the alleyway access from the street to the rear, and a warehouse and two sheds (Craven 67: 302). Mary Jr. got the house parcel on Front Street and John Jr. got the rear, river front parcel and alley.

On July 9, 1897, Miss Mary E. Harvey of Green County sold her property on South Front Street to John W. Stewart of Craven County for \$2000 (Craven 122: 496). To correct an error, a new deed was drawn the next month (Craven 123: 367). In this deed John Jr.'s heirs are listed as Susan (Best), John, Thomas, and Alice (Herring).

In the meantime the rear half of lot 13 and the alleyway were purchased by Edward K. Bishop (Craven 131: 200). This last transaction left the Harvey House property delineated to approximately what it is today, the front half of the original lot 13.

The heirs of James W. Stewart sold the Harvey House property to Lelia Styron on March 27, 1937, who two days later deeded the property to W. S. and Maude S. Howell of Cook County, Ill. The Stewart heirs included Maude; others were his widow Sarah C., Jane P., Sarah L., Katherine (Fowles), and James (Craven 328: 196, 198). By now the parcel is described as having a 54-foot 9-inch frontage on South Front Street and being 108 feet back on the east side and 143 feet back on the west side.

The Howells, then of Union, N. J., sold the property to Raymond L. and Gertrude Barrus Henderson, Sr., on May 9, 1942 (Craven 359: 287; see also Craven 371: 69 and 373: 198). The property became known as the Harvey-Henderson House for the next 20+ years.

The Hendersons were in possession of the property when the Central Waterfront Urban Renewal Project came along. The project formally began with the federal award on June 27, 1969, and ran until September 8, 1978. All

properties in the designated renewal area were acquired, and most all except the Harvey House were demolished. The Hendersons sold the property to the government which in turn, on October 3, 1979, sold it at auction to Robert E. and Cora J. Clark (Craven 945: 433). Bob and Coral, as they were known by their friends, converted the building to a restaurant with residential space on the third floor.

The Clarks sold the Harvey House to Beat Bernhard and Carolyn Hetzer Züttel on September 13, 1991 (Craven 1295: 193). As of this writing (September 1997), the grand old building continues to function as a restaurant and, just recently, with space to accommodate a limited number of overnight guests.

NOTES

¹ Richard Spaight (1730-1763), son of George and Margaret Dobbs Spaight, was born in Carrickfurgus, Ireland. He arrived in the colony with his uncle Arthur Dobbs (1689-1765) from Ayrshire, Scotland, who became colonial governor of North Carolina Wilson in 1756. She was the daughter of Col. William and Mary Vail Jones Wilson (1705-1764), who was later to marry "King" Roger Moore of Orton Plantation in Brunswick County and be come known as "Madame Moore".

Their son Richard Dobbs Spaight (1758-1802) married Mary Jones Leech (1765-1810) in 1788. Their children were William Wilson (1794-1812), Richard Jr. (1796-1850), Charles George (1798-1831), and Margaret Elizabeth (1800-1831). Margaret was the only child to marry (Judge John Robert Donnell) and produce heirs.

Richard Dobbs Spaight Sr. died after a duel with John Stanly held outside St. John's Masonic Lodge on September 5, 1802. He had had a distinguished career as governor, congressman, Signer of the Constitution, a vestryman of Christ Church,

and a director of the New Bern Academy and the University of North Carolina. Spaight Jr. followed in his father's footsteps, also serving a term as governor of the state.

² Christopher Lewis Lente was a successful merchant in East India trade. His wife was Maria Fredericka Devereaux. Their son became a prominent New York medical doctor and surgeon. Frederick Devereaux Lente received his A. B. in 1845 and his A. M. in 1848 from the University of North Carolina, and his M. D. from the University Medical College of New York in 1849. He pioneered treatment for victims of sunstroke, invented tools for use by gynecologists, and was founder and first president of the American Academy of Medicine. He married Mary Kemble of New York City in 1852; he died and was buried in Cold Springs, N. Y.

³ Edward Tinker married Sarah Rayer in 1778, in a legal ceremony, without having a legal divorce from his first wife.

⁴ The George Ellis heirs were John, Thomas, Samuel, Ammaryllis, and Aritta.

⁵ In John Harvey's estate papers, heirs (in addition to wife Mary, his administratrix) are shown as John Jr., Henry, Mary Jr., Julia, James G. Stanly and wife Eliza (Elisa) ("of whom the said Julia Harvey is an infant by Mary Harvey, Jr."), her guardian. An infant was defined then as under age 18. Mary Jr. apparently never married, for later records list her as Miss Mary Elizabeth Harvey of Green County.

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MY TIMES AS A DOCENT IN THE HARVEY MANSION

Kirby H. Smith III, Esq.

Growing up in New Bern in the 1970s and spending a significant portion of my life in and around its old homes, I became intensely fascinated by them, based on their grandeur and the dreams of the luxurious lifestyles that they must have supported. As a result I was captivated by any home called a mansion.

In the early 1970s old New Bern homes were being torn down for parking lots and newer buildings. Many were in a terrible state of disrepair. The Harvey Mansion was one of these. It had been turned into an apartment building which was abandoned in my earliest memories. The mansion looked surprisingly similar to the way it does today, down to its white walls with the exception that a porch had been added to the back of the building for each apartment. These porches covered most of the Trent River (south) side of the building on all three floors.

I first remember seeing the Harvey Mansion with those porches slowly pulling away from the building. Crossing the Trent River coming into New Bern to visit my grandmother, it was clear the mansion was abandoned. My grandmother lived in downtown New Bern, and as I got older I began to explore the area. These adventures led to the Harvey Mansion.

I had seen pictures of its ornate woodwork in my family's scrapbooks and in old New Bern guide books. Due to my childhood curiosity, I felt compelled to get inside to explore and see this large "mansion" for myself. Today I cannot remember how I managed to get inside, but I did, and I did not have to break anything to do it. I

found myself in the west stairway, which is now used for the restaurant staff. As I climbed the stairs, I discovered that many of the doors off the stairway were locked. Undaunted, I continued to climb up the stairs until eventually I came to the attic. I had snuck into the mansion in the middle of the afternoon, and the attic then had no windows, as today. There was, however, a tremendous amount of light coming through a gaping hole in the roof. I was amazed at what I saw: pigeons everywhere! I had seen pictures of pigeons in large cities but never in eastern North Carolina, yet here I stood in what looked like a pigeon roost.

Gingerly I walked across the attic, making sure that I stepped on sound footing. Once on the other side of the attic, I left by going down the eastern stairway, which is the one used today by the public. As I went down the stairs, I found that again most of the doors were locked. I did not mind though, because there was very little light with which to see. When I got downstairs, I quickly made my way out of the building and returned to my grandmother's house.

I never had the opportunity that day to see any of the ornate woodwork, still I was content with my adventure. I had explored a mansion, a three-story home with two staircases and four chimneys. It is something that I have never forgotten.

Around 1979 restoration of the Harvey Mansion was begun, and the partially restored home was put on the 1980 Spring Historic Homes Tour. I was a Boy Scout with Troop 13. As part of our civic duty, our scout troop had volunteered our services, primarily to act as guides in the homes to ensure that the visitors found their way around. As one of the older scouts, I had my choice of assignments, and I chose to work at the Harvey Mansion.

Tours of the Harvey Mansion were given to demonstrate how an old house is restored. The public was allowed to view rooms only from the east stairway. I man-

aged, however, to learn much more. After hearing another person give a tour, I took it upon myself to give tours also, using his information.

I learned that the mansion is symmetrical and that the eastern side of the mansion with all of the ornate woodwork was designed to be Mr. Harvey's residence, while the plain western side was his office and warehouse. The main hall with its large arched doorway was designed as a breezeway allowing Mr. Harvey to ride his carriage through the mansion and unload merchandise protected from bad weather.

In addition, the Harvey Mansion was designed with closets. This is truly unique because early American homes were taxed not by their size, but by the quantity of rooms. Closets were considered rooms, so only the wealthy could afford them.

Most people on the tour came to admire the woodwork, notably in the ballroom. Since the mansion was being restored, many people were also interested to see the plaster walls, which had numerous holes exposing individual one-inch-wide wooden slats over which the plaster was spread.

Every old home holds its secrets, and I am always interested in learning about them and sharing with others the stories and facts I have learned. However, until I agreed to write this article I have never told anyone about my uninvited tour of the Harvey Mansion. I hope my family understands. I am fortunate to have a supportive family who nurtured my thirst for knowledge and endured my curiosity.

THE HARVEY MANSION: AN ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT OF NEW BERN'S PAST

Paul F. Stephens, AIA

The Harvey Mansion is a lonely survivor of New Bern's late eighteenth and early nineteenth century seaport heritage. In its architecture one can find a tangible connection to the far-flung trade of early New Bern. Built between 1797 and 1800 by John Harvey (Green 100) as both a residence and a mercantile house and warehouse, the Harvey Mansion provides an insight into the life of a successful trader and the society in which he lived. The refinements of the Adamesque Federal style architecture of the house speak of a sophisticated and wealthy family, conscious of its place in society and aware of the fashions of the world beyond.

Harvey's residence occupied the eastern two-thirds of the building with the exception of a central carriageway at the first-floor level. The carriageway passed through the building to provide street access to the rear yard and its additional warehouses and wharf at the waterfront. The use of a drive-through passage such as this allowed a more efficient use of Mr. Harvey's waterfront property, a valuable piece of real estate even in that time. The arched opening of the carriageway, long since removed from the front elevation, still exists on the rear or south elevation of the building.

Flanking the arched opening of the carriageway on the street elevation were the original pedimented entrances providing access to the Harvey residence on the east side and the mercantile house and warehouse on the west side. Both doors are now gone, the access to the

house now being located on the south elevation through the remaining arched entry of the carriageway. The "ghosts" of these two doorways are clearly visible in a circa 1940 photograph of the mansion seen in Peter Sandbeck's *The Historic Architecture of New Bern and Craven County, North Carolina* (Sandbeck 57). These pedimented entrances were in all probability similar to the surviving doorway on the Isaac Taylor House on Craven Street, a house which also once had separate mercantile and residential entrances. While the detailing of these two doorways can only be guessed at, the quality of the remaining interior woodwork of John Harvey's residence leads one to assume that they were very fine indeed.

Examining the building evidence and reviewing plans included in Sandbeck's *The Historic Architecture of New Bern* (58) provides some valuable insight into the original layout of the house. To the east side of the carriageway at the basement level were two rooms. The southeast corner room appears to have been the original kitchen with its large cook fireplace. While the first floor plan has been substantially altered, much of the second floor remains. As was the case in many of the Federal style houses of New Bern's prosperous merchants the finest room of the house was located on the second floor. Entering through the residential entrance, the drawing room was reached by an ell-shaped, or dogleg hall which turned to the east and ended at the foot of a handsome surviving Federal style stair which in turn led to a central cross hall on the second floor.

Located in the southeast corner of the second floor and extending for three bays of the five-bay structure is the well-appointed drawing room. Occupying the east wall is the fine Adamesque mantel embellished with composition ornaments. The mantel consists of a frieze topped with carved dentils and a row of gouge work on which rests the molded shelf. This entablature rests on a pair of fluted colonettes with reversed tapers. The mantel is strongly recalled in the trabeated door and window sur-

rounds of the room though the pilasters of these features, while fluted, have no taper. The woodwork of the room is completed by a handsome low paneled wainscot and an exceptional cornice carved in wood. Taken in its entirety the drawing room presents the Harveys as a prosperous family aware of the refinements of fashion and able to afford themselves of the best in craftsmanship. From the size of the room it would seem that the Harveys were active in the social life of the times as a room such as this was typically meant to host an array of parties and social gatherings.

While much survives, several early and significant features of the Harvey Mansion have been altered or lost. Though the previously noted changes to the entrances to the house have changed the outward appearance of the building, another even more significant change to the Harvey Mansion occurred within a relatively short time of the construction of the house. Many people are surprised to learn that the Harvey Mansion was originally constructed with a low slope roof more commonly referred to as a "flat roof". This roof would likely have been made of sheet lead and concealed from view by a low masonry parapet. This attempt to provide a stylish urban look was doomed from the start given New Bern's summer temperatures and the tendency of lead to "creep" downhill if sufficiently warmed. Fragments of the framing and built-in gutters of this roof survive in the present attic.

Associated with this "flat roof" is an original skylight located directly over the stair. The skylight has survived remarkably intact due to its being protected by the new gable roof. Forming the sloped "roof" of a small penthouse constructed for roof access at the top of the stairs, the skylight was created by installing a wood window sash in which the horizontal muntins were omitted. In this way the glass could be installed lapped in the manner of shingles so that water would run off. An unusual though not rare feature in period houses, the skylight like the flat roof represents the efforts of Mr. Harvey to incor-



THE HARVEY MANSION, CA. 1940. Documentary photo furnished by Gertrude Henderson

porate into his new house stylish or popular features found in more urban areas.

Ironically, the most obvious loss suffered by the Harvey Mansion, the direct connection to the waterfront, is also the least noticed. The very source of wealth that had made possible and sustained the Harvey Mansion was lost along with New Bern's coastal trade. Now even the waterfront has receded so that the Harvey Mansion appears little different from New Bern's other townhouses of the period. To recapture this lost heritage one must envision not the quiet domestic backyard of kitchen garden, smoke house and woodshed, though they may have existed. Rather, one should see a yard of commerce and trade with warehouse, storehouse, and wharf, a place of activity with the unloading and loading of ships and wagons, the inspection and inventory of goods, of packing and unpacking of goods for sale or resale. Though gone now this connection with New Bern's past as a port town is truly one of the most significant aspects of the Harvey Mansion.

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OCCUPANCY OF THE HARVEY MANSION
BY CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1966-1972

Lewis S. Redd

On July 1, 1965, the North Carolina General Assembly issued a charter creating the Craven Industrial Education Center, a unit of Lenoir County Community College. Upon issuance of the charter an Advisory Board composed of local citizens was appointed. Their first duty was to employ a director for the center and to find appropriate space for operating. Under the existing state laws each extension unit was controlled directly by the local county commissioners, the local school board, and the board of trustees of the sponsoring institution. Prior to the issuance of the charter a group of citizens, under the leadership of then Superintendent of Craven County Schools Robert L. Pugh, had initiated a local study to document the need for an adult vocational education center. Superintendent Pugh assigned that task to Thurman E. Brock, who was vocational director for the county schools. When the Advisory Board undertook the task of selecting a director, they unanimously agreed that no one was in a better position to lead this new organization than Thurman Brock, who had spent the previous year developing the study. Consequently, he was appointed as the first director.

Lenoir County Community College was already conducting a licensed practical nursing program in cooperation with Craven County Hospital, and supervision of the program was transferred from the Community College to the new Craven IEC in its first year of operation. In order to house both the administrative offices of the IEC and the nursing program, the Advisory Board with the cooperation of Craven County secured the third floor (the operat-

ing rooms) of what was St. Luke's Hospital at the corner of Broad and George streets. Director Brock then set about employing the staff. He hired secretary/bookkeeper Kathleen Tyndall, and he, Mrs. Tyndall, and nursing teacher Maxine Cliatt moved into the third floor of the hospital building to begin operations on July 1, 1965.

During the previous year Brock had also been setting up numerous adult education courses throughout the county. These courses were in the fields of typing, welding, adult basic education, and adult high school education. Most were conducted at night using public school facilities. During the fall of that year I was employed on a part-time basis to help with the visitation and supervision of these nighttime courses. I was teaching industrial arts at New Bern High School then. My job for Director Brock was to deliver educational materials, collect teacher reports, and conduct testing for evening adult students. In the spring of 1966 I joined Director Brock on a full-time basis as Director of Extension, supervising an evolving adult education program throughout the county.

It was certainly obvious to the Advisory Board as well as to Brock that, if the school was going to expand to full-time programs of a vocational educational nature for adults of Craven County, it would need more than three rooms. Brock and the Advisory Board looked for larger quarters to house the growing curriculum. The long-range goal of the board was the creation of an independent technical institute to serve Craven County. Such an endeavor would mandate a permanent campus, but that was farther down the road. So the search in 1966 was for larger temporary accommodations.

About the time I joined the staff full-time, arrangements were made to rent the four-story Henderson House Apartments or Harvey Mansion at 221 Tryon Palace Drive in addition to a two-story duplex located on the rear of the property. Other arrangements were made for the new school to occupy the Leona Tolson Elementary School located in the Croatan vicinity on Highway 70 just west of

the Croatan Presbyterian Church. On or about June 1, 1966, we moved what was then a very small organization into the facilities mentioned above. In the Croatan school we located a machinist program, drafting program, physics lab and welding shop. On Tryon Palace Drive we located the already existing licensed practical nursing program on the third floor of the apartment building. The second floor was allocated for new courses in business administration and secretarial science, and the first floor became the first adult learning lab and the beginnings of our library. Administrative offices moved into the two-story duplex in the backyard.

Adapting the Henderson Apartments for our use required some renovation. Needless to say, the new IEC had little money to hire professionals, so most of the renovations were accomplished by the administrative staff using hammers and saws. Some students who were then enrolled in a short-term carpentry program helped. Prior to our taking occupancy, the Henderson House was divided into six apartments—two on each of the three floors—in addition to two apartments in the backyard duplex. Only two apartments were occupied, however, when the IEC concluded the lease agreement.

One of the first things to be done was cutting doorways on each floor to allow traffic to flow from one side of the building to the other. The next thing was to install heat; open-flame gas heaters were chosen for each classroom as the most economical solution. The job of painting the outside of the structure was left to professionals, but the staff agreed to paint the inside. The final task was the introduction of fluorescent lighting and numerous electrical receptacles for business machines, audiovisual projectors, and other educational equipment.

The original kitchen for the Harvey Mansion was located on the ground floor or basement. This room with a partial concrete floor had a large functioning fireplace. We decided to make the room, approximately 15' x 15', our student lounge and brought in furniture acquired from the

Salvation Army and vending machines for snacks and beverages. The room on the opposite corner of the building was used for storage. Unfortunately that room had a dirt floor and was always humid, so we had to be very careful what we put in there.

In the fall of 1966 the Craven IEC opened to the citizens of Craven County with a much expanded curriculum. During the first year we had nearly 80 students attending the IEC with about 50 utilizing facilities on Tryon Palace Drive and 30 at Leona Tolson School.

In the early months of operation on Tryon Palace Drive, it seemed as though we had more space than we could ever use. We certainly had more than we could furnish at that time, but as the years went on the enrollment increased, and it was not very long before space at both locations was falling far short of that necessary for the numbers of students who were seeking admission. Some two years after we occupied the Harvey Mansion we also leased a two-story frame dwelling next-door at 217 Tryon Palace Drive. Into that structure we moved the library and the learning lab. One room was set up as the office for all faculty, which by that time had grown to eight instructors. We then utilized the first floor of the Harvey Mansion (left vacant when the library and learning lab moved next-door) for additional business classrooms and labs. By this time the number of students and staff both day and night was putting a strain on quarters not designed for such in tense use.

We lived with constant problems of overloaded electrical circuits, inadequate plumbing, and insufficient heat and air conditioning. One Monday morning when we arrived, the thick old plaster ceiling in one classroom had broken loose and fallen to the floor. Fortunately that room only housed desks and chairs, so damage to the furnishings was minimal. It took all day to clean the mess, but during the next two days staff members installed a new dry wall ceiling and painted the room. Classes resumed Wednesday evening.

In the backyard duplex Director Brock had one office; our bookkeeper occupied another. I had an office, and our Dean of Students had one. The reception area was downstairs. Before we vacated these facilities, our staff had grown to the extent that on the last day I was sharing my office with four other people. It might not seem like such a hardship, but the room was only large enough for two desks, so we had to share a desk with one of us working on one side and one on the other. It was pretty much that way throughout the school.

Both the two-story administration building in the backyard and the dwelling house next door were demolished during the Central Waterfront Urban Renewal Project in the early 1970s.

Another problem which became paramount early on was parking. Eventually the IEC had the opportunity to rent property across the street when the Elijah Ellis House (1882) was torn down. Though it was totally unpaved and not even rocked, we were able to accommodate 25 automobiles in our first parking lot. Without marked spaces we often had to assist drivers in getting out of the crowded lot.

As an educational facility the Harvey Mansion left much to be desired. However, it also offered a degree of permanency that allowed our institution not only to conduct its business but also to grow and gain stature in the eyes of the community. By 1967 the General Assembly had granted a charter for an independent institution named Craven Technical Institute. The voters of Craven County showed their support by passing the required referendum in the latter part of 1967 and thus completed the last step in establishing a fully independent college for Craven County. At that point a Board of Trustees was appointed which consisted of Chairman Lynn N. Kelso, Vice Chairman Albert Salem, Edwin J. Cella, Edward C. Howard, James B. Wiggins, Hiram Mayo, John R. Hill, Leah O. Ipock, Charles T. Denham, Dr. Charles T. Barker, James F. Gavin, and Evelyn Haire.

Included in the referendum was a half million dollar bond to purchase land for the permanent campus along with matching funds to construct the first two buildings. By 1969 the 100-acre campus on Race Track Road (now Glenburnie Road) had been purchased from Weyerhaeuser, and contracts to build the first two buildings had been let to Trader Construction Company of New Bern. In 1971 Craven Technical Institute moved from Leona Tolson School and the Harvey Mansion to its new home. By that time the enrollment at the technical institute had grown to approximately 300 students. During its initial two years at the new site enrollment exceeded 500 students. In the succeeding years one of the original two buildings underwent a major expansion and three additional buildings were erected. Today the sixth facility is under construction on the campus.

Enrollment in the college now includes 2,200 curriculum students and between 8,000 and 10,000 continuing education students.

The first official home of what is now Craven Community College has a long and interesting history which parallels that of our town. The short period of time that Craven Community College occupied the facilities amounts to but a fraction of the history of the Harvey Mansion. On the other hand, in the short history of Craven Community College, the building on Tryon Palace Drive known as the Harvey Mansion played a significant role in the history of our college. It was during these few years that the college took its place as a permanent educational institution fulfilling a vital role for the citizens of our area in addition to assuming its natural position in a statewide system of 58 community colleges. While the Mansion lacked some of the modern conveniences which we now take for granted, the years that I spent working in, nurturing, and patching those facilities will remain fond memories with me forever.