

## Historic Bath Commission

A meeting of the Historic Bath Commission was held in Raleigh on December 3, 1959 and the following members were present:

Mr. Grayson Harding  
Mrs. Ernest Ives  
Mrs. John W. Labouisse  
Mrs. Fred Morrison  
Reverend A. C. D. Noe  
Mr. Dan M. Paul  
Mrs. Mary Fowle Stearns  
Edmund Harding, chairman

On motion by Mrs. Ives, with a second by Mrs. Morrison, the following motion was carried: That the Department of Archives and History be asked to photograph each room of the Marsh House and also conduct a search for all information concerning the Marsh House.

A motion by Mrs. Ives, which was seconded by Mr. Paul, that the commission have appropriate stationery printed was passed.

The matter of an architect was discussed at length and it was decided not to employ one for the time being.

Mrs. Morrison suggested that a Bath Chapter be organized in several towns and communities and she would start the first one in Washington, D. C. after which other chapters could be formed with the same by-laws or regulations. Mrs. Ives made a motion that Mrs. Morrison's suggestion be put into effect and, after a second by Mr. Paul, the motion was passed.

The chairman, Mr. Edmund Harding, called a meeting of the commission to meet in Bath on Tuesday, January 5, 1960 and he urged all members to be present.

Mrs. Ives announced a gift of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500.00) for the Bath Restoration which had been obtained by Mrs. Charles A. Cannon. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A motion by Mrs. Ives which was seconded by Mrs. Morris and approved unanimously by the Commission instructed the Finance Officer to look into the matter of fire and liability insurance for the historical properties.

It was decided at this time to charge a nominal admission fee to the historical properties when the properties are opened to the public. It was decided to try to work out arrangements for volunteer hostesses when the homes are opened. The president, Mr. Harding, was asked to see that a permanent inventory of gifts be kept.

Mrs. Harry McMullen, Jr. gave a report on the kitchen furniture which she had been able to procure for the basement of the Palmer-Marsh House. The Commission was very pleased with all the kitchen furnishings much of which was made from old lumber which had been taken from the Palmer-Marsh House during its restoration. Mr. W. A. Berry was commended for the fine cabinet work he had done.

The president read a letter from Mrs. Old offering kitchen gifts. He also acknowledged an offer of some furniture from Mrs. Kellenberger.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Ernest Ives presented the check for \$100 which had been given to her by the joint book clubs of Washington to be used in the Bath Restoration.

Thirteen members of the Commission were present as well as many members of the special committees.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

# HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION

(CHAPTER 1005—1959 SESSION LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA)

Mrs. Fred W. Morrison, V-Chm.

Mrs. Wilton Smith, Secretary

James A Stenhouse  
Consulting Architect

Edmund H. Harding, Chm., Box 2, Washington, N. C. Dan M. Paul, Finance Officer, Box 10065, Cameron Village, Raleigh, N. C.

Washington, North Carolina

May 30, 1960

To The Members of The Historic Bath Commission :

Greetings:

No Spring meeting of the Commission was called because there was not enough new business to warrant the time and expense it would take you to come. All the things the Commission decided to do have not yet been finished but I wish to make a report of just how we stand at this time.

## MARSH HOUSE

We have worked steadily since you were in Bath in January and I think the work has come along very well. All the new windows are in, the smoke house is finished, the old kitchen moved away, the brick pillars in the cellar are in and will soon be covered with ballast stones.

The new weatherboarding looks fine and will get two coats of paint within the next two weeks weather permitting. New sills have been spliced to old ones that were weak. A new porch floor on the street, three big new heart pine doors have been made at a cost of \$220.00. The old panels were used where possible.

The partition in the "Ruth Coltrane Cannon Room" has been finished and is ready for plaster. It looks as if we will be obliged to put new plaster throughout the house. If we do not we will be always patching.

The old boxing at both ends of the house has been removed. The closed up fire places have all been opened. The beaver-board has been removed from the walls of the "chimney-closets".

Now we need shingles for the roof. I think I finally found a man yesterday that will make them for us as soon as he can find the cypress. We have had an anonymous gift of \$200.00 toward the singles. As soon as I can get the price and add to it the cost of putting them on I shall try to get you to sell some shingles.

Mrs. Harry McMullan who is the "Kitchen Chairman" spent the day in Bath on Thursday and with her was Mrs. Bess Guion of New Bern who furnished many of the things for Tryon Palace. Mrs. McMullan thinks the cellar kitchen should have a brick floor and so do I. We would never keep it clean. She and I agree that the upper end of the cellar should be a wine cellar with barrels of herrings, MEMBERS molasses, etc.

W. Harold Butt  
Charleston, S. C.  
Edmund H. Harding  
Washington, N. C.  
Grayson Harding  
Edenton, N. C.  
Mrs. Ernest S. Ives  
Southern Pines, N. C.

Mrs. Edmund T. Knott  
Washington, N. C.

Mrs. John W. Labouisse  
Durham, N. C.

Mrs. Fred W. Morrison  
Washington, D. C.

Rev. A. C. D. Noe  
Bath, N. C.

Mrs. Oscar F. Smith  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Mrs. Wilton Smith  
Bath, N. C.

Hon. B. A. Brooks  
Mayor, Bath, N. C.

Dan M. Paul  
Raleigh, N. C.

Mrs. Mary Fowle Sterns  
Raleigh, N. C.

Mrs. Rachel Tankard  
Bath, N. C.

Hon. Lindsay C. Warren  
Washington, N. C.

Hon. Wayland J. Sermons  
Washington, N. C.  
Dr. Christopher Crittenden  
Raleigh, N. C.

Hon. Sam Moore, Chm.  
Beaufort County Com.



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Edmund H. Harding, Chm., Box 2, Washington, N. C. Dan M. Paul, Finance Officer, Box 10065, Cameron Village, Raleigh, N. C.

At the January meeting in Bath you authorized the naming of rooms in the Marsh House and I have taken the liberty of naming the first one "The Ruth Coltrane Cannon Room", in honor of Mrs. Charles A. Cannon who is really responsible for getting the Bath Restoration started. It will be the dining room, the middle room downstairs. Several people have expressed themselves in favor and delighted with this honor paid Mrs. Cannon. We should all be on the lookout for things with which to furnish this room.

## THE BONNER HOUSE .

Mrs. Oscar Smith and her daughter are most anxious to get to work on the Bonner House but we do not yet have the deed. The hold up has been caused by the Federal Revenue Department but we hope that everything is done now that needs to be done. The Beaufort County Historical Society had to amend its charter to provide that in case the Beaufort County Historical Society and/or the Historic Bath Commission should cease to function that the properties acquired and restored would go to the State of North Carolina. Of course that is exactly what we want when we get it restored. The deed is all signed, a survey made and the title approved.

## THE BUZZARD HOTEL.

The people who own the Buzzard Hotel still will not agree to sell it and the excuse of the woman who lives in it gives the excuse that she has no place to go. I have an option on a very nice house on the creek side of Main Street that I am working slowly to try to interest her in. The price for the house is \$5000.00 Cash and I think I will be able to turn the trick if somebody dont come along and upset me.

## GENERAL .

Materials have been very hard to obtain but we have about what we need now for the Marsh House except the shingles. I think when we find these shingles and I believe I have we should get enough made to get the modern tin roofs also off the Glebe House and the Bonner House.

Grayson Harding bought an old house near Edenton from which we got some sills and this week I bought a late 1700 house in Edgecombe County that has enough weather-boarding and flooring to finish the Marsh House and what it will take for the Bonner House. The little Edenton House cost us \$35.00 and I paid for the Edgecomb County House myself as we do not have any money, this I will discuss later. The cost of the house with its two big chimneys was \$500.00 but the man made a donation to Bath of \$300.00 so I had only to pay \$200.00. We are removing the material to Bath at once.

## MEMBERS

W. Harold Butt  
Charleston, S. C.  
Edmund H. Harding  
Washington, N. C.  
Grayson Harding  
Edenton, N. C.  
Mrs. Ernest S. Ives  
Southern Pines, N. C.

Mrs. Edmund T. Knott  
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Mrs. John W. Labouisse  
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Rev. A. C. D. Noe  
Bath, N. C.

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Hon. Sam Moore, Chm.  
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Mrs. Fred W. Morrison, V-Chm.  
Mrs. Wilton Smith, Secretary  
James A Stenhouse  
Consulting Architect

Edmund H. Harding, Chm., Box 2, Washington, N. C. Dan M. Paul, Finance Officer, Box 10065, Cameron Village, Raleigh, N. C.

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Here is how we stand financially -

Old Balance of Beaufort County Historical Assn. From Dan Paul Finance Officer	198.46 5000.00	
		<hr/> 5198.46
Paid out for labor and materials to May 30, Balance on hand		3315.40
		<hr/> \$ 1883.06

Dan Paul has turned over to Mrs. Venters, our local treasurer all the money that he had. Against this \$1883.06 we owe Moss Planing Mill Co about \$550.00 and we owe the man who built the doors \$160.00, The painting contract, and the man started painting today is \$335.00. That is two coats of paint on the outside of the building, the paint was donated. Moss Planing Mill will carry us a while to enable us to keep going. We will owe a total of \$1045.00 which includes the \$200.00 I paid for the old house. So you see we have enough money to run about two weeks.

We had more than a thousand visitors in Bath during May and among them we were delighted to have Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Cannon; then we had a visit from Mr. Smith Richardson of the Smith Richardson Foundation. Mrs. Cannon's visit was an inspiration to us all.

O.J. Gaylor and his F.F.A. Boys have given us a great deal of help in cleaning up the yard at the Marsh House and the Bonner House.

I hate to write you such a long letter but I thought it better to do it this way than to call a meeting.

Please let us have your suggestions about trying to raise some money to keep the work going. I hope that you approve of what Grayson Harding and I have been doing.

Sincerely

Edmund H. Harding CHM

## MEMBERS

W. Harold Butt Charleston, S. C.	Mrs. Edmund T. Knott Washington, N. C.	Rev. A. C. D. Noe Bath, N. C.	Dan M. Paul Raleigh, N. C.	Hon. Lindsay C. Warren Washington, N. C.
Edmund H. Harding Washington, N. C.	Mrs. John W. Labouisse Durham, N. C.	Mrs. Oscar F. Smith Norfolk, Virginia	Mrs. Mary Fowle Sterns Raleigh, N. C.	Hon. Wayland J. Sermons Washington, N. C.
Grayson Harding Edenton, N. C.	Mrs. Fred W. Morrison Washington, D. C.	Mrs. Wilton Smith Bath, N. C.	Mrs. Rachel Tankard Bath, N. C.	Dr. Christopher Crittenden Raleigh, N. C.
Mrs. Ernest S. Ives Southern Pines, N. C.		Hon. B. A. Brooks Mayor, Bath, N. C.		Hon. Sam Moore, Chm. Beaufort County Com.

HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION  
 CHAPTER 100 - 1899 SESSION LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE OF FIFTY

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Charles A. Cannon          | Concord, N. C.        |
| Mrs. Luther H. Hodges           | Raleigh, N. C.        |
| Mr. Carl Goerch                 | Raleigh, N. C.        |
| Mr. E. K. Willis                | Concord, N. C.        |
| Mrs. Harry McMullan             | Washington, N. C.     |
| Mrs. F. S. Worthly              | Washington, N. C.     |
| Hon. Herbert C. Bonner          | Washington, N. C.     |
| Hon. Everett Jordan             | Saxapahaw, N. C.      |
| Hon. D. L. Ward                 | New Bern, N. C.       |
| Mrs. Inglis Fletcher            | Edenton, N. C.        |
| Mrs. Claud Venters              | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mr. O. J. Gaylord               | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mr. Donald Carrow               | Bath, N. C.           |
| Rev. Stanleigh Jenkins          | Washington, N. C.     |
| Mr. Jamie Archbell              | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mr. John Whalen                 | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mrs. John A. Tankard            | Norfolk, Va.          |
| Mr. William B. Midyette         | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mr. J. A. Beasley               | Norfolk, Va.          |
| Mr. Leslie Taylor               | West Palm Beach, Fla. |
| Dr. W. T. Ralph                 | Belhaven, N. C.       |
| Mrs. Scott Topping              | Pantego, N. C.        |
| Mrs. W. C. Olsen                | Raleigh, N. C.        |
| Mrs. Jack Price                 | Raleigh, N. C.        |
| Mrs. Sam Clark                  | Tarboro, N. C.        |
| Mrs. J. O. Talley               | Fayetteville, N. C.   |
| Rear Admiral W. W. Studdert     | Midland, Texas        |
| Mr. Sam Tarlton                 | Raleigh, N. C.        |
| Hon. William B. Rodman          | Raleigh, N. C.        |
| Rt. Rev. Thomas H. Wright, D.D. | Wilmington, N. C.     |
| Mrs. J. L. McLaurin             | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mr. Raymond Taylor              | Washington, N. C.     |
| Dr. Herbert Paschal             | Greenville, N. C.     |
| Mr. Joseph Jett                 | Norfolk, Va.          |
| Col. C. Wingate Reed            | Washington, N. C.     |
| Mrs. T. A. Brooks               | Washington, N. C.     |
| Bishop Paul N. Garber           | Richmond, Va.         |
| Mr. Aycock Brown                | Manteo, N. C.         |
| Mrs. Stuart Gaul                | Charlotte, N. C.      |
| Mrs. Emmitt Winslow             | Hertford, N. C.       |
| Mr. Robert A. Fowle             | Washington, N. C.     |
| Mr. Ashley Futrell              | Washington, N. C.     |
| Mr. Lemuel Blades, Jr.          | Elizabeth City, N. C. |
| Mr. Frank Horton                | Winston-Salem, N. C.  |
| Dr. John B. Bonner              | Aurora, N. C.         |
| Mrs. William McLean             | Washington, N. C.     |
| Miss Nominia McCrea             | Asheville, N. C.      |
| Mrs. Pratt Thomas               | Columbus, Mississippi |
| Mrs. G. W. Marsh                | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mr. James S. Hill               | Washington, N. C.     |

MEMBERS

- |                                 |                       |                        |                       |                        |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hon. Lindsay O. Watson          | Washington, N. C.     | Mr. James S. Hill      | Washington, N. C.     | Mr. Frank Horton       | Winston-Salem, N. C.  |
| Mr. Carl Goerch                 | Raleigh, N. C.        | Mr. Robert A. Fowle    | Washington, N. C.     | Mr. Lemuel Blades, Jr. | Elizabeth City, N. C. |
| Mr. E. K. Willis                | Concord, N. C.        | Mr. Ashley Futrell     | Washington, N. C.     | Mr. Frank Horton       | Winston-Salem, N. C.  |
| Mrs. Harry McMullan             | Washington, N. C.     | Mr. Raymond Taylor     | Washington, N. C.     | Dr. John B. Bonner     | Aurora, N. C.         |
| Mrs. F. S. Worthly              | Washington, N. C.     | Mr. Joseph Jett        | Norfolk, Va.          | Mrs. William McLean    | Washington, N. C.     |
| Hon. Herbert C. Bonner          | Washington, N. C.     | Col. C. Wingate Reed   | Washington, N. C.     | Miss Nominia McCrea    | Asheville, N. C.      |
| Hon. Everett Jordan             | Saxapahaw, N. C.      | Mrs. T. A. Brooks      | Washington, N. C.     | Mrs. Pratt Thomas      | Columbus, Mississippi |
| Hon. D. L. Ward                 | New Bern, N. C.       | Bishop Paul N. Garber  | Richmond, Va.         | Mrs. G. W. Marsh       | Bath, N. C.           |
| Mrs. Inglis Fletcher            | Edenton, N. C.        | Mr. Aycock Brown       | Manteo, N. C.         | Mr. James S. Hill      | Washington, N. C.     |
| Mrs. Claud Venters              | Bath, N. C.           | Mrs. Stuart Gaul       | Charlotte, N. C.      |                        |                       |
| Mr. O. J. Gaylord               | Bath, N. C.           | Mrs. Emmitt Winslow    | Hertford, N. C.       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Donald Carrow               | Bath, N. C.           | Mr. Robert A. Fowle    | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |
| Rev. Stanleigh Jenkins          | Washington, N. C.     | Mr. Ashley Futrell     | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |
| Mr. Jamie Archbell              | Bath, N. C.           | Mr. Lemuel Blades, Jr. | Elizabeth City, N. C. |                        |                       |
| Mr. John Whalen                 | Bath, N. C.           | Mr. Frank Horton       | Winston-Salem, N. C.  |                        |                       |
| Mrs. John A. Tankard            | Norfolk, Va.          | Dr. John B. Bonner     | Aurora, N. C.         |                        |                       |
| Mr. William B. Midyette         | Bath, N. C.           | Mrs. William McLean    | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |
| Mr. J. A. Beasley               | Norfolk, Va.          | Miss Nominia McCrea    | Asheville, N. C.      |                        |                       |
| Mr. Leslie Taylor               | West Palm Beach, Fla. | Mrs. Pratt Thomas      | Columbus, Mississippi |                        |                       |
| Dr. W. T. Ralph                 | Belhaven, N. C.       | Mrs. G. W. Marsh       | Bath, N. C.           |                        |                       |
| Mrs. Scott Topping              | Pantego, N. C.        | Mr. James S. Hill      | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |
| Mrs. W. C. Olsen                | Raleigh, N. C.        |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. Jack Price                 | Raleigh, N. C.        |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. Sam Clark                  | Tarboro, N. C.        |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. J. O. Talley               | Fayetteville, N. C.   |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Rear Admiral W. W. Studdert     | Midland, Texas        |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Sam Tarlton                 | Raleigh, N. C.        |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Hon. William B. Rodman          | Raleigh, N. C.        |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Rt. Rev. Thomas H. Wright, D.D. | Wilmington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. J. L. McLaurin             | Bath, N. C.           |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Raymond Taylor              | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Dr. Herbert Paschal             | Greenville, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Joseph Jett                 | Norfolk, Va.          |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Col. C. Wingate Reed            | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. T. A. Brooks               | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Bishop Paul N. Garber           | Richmond, Va.         |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Aycock Brown                | Manteo, N. C.         |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. Stuart Gaul                | Charlotte, N. C.      |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. Emmitt Winslow             | Hertford, N. C.       |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Robert A. Fowle             | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Ashley Futrell              | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Lemuel Blades, Jr.          | Elizabeth City, N. C. |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. Frank Horton                | Winston-Salem, N. C.  |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Dr. John B. Bonner              | Aurora, N. C.         |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. William McLean             | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Miss Nominia McCrea             | Asheville, N. C.      |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. Pratt Thomas               | Columbus, Mississippi |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mrs. G. W. Marsh                | Bath, N. C.           |                        |                       |                        |                       |
| Mr. James S. Hill               | Washington, N. C.     |                        |                       |                        |                       |

## Beaufort County Historical Society

The Beaufort County Historical Society met on August 26, 1961 at 4:00 p.m. at the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath. Mr. Edmund H. Harding, president, discussed the purposes of the Society. He reminded the group that there is much history in Beaufort County which should be preserved. He asked that the Society work on three projects:

1. To remove the grave of Thomas Bonner, Sheriff of Beaufort County in 1758.
2. The Kennedy graveyard be restored at a cost of approximately \$150.00.
3. That an appropriate marker be placed at the scene of the famous horseshoe tracks which were made on August 18, 1813 and a brick wall be erected around the tracks.

The Society agreed to sponsor the above projects.

Col. Wingate Reed told of his book, "Beaufort County - Two Centuries of its History," and the Society agreed to sponsor this book.

Officers were unanimously reelected to serve in 1962.

Many very fine gifts for the Bath Restoration were acknowledged including some very fine kitchen furniture collected by Mrs. Harry McMullen, Sr. and a set of china, gift of Mrs. Ernest Ives.

The A.M.E. Zion Church lot has been bought by the Society and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to reconstruct an Indian village on this site.

The need for a public dock was discussed. Work at the Bonner House is progressing satisfactorily and it is hoped that the reconstruction there will be finished by the first of November.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

### Historic Bath Commission

The Historic Bath Commission met at the Palmer-Marsh House in Bath on November 2, 1961. Mr. Edmund H. Harding presided. The Commission discussed having a new historical folder of Bath printed. Mrs. George Maurice Morris gave a report on the mid-18th century items she had purchased for the Palmer-Marsh House. The items which she bought were listed in Mr. Wharton's inventory. The Commission accepted with gratitude Mrs. Morris's personal gifts, the grandfather's clock and an English chair. Her chauffeur gave a child's Windsor chair and a tea caddy. Appreciation was expressed for all the gifts.

A new member of the Commission, Mrs. Edward Pryor, of Bath, England, brought greetings from her homeland and presented to the Commission a barometer, Chippendale tea caddy and a damask tablecloth.

Mrs. Charles A. Cannon presented books that were listed in the inventory of Bath's first public library. Other gifts by Mrs. Cannon and Mrs. Ives were acknowledged.

Dan Paul, Finance Officer, reported a balance of \$9.99 in the Commission's account. Mrs. Sam Tarlton reported \$25,000 in the state's account for the Bath Restoration of which \$15,000 was appropriated by the state and \$10,000 was a gift from the Richardson Foundation.

Mr. Richard C. Bell, a landscape architect, presented plans for the gardens at the Palmer-Marsh House and the Oscar Smith memorial. No definite action was taken regarding landscaping.

### Historic Bath Commission

Mrs. Oscar Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Charles entertained the Historic Bath Commission with a delightful dinner party at the Charcoal Steak House in Washington on May 4, 1962.

Mr. Edmund H. Harding, president, announced that the tasks of restoring the Palmer-Marsh House and Bonner House had been completed. He thanked everyone present for their efforts in behalf of the Bath Restoration. He reviewed the many difficulties financial and otherwise that had confronted the Commission since with \$368 on hand it had made the decision to buy the Palmer-Marsh House. He told of the great satisfaction he had felt because of the interest and generosity with which so many people had responded to this project.

Mrs. Ernest Ives was recognized and spoke of the pleasure she had felt while working on the Historic Bath Commission. She praised our president, Edmund Harding. She remarked, "It has been just wonderful to work with him. He has been patient, tactful, kind and above all so funny."

Mr. Fred Morrison offered to buy a fence for the Bath project but Mrs. Harry McMullen, Sr. reported that she had already received pledges for the fence.

Members present made up a \$1000 gift to be used as the first payment on the lot on Bath Creek located just in front of the Palmer-Marsh House on which a town wharf will be constructed.

The president reminded the Commission that the work in Bath had only begun. There are still plans in the offing for an

Indian village, a reconstructed courthouse and a tavern where visitors may buy food.

The Commission voted to accept the gift of the Vandevier House from Mrs. Wilton Smith and children and move the house from the Smith property. The Vandevier House would be restored by the Commission. Mr. Dan Paul, Finance Officer, presented a financial report. A delightful social hour was enjoyed by the group.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund H. Harding, President

Mrs. Wilton Smith, Secretary

HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION

Raleigh, February 11, 1963

The Historic Bath Commission met at the Hotel Sir Walter in Raleigh on Monday, February 11, 1963. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:10 A. M. Present were Chairman Edmund Harding, Secretary Mrs. Wilton Smith, Treasurer Mrs. Claude E. Venters, and Finance Officer Dan M. Paul, Mrs. Roy Charles, Dr. Christopher Crittenden, Mr. Grayson Harding, Mrs. Ernest L. Ives, Reverend A. C. D. Noe, Colonel C. Wingate Reed, Honorable Wayland J. Sermons, Mayor Wilton Smith, Mrs. Mary Fowle Stearns, Mrs. John A. Tankard, and Miss Elizabeth Thompson, all members of the Commission. Present also were Mrs. Julian Davenport, Mrs. A. C. D. Noe, Mrs. C. Wingate Reed, Miss Anna Riddick, and Mr. W. S. Tarlton. Coming in later for the luncheon were Mr. Blucher Ehringhaus, Mrs. J. C. B. Ehringhaus, Mr. Ernest L. Ives, and Mrs. Terry Sanford.

All motions passed at the meeting were by unanimous vote.

On motion of Colonel Reed, seconded by Mr. Paul, it was Resolved that the Commission expresses its deep regret, and sympathy to the family, because of the passing of Ruth McCloud Smith (Mrs. Oscar F. Smith), an active and loyal member of the Commission who had been extremely generous in her interest and contributions to Historic Bath. And that the testimonial read by the chairman be spread upon the minutes as follow:

ON THE MORNING OF SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4, 1962, THERE ENTERED INTO THE LIFE ETERNAL

RUTH MC CLOUD SMITH

A MEMBER OF THIS HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION FROM ITS BEGINNING.

WE OF THE COMMISSION DEEPLY FEEL THIS LOSS FROM OUR RANKS.

HER WISE COUNSEL, HER WILLINGNESS, HER GENTLE SMILE AND HER GENEROSITY WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED. WE WILL NEVER FORGET HER GREAT PART IN THE RESTORATION OF BATH.

THE HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION MEETING ON THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1963, DO RECORD IN ITS MINUTES OUR GREAT SORROW AT MRS. SMITH'S PASSING AND OUR EVERLASTING THANKS FOR ALL SHE DID.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE AND MAY LIGHT PERPETUAL SHINE UPON HER.

On motion of Mrs. Stearns, seconded by Mr. Paul, it was voted that a parchment with a suitable memorial to Mrs. Smith be prepared and hung in the Oscar Smith Room in the Bonner House and a copy sent to her family.

On motion of Mr. Dan Paul, seconded by Mrs. Ives, it was voted that the garden and grounds be completed at the Bonner House and named in memory of Mrs. Oscar Smith and called the Ruth McClard Smith Memorial Garden.

The Secretary read the minutes of the Commission's meeting, May 4, 1962, and without objection they stood approved.

The Finance Officer made his report. On motion of Dr. Crittenden, seconded by Mrs. Ives, it was voted to request the State Auditor to help straighten out the accounts of the Commission. Voted further that a report on this matter be presented at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Chairman reported regarding the property now held by the Commission.

The Palmer-Marsh House and Contents	
The Bonner House and Contents	
The "Furniture Store" property	\$8,000
Harding's Landing	5,000
Indian Village Site	2,500

The Chairman further reported that the Beaufort County Historical Society, which cooperates closely with the Commission, had borrowed a total of \$5,500 and that this amount is now owed.

Mr. Kenneth Dixon of the State Insurance Department came in and explained the insurance status of the various properties of the Commission.

On motion of Mr. Sermons, seconded by Mr. Paul, it was voted that the Chairman be authorized to appoint an Executive Committee to work out various questions with the State Auditor, the Attorney General, and the Insurance Department. The Chairman later appointed Colonel Reed, Mr. Grayson Harding, and Mayor Smith to serve with the Chairman and Finance Officer as the Executive Committee.

At the request of the Chairman, the group discussed what actions should be taken with regard to various properties, with comments or decisions as follows:

#### Palmer-Marsh House

The outbuildings are "a necessity." Mr. Tarlton pointed out that the Sauthier map shows a well and two outhouses, one probably a smokehouse. The outhouses, he said, should be part of the landscaping. He stated that a "necessary house" would probably cost \$2,000. Colonel Reed pointed out that the Sauthier map also shows an "outhouse" on the back line of the property and suggested this was more probably a privy. It was estimated that brick walks would probably cost \$2,000. The Chairman inquired what we should do regarding the yard and gardens. Miss Thompson suggested that Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, 348 Ridgwood Avenue, Charlotte, knows a great deal about landscaping for this period and should be called upon for help.

#### Bonner House

The Chairman announced that a further grant of \$15,000 had been made by the Oscar F. Smith Foundation to buy a lot, erect a kitchen, and take

other steps. Mr. Tarlton estimated that a kitchen would cost an additional \$4,000. It was agreed that the house now occupied by Mr. O. J. Gaylord be taken down. A marker and a fence are to be placed at the property that formerly belonged to John Lawson. On motion of Mr. Paul, seconded by Mayor Smith, it was agreed that the "Guest House" be given to the Boy Scouts to be taken down. It was agreed that the well be fitted with a cypress gum lining. It was agreed also that there be a privy at the Bonner House. There was discussion whether the Town of Bath could close a street at the Booner House, and it was decided to consult the Attorney General on this subject. On motion of Dr. Crittenden, seconded by Mayor Smith, it was voted that the Commission request the Town of Bath Commissioners to (1) close the street at the Bonner House and cut another road around the property; (2) zone the entire town; and (3) protect the trees in the entire town. There was some discussion of what to do with the creek bank and also of a plaque for the Bonner House.

The group now adjourned to the adjoining room for lunch, where the business continued. Several additional persons came in, as indicated at the beginning of these minutes.

The Chairman stated that a Civil War cannon, either Federal or Confederate, had been brought up from the Pamlico River and inquired whether it should be placed in Bath. The consensus was "Yes."

The future of Harding's Landing was discussed. There should be a pier 330 feet in length in order to reach deep water. We have some pilings and can obtain the balance needed. The cost to the Commission is estimated at \$1,800, including everything. It was agreed that in the estimate \$2,000 should be included for land.

On motion of Colonel Reed, seconded by Mr. Noe, it was voted that the Commission seek from the General Assembly an appropriation for the maintenance of Bath as a State Historic Site, the exact amount to be determined by the Executive Committee.

There was discussion of when the Commission's houses at Bath should be opened for the summer season. All were invited to the Charter Tercentenary ceremonies on March 24. It was suggested, without final action, that the houses be open beginning March 24.

The Chairman appointed a Committee on Housekeeping, "to help Mrs. Tankard direct the hostesses," as follows: Mrs. Lindsay C. Warren, Mrs. Sam Clark, and Mrs. Julian Davenport.

The Chairman appointed as the Committee on the Gift Shop, Mrs. Ernest L. Ives, Mrs. John W. Labouisse, and Mrs. Wilton Smith. This Committee is also to see about "an eating place."

Mrs. Charles thanked the Commission for naming the memorial garden for her mother. She stated that she expects to place in that garden geraniums named for her mother.

Dr. Crittenden told about the project of Mr. Charles W. Wade, of Winston-Salem, in a Colonial Tour to historic sites along and near U. S. 17. On motion of Mr. Sermons, seconded by Mrs. Wilton Smith, Mr. Noe, and Colonel Reed, this project was approved.

The need for promotion of Historic Bath was discussed. Such matters were mentioned as leaflets, illuminated slides in hotels and motels, Variety Vacationland, getting Bath in State and commercial highway maps, post cards, and approaching the Women's Clubs and Garden Clubs.

On motion of Mrs. Ives, seconded by Mr. Noe, appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Charles for taking her mother's place on the Commission.

Mr. Noe expressed the opinion that the Commission should ask the General Assembly for \$100,000 for the next biennium.

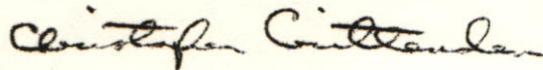
Miss Thompson pointed out the need for suitable highway signs for Bath. The Chairman stated that the Highway Commission has promised such signs.

On motion of Mr. Grayson Harding, seconded by Mr. Noe, it was voted that an invitation be prepared to the General Assembly to hold a meeting in Bath, to be submitted if the situation seems propitious.

It was agreed that admission to the Commission's houses in Bath should not be free on March 24.

Mr. Sermons stated that he would attempt to secure an appropriation from the General Assembly, but that he wanted the group to know that he could not be certain in advance what action would be taken.

The Commission adjourned at 2:45 P. M.



Christopher Crittenden  
Acting Secretary

September 26, 1963

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION

Greetings and Salutations:

As of August 1, 1963, Bath, North Carolina became a State Historic Site.

This does not mean that The Historic Bath Commission's work is finished. Far from it, there is still much to be done. The vision and enthusiasm generated by the fine members of the Commission and the splendid job they have done is certainly outstanding. Their generous gifts and their interest in Bath has been most remarkable.

The Commission and our committees will continue to function as in the past. The only difference in our set-up now is that the Department of Archives and History will be in charge of administration, operation and maintenance and will pay the bill for same.

A change has been made in the Archives and History set-up, whereby the operation of all State Historic Sites will receive more help from Raleigh than heretofore. Certain Supervisors on the State level will visit Bath several times a month. If it is maintenance, operation, decoration, landscaping, furniture or furnishings, a supervisor in that field will be available to us.

Mr. Richard Sawyer, who developed the Aycock Birthplace and who has been at Aycock for five years, is the State man, who under Mr. W. Sam Tarlton, will have general charge of Bath. Mr. Sawyer has been in Bath many times since August First, and fine results have been the outcome.

The person in charge of Bath will be known as Supervisor III. The name arrived at by the State thusly - W. Sam Tarlton is Supervisor of Historic Sites, Mr. Richard Sawyer is his assistant and will be known as Supervisor II. The one on the location will be known as Supervisor III.

The State asked for applications for the job of Supervisor III at Bath, and three applications were submitted: Mr. Donald Carrow, Mrs. John A. Tankard and Mr. Ray Brooks. The head of Personnel in Raleigh selected Mrs. John A. Tankard as the best qualified of the applicants and the State employed Mrs. Tankard at a yearly salary of \$3900.00. The State has employed the same hostesses that the Commission had and has raised the hourly pay from 75¢ to \$1.00. The State has also employed extra guides as the houses are not closed at lunch time as heretofore.

The maintenance and upkeep is now being handled by the State on an hourly basis until they locate the man best suited for the full time job. Donald Carrow was given the job first, but is no longer with the State and William Moore has the job at this time.

The bill introduced in the Legislature of 1963 to make Bath an Historic Site as approved by the meeting of the Commission in Raleigh on February 11, 1963 and introduced by Hon. Wayland Sermons and known as House Bill # 302 made the following provisions:

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:  
A Bill To Be Entitled An Act To Appropriate Funds For Historic Bath.

Whereas, the Historic Bath Commission, a State Commission, was established by act of the General Assembly (Chapter 1005 Session Laws of 1959) to restore and preserve historic buildings and sites in Bath, North Carolina's first incorporated town, chartered in 1705: and

Whereas, the Commission has raised and spent to date a total of approximately \$175,000.00 for this purpose, in addition to which, through appropriations by the General Assembly, the State has contributed \$25,000.00 of public funds, and

Whereas, in order to complete certain projects now pending and to establish Historic Bath on a sound operating basis as a State Historic Site, additional funds are required: Now Therefore

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:  
Section 1.

There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Archives and History the sum of \$17,528.00 for the fiscal year 1963-1964 and \$15,828.00 for the fiscal year 1964-1965 to be used for the following purposes:

	1963-1964	1964-1965
Salaries and Wages Historic Site Specialist	\$5,628.00	\$5,628.00
Salaries and Wages Temporary seasonal maintenance workers	5,000.00	5,000.00
Supplies and Materials	500.00	500.00
Postage Tel & Tel and Express	200.00	200.00
Travel Expense	400.00	400.00
Motor Vehicle Operation	600.00	600.00
Repairs and Alterations	2,000.00	2,000.00
Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00
Insurance	500.00	500.00
Motor Vehicle Purchase	<u>1,700.00</u>	<u>1,700.00</u>
	<u>\$17,528.00</u>	<u>\$15,828.00</u>

Section 2

There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Archives and History the sum of \$12,500.00 for the capital improvements at Historic Bath as follows:

Construction of brick walks at Palmer-Marsh	\$ 3,000.00
Development of Harding's Landing	3,000.00
Fences Palmer Marsh	2,000.00
Planting	1,000.00
Land Purchase	<u>3,500.00</u>
	<u>\$12,500.00</u>

The State has sent down power mowers, tools, equipment, supplies and other materials to be used.

At the Palmer Marsh House things are much the same as you last saw them. The grounds are in much better condition and much new planting will be done in the fall. Several gifts have been received during the summer and await the approval of our Acquisition Committee before accepting them. We have an option on a most unusual table now in the Council Room, but we do not have the \$750.00 to buy it.

At the Bonner House, The Oscar F. Smith Memorial, there have been many changes. The creekside has been much improved and many new pieces of furniture have been added. The old house across the street has been removed and the garage which stood at the back door has been moved to the back of the lot and made into a storage for our equipment and supplies. The little house at the rear of the lot is being made into Rest Rooms and storage. The lot behind the Bonner Property has, with the approval of the Oscar F. Smith Memorial Foundation, been purchased at \$1,600.00 and the house cleared away. A "lovely" necessary has been built and the outdoor kitchen has been completed and nearly furnished. The loom that was found in the attic of the Bonner House has been set up in the new kitchen, has been threaded and is ready to make cloth. The well found in the front yard has been restored and a new well house built.

Harding's Landing has been completed, the land leveled, the grass is growing and we have had many visitors to Bath to arrive by boat. We even had a visitor from Tryon Palace to come by water, Hon. Libby Ward, who brought with him a Marine General from Cherry Point.

No progress has been made on the acquisition of the Buzzard Hotel.

Bishop Garber of the Methodist Church is still interested in building a Colonial Reproduction in Bath as the Whitefield Memorial Church. The Bishop visited Bath in June 1963.

We hope to get started on the Cotan Indian Villiage before too long. Mrs. Fred Morrison has agreed to head up this Committee and we have been waiting for her to get through the 1963 Season of the Lost Colony, which she has made the best season that the Lost Colony has ever had.

The reproduction of the Court House and Gaol is still in the hoping stage.

Since we opened the houses in March 1963 until today, we have had 1758 visitors.

On November 4, the State Mobile Museum will open a showing in Bath for four days and we hope to have most of the students of Beaufort County to visit Bath. St. Thomas Church will also have an historic display while the museum is at Bath.

Last Spring Mrs. Ives and her Committee obtained enough equipment and furniture to open a Tea Room in Bath. It was a remarkable thing that they did. Two Bath ladies took over the operation of the restaurant and it was very nice and we had good food. The ladies who were running the place decided that they did not

care to run it longer and closed up, so we have the equipment, but no restaurant. Another eating place has been opened on Back Creek that serves seafood, so we do have an eating place, but it is hoped that the Bath Tea Room will soon be again in operation.

The Gibbs Furniture Store that has been operating in the store that was moved on the back of the Palmer Marsh Property and for which they paid us \$50.00 a month, has notified us that they will not operate the store after October 31. It would make a wonderful spot for an Antique Shop. Please try to help us find somebody that would operate one.

The State did not take over the operation of the Gift Shop. The Commission will continue to operate this. The State will pay the light bill and heat and keep up the building and the Supervisor III will run same for the Commission.

To properly transfer the property at Bath from The Beaufort County Historical Society and the Historic Bath Commission to the State, it is necessary that we have a meeting of the Commission. Therefore, your chairman is calling a meeting of the Commission on Tuesday, November 5, at Bath.

The Commission will be the guests of the chairman at an oyster roast on Monday Night, November 4, and on Tuesday Morning the Commission will leave the Washington Yacht and Country Club by boat at ten o'clock for a trip to Bath. We will dock at Harding's Landing and after our meeting, the Commission will be given a Fish Fry by the people of Bath.

On September 19, death removed from our Commission Mrs. Wm. T. Old of Norfolk. She has been a most interested member and since the restoration started, she has given us many gifts for the Palmer Marsh House. We shall miss her wise counsel and our sympathy goes to her family.

Another member of our Commission has resigned. Mrs. John A. Tankard resigned to take a position with the State Department of Archives and History as Supervisor III at Bath. Mrs. Tankard served as assistant to the chairman for a long time and was most active in helping to raise the money for the purchase of the Palmer Marsh House.

Mrs. Rachel Tankard is now the assistant to the chairman and represents the Commission "on the spot".

Governor Sanford has appointed one new member of the Commission, Dr. Herbert Paschal of East Carolina College. Dr. Paschal wrote "Colonial Bath" for the 250th Birthday of Bath and is one of the outstanding authorities on Indians in the United States.

Sorry to have to write you such a long epistle, but I wanted you to know what was going on. I hope you read it all. I shall look for you for our meeting on the evening of Monday, November 4 and you will hear more about the meeting later. Best wishes and again, my thanks for all that you have done.

Sincerely,

Edmund H. Harding  
Chairman

April 14, 1964

On 14th April 1964, the Historic Bath Commission met in St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath, North Carolina. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Edmund H. Harding, Chairman, who welcomed the 25 members and other interested persons.

Mr. Harding introduced the principal speaker, Mr. W. Sam Tarlton, who is in charge of Historic Sites under the State Department of Archives and History at Raleigh.

Mr. Tarlton outlined briefly the relationship between the Bath Commission and the Department of Archives and History. He pointed out that the Commission should continue to operate as a vital agency with a vital program. The program at Bath was not completed, therefore the mission of the Commission was not completed. He further pointed out that although the Department of Archives and History assumed the administration and the operation of Historic Bath sites as a State Historic Site as of August 1, 1963, the Department still looks to the Commission as the initiator and the sponsor of all new projects in Bath. Responsibility for maintaining and operating the sites lies with the Department of Archives and History, but the responsibility for acquiring and financing the acquisition of new projects and sites remains the responsibility of the Historic Bath Commission. The Department helps in research, checks out projects and makes recommendations, furnish the staff to do the work. The money must come from the Commission. The text of Mr. Tarlton's talk is attached hereto as Exhibit I.

Mr. Tarlton then threw the meeting open to questions. Mr. Harding desired to know if the Department of Archives and History would ask the next legislature for funds for a Visitor-Museum Center at Bath, a feature that was badly needed and which would come under the heading of Operation. Mr. Tarlton advised that the planning was incorporated in the Capital Improvement Budget of the Department but that in order to get the Legislature to allocate the funds, it would be necessary for the Historic Bath Commission to work hard for it's passage. The cost would be in the neighborhood of \$60,000.00.

The question was asked concerning disposition of furnishings given by interested persons and which were afterwards found not to be authentic as to period. Mr. Tarlton pointed out that before accepting any furnishings it would be well to have the Furnishings Committee pass on the authenticity in order to avoid removing them later. In the event any furnishings had to be removed, it was suggested that they be returned if possible to the donor. If this was not possible or feasible, they would become the property of the Department of Archives and History and could possibly be used in other ~~historic~~ historic sites in the State.

Mr. Dan Paul asked if there were hostesses at the Church. Upon finding out there was not, he suggested that because so many people knew about the church and visited it ~~XXXXXX~~ as an historic shrine, that information concerning the two houses be available at the Church and that perhaps visits to the church could be coordinated with historic houses.

Reverend A. C. D. Noe, former Rector of St. Thomas, now retired, stated that the church would never be a museau, as it was an active parish. However, because of its historic value and the fact that most people who visited the two houses also visited the church, the grounds and the church must be kept in the same condition as the other sites in Bath. Funds for this upkeep came from the Parish and from other parochial sources. The most pressing need was a new roof for the Glebe House located on the church ~~own~~ grounds. Mr. Dan Paul made the motion seconded by Mrs. Earnest Ives, that the Commission authorize the gift to the Parish for this project, some hand hewn shingles left over from roofing the historic sites and not needed. The motion was unanimously approved and so ordered.

<sup>TARLTON</sup>  
Mr. ~~Fisdale~~ paid tribute to Mr. Sawyer, Mrs. John Tankard and Billy Moore for the splendid work they had done during the past year.

Mr. Dan Paul, Finance Officer, then gave his report, copy attached hereto as Exhibit II. Mr. Paul suggested ~~that~~ that a finance officer be appointed in his stead who lived nearer the project and mentioned Mr. Milo Gibbs, of the Bank of Washington, as his successor. Mr. Gibbs was familiar with the financial transactions of the Commission. Mr. Paul tendered his resignation as Finance Officer of Historic Bath Commission as of April 14, 1964. Mrs. Cannon made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Labouisse, that Mr. Paul's resignation be accepted with regret. The motion was voted upon and unanimously approved.

Mr. Paul then made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Stearnes that the governor be asked to appoint Mr. Milo Gibbs to the Historic Bath Commission and that he be appointed Treasurer of the Commission. The motion was voted upon and approved.

Mrs. Ives made the suggestion that the sign presently to the left of the Visitor Center be moved to a more conspicuous place nearer the highway. Mrs. Tankard advised such a move had been contemplated and that it would be done in the near future.

Mrs. Ives then asked if the state would pay the salary of a tea room manager to take over the presently idle and closed tea room. Mr. George Oldham of the State Auditor's Office pointed out that the State's policy did not allow them to interfere in private industry and that this would therefore be impossible.

Miss Thompson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Morris, that Mr. Harding convey the Commission's regrets to those members who were unable to attend the meeting on account of illness, namely Mrs. Harry McMullen, Mrs. Marcia Myers Knott, Colonel Wingate Reed, and Mrs. Wilton Smith. The motion was put to a vote and unanimously approved.

Mrs. <sup>GEO MAURICE MORRIS</sup> then formerly presented to the Historic Bath Commission a gate leg table given by the District of Columbia Committee for use in the Palmer Marsh House.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned to the picnic grounds for lunch.

Respectfully submitted

*Louise S. Satterthwaite*

Louise S. Satterthwaite, for  
Mrs. Wilton Smith, Secretary  
Historic Bath Commission

*Mrs. Nat. J. Kirk*

State of North Carolina  
Department of Archives and History  
Raleigh

November 4, 1964

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION:

At the direction of our Chairman, Mr. Edmund H. Harding,  
it is my pleasure and privilege to send to each of you a copy of  
the minutes of our meeting on October 6, 1964.

Best wishes to all of you.

Yours cordially,

*Christopher Crittenden*

Christopher Crittenden  
Acting Secretary  
Historic Bath Commission

## HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION

Meeting in Raleigh, October 6, 1964

The Historic Bath Commission met in the Elizabeth Room of the Hotel Sir Walter in Raleigh at 10:25, Tuesday, October 6, 1964. Present were Chairman Edmund H. Harding, Mrs. Taylor B. Attmore, Jr., Mr. Harold Butt, Mrs. Sam Clark, Sr., Dr. Christopher Crittenden, Mr. Milo L. Gibbs, Mrs. Ernest L. Ives, Mrs. John W. Labouisse, Mrs. G. W. Marsh, Mrs. Fred W. Morrison, Rev. A. C. D. Noe, Dr. Herbert Paschal, Mrs. William Rumley, Jr., Mrs. Mary Stearns, Mayor W. W. Smith, Adm. W. W. Studdert, Mrs. Rachel Tankard, Mrs. Roscoe Tankard, Mrs. Claude Venters, and Mrs. Lindsay C. Warren. Present also were Mrs. Julian Davenport, Mrs. W. W. Studdert, and Mrs. A. C. D. Noe. Members of the staff of the Department of Archives and History who attended the meeting were Miss Mary Cornick, Mr. William S. Tarlton, Mrs. Dot Tankard, and Mr. Richard Sawyer. Representing the Attorney General of North Carolina was Mr. Harry W. McGalliard, Deputy Attorney General.

Mrs. Davenport read the minutes of the last previous meeting, and without objection or correction they were declared approved.

The Chairman read a brief report as follows: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: Nine years ago last night we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the incorporation of Bath, North Carolina's oldest town.

A pageant, "Queen Anne's Bell," was presented with a cast of more than 500 including the Council of State and Governor Luther Hodges playing the part of Governor.

A \$2500 show was planned but when we got to work there was so much interest and contributions came along so well that we put on a celebration that cost \$17,039.60.

If I do say so, it was a wonderful performance -- a choir of sixty-five voices, an orchestra of sixty pieces, a big organ, and a Marine Band of seventy-five pieces.

When it was all over and the last sky rocket was out, with all the bills paid we had \$654.22 left. With this we started a project to buy the Marsh House which was just about to fall down. We asked the County of Beaufort, the State, and the public generally for funds. We had parties, band concerts, lawn parties, shows; we sold pens, and borrowed \$2500 from the N. C. Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, which is still unpaid.

We bought the Marsh House for \$31,000 and got it all paid for with the exception of the \$2500 and interest we owe the N.C.S.P.A., still unpaid. We started to restore the house without funds, without an architect, without blueprints, but with Donald Carrow as master carpenter, we went to work. We never knew where the week's payroll would come from but Mrs. Venters, the treasurer, never failed to pay off. So far all this was done under the auspices of the Beaufort County Historical Society.

Four years later the Legislature created the Historic Bath Commission and we became a State agency.

One of the members of the Commission appointed by Governor Hodges was Mrs. Oscar F. Smith, who, with the Oscar F. Smith Foundation and her daughter

Mrs. Roy Charles, gave \$75,000 to buy and restore the Bonner House as a memorial to Oscar F. Smith, who was born near Bath.

The Commission worked on to restore the two houses, bought and developed Harding Landing, bought land for the Indian village, and bought the Gibbs Furniture lot, formerly a part of the Marsh property.

On July 1, 1963, Bath became a State Historic Site, and the State appropriated money for the maintenance and operation of the property.

Since the houses were opened to the public on May 5, 1962, there have been 11,033 visitors; since January 1, 1964, through October 3, 1964, there have been 4,390 visitors.

The Gift Shop was not taken over by the State and has been run for the Commission by Mrs. John A. Tankard. When she took it over it was in debt over \$400 and as of September 1 we had a small inventory of \$379.50 and \$434.18 in the bank, with all bills paid.

So much for a general, hurried report from your Chairman.

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I report with regret the passing of two of our valuable members since our last meeting: Mrs. Marcia Myers Knott of Washington and Mrs. Roy Charles of Norfolk. I also report the illness of Mrs. Harry McMullan, and Miss Elizabeth Thompson is unable to be here today on account of an accident. The Cannons are not well.

I would now like to present to you five new Commission members appointed by Governor Sanford since our last meeting:

- Mrs. William Rumley, Jr., of Washington, N. C.
- Mrs. G. W. Marsh, Bath, N. C.
- Mr. Milo Gibbs, Washington, N. C.
- Mrs. Roscoe Tankard, Bath, N. C.
- Mrs. Taylor B. Attmore, Jr., Washington, N. C.

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Mr. Milo Gibbs takes the place of Mr. Dan M. Paul, Finance Officer, and Mrs. C. E. Venters, Treasurer, both of whom served us long and well. We sincerely thank them.

I call now on Mr. Gibbs to give us a financial report of whatever money the Commission may have on hand.

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Thanks, Mr. Gibbs.

The Commission has no authority or question about the money the State spends on the project as set up by the Legislature. Those employed are paid by the State rate of employment and we have no worry with that.

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All the property at Bath is in the name of the Beaufort County Historical Society but I understand the papers have now been prepared to properly transfer title to the State. I have been instructed by the Beaufort County Historical Society, of which I am President, to sign the papers when arrangements have been made to insure the payment of the \$2500 N.C.S.P.A. for which they issued a note.

I have presented this report as a refresher.

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A report was handed to each person present as follows:

OPERATIONAL REPORT

TO

HISTORIC BATH COMMISSION

FROM

HISTORIC SITES DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

October, 1964

The State Department of Archives and History, Historic Sites Division, started the supervision and maintenance of Historic Bath Site July 1, 1963.

The office has been renovated and proper office equipment installed for the necessary operation of a Site. We are acting as the Chamber of Commerce of Bath and the mail is fairly heavy. We now have telephone service which saves mileage, as well as a desk, typewriter, adding machine, air conditioner, water cooler, lighted museum cases, filing cabinet, etc. The attic in the office has been insulated. Receptacles have been installed in the office and proper lighting. A truck is furnished for the Site to haul trash as well as materials for repairs. A new tractor mower and hand mower have been purchased to keep the grounds. A vacuum cleaner, mops, brooms, and bathroom accessories are furnished.

The lot beside the Bonner House, the lot behind the Palmer-Marsh House and the lot beside the office have been cleared, leveled, and grassed. Bonner's Point shoreline has been cleared and the debris hauled away. The small house behind the Bonner House has been painted and steps built at both the front and side doors. A new brick pump house has been built at the Bonner property and a new pump installed in order to have water for the garden. The kitchen has been furnished and opened. The plaster fell in the Bonner House Memorial Room and has been replaced and the room repainted. The other rooms were inspected for safety. The garage has a new roof, new doors, locks, a concrete floor, and has been painted. A new driveway has been built and the front of the property has been drained.

The Ruth McLeod Smith Memorial Garden has been completed with the exception of the sundial, urn, and plaque. This garden was constructed and placed under the supervision of the State and the State has enclosed the garden

with a picket fence, as well as the cemetery. The State built and furnished the trellis and will maintain the garden.

The houses are mopped, swept, and dusted daily. The brass is polished when needed. Spotlights have been installed with underground wiring for both the Palmer-Marsh and Bonner houses. Both of the houses have had a thorough spring and fall cleaning and have had the floors waxed. Everything has been inventoried and photographed in both the houses, the office, and the furniture store. The houses in damp, cool weather are heated to take care of the moisture and for the comfort of the tourist in winter.

The crabtree trees have been treated for lice and are watched closely as are the other trees for disease or insects. The shrubs have been pruned and clipped and the lawns are fertilized when needed.

The site of Blackbeard's home, Tobias Knight's and Governor Eden's homes have been investigated by Stanley South, Staff Archaeologist, Department of Archives and History. Bennie Keel, from the State Anthropology Laboratory of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, surveyed the Indian village site.

Water is pumped from around the trees at Hardings Landing when needed with a hand pump which was bought for this purpose.

A television show, "Portrait of Bath Town," was produced by WITN Television Station in Washington, with the cooperation of the Department of Archives and History. This program has been shown on television stations in Washington, Charlotte, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, and Durham. Plans are being made for the film to be shown on a number of other stations in North Carolina. A radio program was taped April 1 on the Historic Bath Site. The names of some of the visitors at Historic Bath Site are sent weekly to the Washington Daily News.

State road signs have been placed at Washington, Belhaven, and other places directing tourists to Historic Bath.

Mrs. John A. Tankard, Historic Site Assistant, and Willie Grey Moore, Jr., Grounds Maintenance Man, are permanent staff members. Seven hostesses are employed during the summer months and two hostesses rotate days during the winter months. Other temporary help is hired when needed for the grounds and other work. The office and the houses are open to the public six days a week the entire year.

Visitors from January 1, 1964, to October 3, 1964, were 4,390 compared to 1,619 covering the same period of time last year.

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The Chairman read an open letter to Dr. Crittenden, Director of the State Department of Archives and History, as follows:

Sunday, Oct. 4, 1964

Dear Chris:

The meeting of the Bath Commission on Tuesday may be a successful one. It may be the last one that the present Commission may have.

There is still much to be done at Bath but the Commission and its committees have been entirely idle since Bath became a Historic Site.

We have tried for a year and a half to get some understanding as to the Commission's rights, privileges, duties, and functions but we are no nearer now than on July 1, 1963. Personally, I have made three trips to Raleigh and met with Department heads on the subject and have talked for hours with Sam Tarlton, and as Chairman of the Commission I know no more than I did fifteen months ago. In the meantime we have lost by death two of our most interested and wealthiest members who wanted to and would have done things for Bath had we not delayed so long.

The Historic Bath Commission is an outstanding group. We have members who are engineers, authors, historians, authorities on antiques, restorations, and Indians. We have members who have visited great museums in this country and abroad; we have at least five members who know as much about trees and flowers as anyone I know. We have bankers and politicians who know how to get the money we have to have. All in all it is a remarkable group, willing, interested, and ready to work and give. If this Commission is not to be used for the purposes for which it was appointed, I think the Commission should disband with this meeting and go out of existence.

At our meeting (Tuesday) I shall ask you as Director of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, and as a member of the Historic Bath Commission, the following questions to bring the matter to the floor.

1. Just what does the Department desire of the Commission?
2. What has become of the fence and walks at the Palmer-Marsh House as set up by the last Legislature?
3. Who is to design the plan and lay out the walks?
4. If that money is not spent for that purpose by June 30, 1965, do we lose it?
5. Whose job is it to promote interest in Black Beard the Pirate? We are losing a great opportunity here.
6. Whose task is it to get the Post Office and the ABC store remodeled with a Colonial look in front? The owner is willing and the Post Office Department and the ABC Board will help pay the bill.
7. Who is to try to get the Buzzard Hotel, reproduce the Court House and Gaol, reproduce the Indian Village of Cotan and try to get our creeks improved?
8. Whose job is it to see that we get more publicity, create a more hospitable atmosphere, and arrange for special events?
9. Whose job is it to see the grounds are improved? Hundreds would come to see Colonel Palmer's Garden if it were recreated.
10. Really, what is the attitude of the Department in regard to the Commission?

Those in charge of operating Historic Bath are doing a good job, an excellent job, for which they are paid; the little touch that members

of the Commission would add for the beauty and improvement would be for the love of Bath and its restoration.

After almost a year and a half we still don't know one thing except that the Department does not want any "harassment."

If Mr. Moore is elected Governor of North Carolina, and as good a democrat I hope that he is, and he reappoints a Bath Commission as did Governor Sanford, Governor Moore would not reappoint me as I was for Preyer.

I have enjoyed working for Bath these ten years since we started getting ready for Bath's 250th Birthday. I have enjoyed being a member of the Commission. As Chairman of the Commission I would certainly like to leave it in better working condition than it is today.

Sincerely,

Edmund H. Harding, Chairman  
Historic Bath Commission

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Dr. Crittenden read a statement as follows:

Certain questions have been raised regarding the respective duties and functions of the Historic Bath Commission and the State Department of Archives and History with regard to the acquisition of property, the restoration, and the maintenance of Historic Bath, and the relationship of these two State agencies to each other in preserving and maintaining these properties as a State Historic Site.

In this connection the State Department of Archives and History has two points to make, as follows:

1. Great appreciation is expressed to Mr. Edmund H. Harding, the Chairman of the Historic Bath Commission, and all the members of that Commission for their unselfish and dedicated activities and services in the acquisition and preservation of historic properties in the Town of Bath, oldest incorporated town in the State of North Carolina, during the colonial period the place of residence of many leading citizens, the meeting place several times of the General Assembly of North Carolina, and otherwise significant in many and various ways in our history. Without the effective and successful efforts of the Historic Bath Commission, it is doubtful whether these historic properties would have been preserved for posterity. The Department of Archives and History is truly appreciative of the splendid accomplishments and services rendered by the Historic Bath Commission.

2. The questions that have been raised relate in large degree to the meaning and intent of the statutes affecting Historic Bath. The Department of Archives and History is compelled by law to abide by the provisions of these statutes, but it is not authorized to interpret the meaning of the statutes where such meaning is not clear. The legal arm of the State of North Carolina in interpreting the statutes is the Attorney General. Regarding Historic Bath, it would seem appropriate to consult the Attorney General. It is therefore suggested and requested that the Historic Bath Commission authorize and instruct its Chairman, together with the Director of the State Department of Archives and History, to consult the Attorney General regarding the statutes referred to above, relating to Historic Bath, with the purpose of preparing and drafting a working arrangement and agreement between the two agencies with regard to the future administration and maintenance of Historic Bath as a State Historic Site.

October 6, 1964

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Christopher Crittenden  
 Director  
 State Department of Archives and History

The Chairman opened the floor for discussion and various persons participated.

Mr. Harry McGalliard made a brief statement indicating the willingness of the Attorney General, upon official request, to help resolve any legal questions involved.

Mr. Noe inquired whether any other group could organize and conduct a historic restoration-preservation program in the Town of Bath, and he was assured that this could be done.

The Chairman requested that any members of the Commission write him any questions they may wish him to raise with Dr. Crittenden and the Attorney General.

There was some discussion as to why the interior of the smokehouse had not been completed. Mr. Tarlton stated that small repair projects could be handled as a part of the regular maintenance budget, but that large projects needed to be dealt with otherwise and should be a part of a long-range program that the Commission might appropriately adopt.

Mr. Noe stated that, if he understood correctly, it had always been intended that the Commission find things to be restored and should restore them, and then turn them over to the Department of Archives and History to maintain and "operate."