

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library**

Morehead City, Carteret County, CR0783, Listed 8/20/2021  
Nomination by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Hanbury Preservation Consulting  
Photographs by John P. Wood, April 2021



Exterior, Southwest Corner, view to the Northeast



Interior, Second Floor, Southeast Reading Room, View to South

United States Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number: 812 Evans Street

City or town: Morehead City State: NC County: Carteret

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

	, Deputy SHPO
7/12/2021	
<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>  <u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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**Signature of commenting official:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Title :** \_\_\_\_\_ **North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site

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Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**  
**Historic Functions**

   COMMERCE/TRADE: business

   HEALTHCARE: medical office

   EDUCATION: library  

**Current Functions**

EDUCATION: library

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

### Materials:

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

roof: SYNTHETICS

### Summary Paragraph

The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Evans and South Ninth Streets in Morehead City, North Carolina. It has a zero-lot line on the west elevation and modest planting beds on the south. A narrow grassy strip on the east leads to a garden at the north, enclosed by a pierced brick wall. The Colonial Revival-style building is two stories with a hipped roof clad in composite shingles. Its exterior walls are laid in a variant of common bond with five courses of running bond to a single course of Flemish bond. The building is rectangular in footprint, with the north/south axis longer than the east/west axis. The building has three gabled dormers on the east and west elevations, and one each on the north and south elevations. Though the interior has had some alterations, notably to support its continued use as a library and to meet ADA requirements, the building has a high degree of integrity. The property includes a garden wall and garden, built after the period of significance which are a non-contributing structure and site, respectively.

### Narrative Description

The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library is located at the corner of Evans and South Ninth Streets. It sits on an L-shaped parcel, which allows for a garden at its north that extends to the east. The garden is enclosed by a ca. 1950 brick wall with brick piers alternating with pierced brickwork panels, with a rowlock top course. The garden has a grass lawn with a three-tiered fountain at the center surrounded by low shrubs. Planting beds ring the interior of the wall and include a variety of species including azalea, crepe myrtle, and oleander.

The library is a two-story building with a hipped roof clad in composite shingles. Its exterior walls are laid in a variant of common bond with five courses of running bond to a single course of Flemish bond. The building is rectangular in footprint, with the north/south axis longer than

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the east/west axis. The building has three gabled dormers on the east and west elevations, and one each on the north and south elevations.

An exterior door is centered on each elevation. The door on the east elevation has a metal lintel with a rowlock course above. The other exterior doors are in classical surrounds. The north elevation has a simple surround of square pilasters, topped with molding, supporting entablature blocks and a pediment with partial returns. The replacement door on this elevation has a single light transom above it and there are raised panels on the jambs and head of the frame. The south and west elevations have single-leaf doors with wooden fan lights in arched openings with wooden keystones and raised panels in the intrados, enclosed in pedimented surrounds with square pilasters supporting entablature blocks and gables with partial returns.

The north and south elevations have two windows flanking the entrance on the first floor, and three windows above them on the second floor. On the first floor of the east and west elevations are eight windows, four on either side of the entrances; the second floor of these elevations has nine windows aligned above the doors and windows below. First-floor windows are eight-over-twelve, replacement double-hung sash with cast stone sills and rowlock lintels. Second-story windows are eight-over-eight wooden windows, again with cast stone sills and rowlock lintels. The gabled dormers each have shingled sides and house a six-over-six wooden, double-hung sash window.

The roof has a wooden modillioned cornice. A single brick interior chimney is located east of the ridgeline toward the north end of the building.

The interior of the building has a double-loaded corridor running north/south on the first and second floors with a shorter, intersecting east/west hall aligned with the principal entrance and interior stair.

The principal entrance, on the west elevation, leads to a small vestibule with painted, vertical, pine-paneled walls; a terracotta tile floor; and a single step from the vestibule floor level to the principal floor level, leading to a single-leaf interior door. The door has a single light transom above. The door itself has a large square glass pane with two square raised panels above it and two rectangular raised panels below. Unless otherwise noted, all interior doors match this one.

Beyond the vestibule is the lobby, which leads to an open, double-run stair at its east. The stair has a square, paneled, post newel with a graduated cap, and a rail with square picket balusters. The stair has been carpeted.

The southern end of the first floor is divided from the lobby area by a partition wall with a cased opening and transom. The north-south hallway has vestibules at each end, as well as secondary interior cased openings. The north end of the hallway has black and white linoleum tile (likely not historic) in a checkerboard pattern, north of the secondary opening. The south end has a faux stone tile floor, south of its secondary opening. The central portion of the hall has wooden flooring as do most of the interior spaces, unless otherwise noted.

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The rooms in the southwestern quadrant of the first floor appear to have originally been four rooms, now effectively two, with a circulation area at the north and stacks to the south. These two large rooms have large cased openings within them and are divided from each other by a partition wall with a single, small, cased opening. The circulation area has large counters facing the hallways in cased openings on its north and east walls, with an additional smaller counter at its southeast in what appears to have been a door surround. Three additional cased door openings with transoms are located along the west side of the south hall.

The southeastern quadrant has been divided into three spaces: two restrooms to the north with no notable historic interior fabric, and stacks to the south. The ladies room has a door on its north wall, at the stair, and the men's room to its south has an entrance from the main hall. The room south of the restrooms is a stacks area with a large cased opening dividing it. Scarring at the floor indicates that it was once two rooms. The stacks have two entrances to the main hall. Both entrances have transoms above them. The northern entrance is a cased opening but the southern entrance, south of the secondary hall opening, retains its door. The southern vestibule has a cased opening with a transom into the hall with the secondary opening slightly to its north on the hall, again a cased opening with a transom.

The northwestern quadrant of the first floor has a large children's reading room to the south and a workroom to the north. Each of these rooms has a single entrance to the main hall, with no connection between them. The children's room has stained pine-paneled walls. Its south wall has three closets, each with a single-leaf, vertical-board, pine door in simple surround. The workroom to the north has a single-leaf door to the hall. It has a black and white checkerboard tile floor, a continuation of the flooring material that is found between the vestibule and the secondary interior entrance.

The northeastern quadrant has two reading rooms divided by the elevator that was added ca. 2010 and that opens to the main hall. The northern room has two doors from the hall. The southern room has a single entrance door from the hall near its southern end. The southern room has pine-paneled walls, a painted paneled ceiling, and a cased-in closet at its southeast corner.

The secondary entrances at either end of the hall differ in complexity. Neither has a door, though both likely had one in the past. The southern entrance is a cased opening with a transom. The northern one is a wider cased opening, with a central doorway flanked by single-light sidelights with raised panels above and below them and a rectangular fixed transom that extends the width of the door and sidelights.

Trim varies on the first floor. The main entrance vestibule, the stair hall, a portion of the northern hall, the children's reading room, and the reading room to its east, all have crown moldings, but the remainder of the first floor does not. Other trim is likewise inconsistent. While the children's reading room and the room across the hall to its east have vertical pine paneling, the remainder of the rooms have plaster walls. The main vestibule, the stair hall, the north hall, and the northern rooms at the east and west, all have a high chair rail with wooden panels below and smaller wooden panels beneath the windows. The remaining spaces do not.

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At the central stair, south of its initial run and north of the restrooms is a door to an eastern vestibule that contains a door to a partial basement. This service vestibule has a board ceiling and walls. The exterior door and the door to the basement have a narrow horizontal rectangular raised panel at the rail opposite the knob with a pair of shorter rectangular raised wooden panels below it and taller paired raised wooden panels above.

The second floor is divided into four sections. At the northwest is the "piano room." It has four windows along its west wall and one on its north wall. Each has an inset wooden panel below, framed and set between the baseboard and the window aprons. A high chair rail runs the perimeter of the room, interrupted only by windows and doors. Below the chair rail are large wooden panels. Similar trim is found through the second floor, save for in the work room. The ceiling has a popcorn finish. Wooden floors that were recently covered in commercial grade wall-to-wall carpeting have been exposed and re-finished. Suspended fluorescent light fixtures hang from the center line of the ceiling. The east and west walls have wall sconces of recent vintage. There are two doors to the hall, one at the north end of the east wall and a second at the east side of the south wall. Both are single-leaf doors with a square light, two square raised panels above the light, and two rectangular raised panels below it. Each door has a rectangular transom above it.

The southwest room has a single door to the hall that matches those in the northwest room, located at the east side of its north wall. This room has four windows along its west wall and one on its south wall. The trim in this room is obscured by freestanding low bookcases set against the north, south, and west walls and the south and north ends of the east wall; and by full height, built-in pine bookcases along the central portion of the east wall. The ceiling has a popcorn finish. Suspended fluorescent light fixtures hang from the center line of the ceiling.

Between the northwest and southwest rooms, on axis with the stairs to their east, is a small office with a door on the hall matching those in the flanking rooms.

The southeast room has a single door to the hall, matching those in the other rooms. It is set at an angle as the northwest corner of this room is clipped on the diagonal. The room has exposed pine floors and similar window and trim treatment as the western rooms, obscured by low, freestanding bookcases that line the room. At the south wall, the window is flanked by built-in cabinetry. Each side has three wooden doors, a full-width drawer below them and a panel above them. Between this room and the stair is a small room with an angled entrance at the top of the stairs. Once used as a children's bathroom, this room has two toilet stalls, a sink and a small cased-in closet. The room is generally locked and is used for storage.

The northeast section is divided into two rooms, a kitchen to the north and a work/storage room to the south. The kitchen has a single door to the hall. It has one window on axis with its hall door. The north and south walls have cabinets and appliances. A ceiling hatch leads to the attic. An exterior window on the north elevation appears to be blocked in this room. On its south wall is a four-panel, swinging door to the workroom at its south.

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The workroom has one door to the hall on the west side of its south wall. This room has three windows along its east exterior wall. The room is U-shaped in plan to accommodate the elevator shaft. A closet has been cased in south of and adjacent to the elevator shaft with a five-panel "cross-and-bible" door. At the northwest corner of the room is a cased-in closet with a five-panel "cross-and-bible" door, also accessed by the swinging door in the kitchen.

### Integrity

The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library has not been moved, thus retains integrity of location. Though the surrounding area has seen some changes, it remains a transitional zone between the main commercial artery of Arendell Street and an area of surface parking and later infill developments; thus it retains a high integrity of setting for the parcel. The building's design, materials, and workmanship are largely unchanged from the period of significance save for the restrooms, kitchen and circulation desk. Much of the flooring, walls, stair, and interior trim remain intact. The building thus retains a high degree of feeling as a library and civic center. Its integrity of association is strongly bolstered by continuous use as a public building.

### Statement of Archaeological Potential

The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological deposits, such as wells, privies, planting beds and paths, structural remains of the Webb family home, accumulated debris from use of the property, and other remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property. Information concerning social standing and mobility, the character of daily life in nineteenth-century Morehead City, as well as structural details and landscape use, can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the property. At this time no investigation has been done to document these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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### Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1930-1937

### Significant Dates

1930

1937

### Significant Person

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library is significant under Criterion C for Architecture as a good extant example of a substantial Colonial Revival-style public building in Morehead City. It is significant at the local level with a period of significance from 1930, when it was built, to 1937 when it was reconfigured to house the local library. Criterion Consideration F does not apply as the property is not **primarily** (emphasis added) commemorative in intent, as it was not built as a memorial but was dedicated as such six years after its initial construction.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### Historical Background

The Webb family has had a connection to Morehead City since the 1850s when Silas Webb travelled to Shepard's Point with John Motley Morehead to select a site for the eponymous Morehead City. Strategically located to capitalize on both water and anticipated rail transport, the town was established with land purchased from the Arendell family. Some sources credit

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Silas Webb with laying out Morehead City's gridiron pattern.<sup>1</sup> In 1858 Silas and his wife Eliza Ann moved to Morehead City and lived in a brick house they built on Arendell Street. They had eleven children. One of them, Alexander, married Harriet Evelyn Wade of Harkers Island.<sup>2</sup>

Alexander and Harriet had ten children, many of whom remained in the area and were active in the community. They lived in a house on Ninth Street that was demolished after Harriet's death in 1910. One of their children was Earle Wayne Webb, Sr.

Earle Wayne Webb, Sr. (1883-1965) attended Trinity College (later Duke University) and transferred to University of Michigan where he graduated in 1902. He continued to New York University, where he studied law and passed the bar in 1904. He worked in private practice as a litigator in New York.

He left private practice in 1922 to serve as an attorney for General Motors Corporation in Detroit. He was also made a director of the General Motors Chemical Company, a subsidiary formed to promote Ethyl, a gasoline additive. In 1923 General Motors and Standard Oil Company formed the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation (later Ethyl Corporation), which had patents connected to tetraethyl lead, a compound that was an anti-knock additive to gasoline. In 1925 Earle Webb, Sr. was elected as the president of Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, a position he held until 1947. He served on the board of the Ethyl Corporation from 1947-1952. Webb was instrumental in shepherding leaded gas through government investigations into its public health and environmental impact.<sup>3</sup>

Though his professional life kept Earle Webb, Sr. in the New York City area, he maintained a strong connection to Carteret County. He and his wife (the former Eva Arnold, whom he married in 1911) purchased 200 acres of land overlooking Bogue Sound and built a vacation home known as Journey's End that was designed by Earle's brother George Webb, and was completed in 1929, and burned in the 1960s.

Earle continued to develop real estate in Morehead City with the construction of what is now the Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library, originally a commercial structure built on the site of his childhood home.<sup>4</sup> *The Beaufort News* reported on the building's construction in January 1930:

A large, two-story brick office building is now being built by Mr. Earl Webb on the corner of Evans and South 6th Street. This building is located within a block of the busiest section of the city. Dr. Ben S. Royall will occupy the major part of the first floor and will use that as a sort of emergency hospital. The rest of the first floor and the second

<sup>1</sup> Earle Wayne Webb Jr Memorial Civic Center and Public Library, undated typescript, 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 3.

<sup>3</sup> Susan W. Simpson, "The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Library and Civic Center: A Morehead City Landmark Awaits an Uncertain Future," *North Carolina Libraries*, Summer 2003, 68; and *History of Earle Webb and The Webb Library*, undated typescript, 2.

<sup>4</sup> *History of Earle Webb and The Webb Library*, undated typescript, 1.

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will be used by the Morehead City business men. The Webb building will add much to the beauty of that section."<sup>5</sup>

The building was strategically located between the downtown area along Arendell Street, and the Morehead City Hospital (built in 1918, no longer extant) at the corner of Shepard and Ninth Streets. Other sources note that a Dr. Sanford ("Sam") Thompson also had offices in the building.<sup>6</sup> The 1924-41 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map notes that at one point the building housed the U.S. Public Health Service Outpatient Clinic.<sup>7</sup> By July 1936, the upper floor housed garment production machinery and served as a training center for garment workers at the Morehead City Garment Company, an effort supported by local government that had built a speculative manufacturing plant to attract manufacturing companies and jobs to the region during the Depression.<sup>8</sup>

In December 1932, Webb's son and namesake, Earle Wayne Webb, Jr., then a student at Duke, died of pneumonia. His body was brought from his home in New York to be buried in Morehead City.<sup>9</sup> In March of the following year Earle Webb, Sr. established the Earle Wayne Webb, Jr. Memorial Fund, Inc., "to provide for educational, religious and charitable causes, to the end that, in so far as it is possible, an instrumentality, through which the noble and generous spirit and unselfish devotion of Earle Wayne Webb, Junior to such causes might express themselves, and through such benevolent causes his memory might be associated and perpetuated."<sup>10</sup>

In 1934, the Morehead City Woman's Club started a town library, housed in an upstairs room at the town hall/fire station. The Woman's Club raised funds for books and contributed volunteer hours to the effort. The library began to outgrow the space at town hall. Denied additional space in town hall, the Woman's Club was initially given a single, second-story room at Webb's building for the library. With their continued successes, they pressed for more.<sup>11</sup>

In 1936, Webb made the decision to convert his building to a library and civic center to provide space for the public library and community meeting rooms. *The Beaufort News* reported on the grand opening in 1937:

It is hard to describe the splendid Civic Center and Public Library which has just been established in Morehead City. To say that it is magnificent, is putting it mildly. This Civic Center, intended to be a meeting place for citizens of Morehead City is a fine gift from a fine citizen. Earl W. Webb a native of Morehead City who has become an important citizen of the financial world established the Civic Center as a memorial to his

<sup>5</sup> "New Building Being Built in Morehead City," *The Beaufort News*, January 30, 1930, 1.

<sup>6</sup> *History of Earle Webb and The Webb Library*, undated typescript, 3.

<sup>7</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, Morehead City, 1924-41.

<sup>8</sup> "A Blanket of Influence," *The Carteret County Historical Society Quarterly*, (July-August-September 2015): 6.

<sup>9</sup> "Earle Wayne Webb, Jr.," *The News and Observer*, December 24, 1932, 3.

<sup>10</sup> Earle Wayne Webb Jr Memorial Fund Incorporated, Articles of Incorporation filed March 16, 1933.

<sup>11</sup> Susan W. Simpson, "The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Library and Civic Center: A Morehead City Landmark Awaits an Uncertain Future," *North Carolina Libraries*, Summer 2003, 68.

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late son Earl W. Webb Jr. It is a splendid memorial, the kind which will be of service to Morehead Citizens.

The Civic Center is located in the Webb Building. It includes besides the library of several hundred volumes, several club rooms elaborately furnished. It must have cost thousands of dollars to complete the memorial. Completed now and ready for use it is a magnificent project, and one which the fine citizens of Morehead City should be proud.<sup>12</sup>

The opening was also reported in Raleigh. The *News and Observer* noted:

The public library, for the past year located in the City Hall, has been transferred to the community center which has been completely remodeled and refurnished. The furnishings are elaborate, providing virtually every facility to take care of the demands of the various women's clubs and other organizations of the community.<sup>13</sup>

The architect for the building is yet unknown, though given that George Webb had designed Journey's End in the same period, it is not unreasonable to think he may have been involved.<sup>14</sup> Unpublished sources state that Earle Webb hired interior designers from New York and Palm Beach<sup>15</sup> to renovate the interiors in 1936. Their identities are also yet unknown.

#### Architecture Context

Morehead City suffered a catastrophic fire in 1908 that devastated the commercial district, which was then largely composed of buildings with wood frame construction. The rebuilding effort resulted in more brick buildings. During this period Norfolk and Southern Railroad built a concrete seawall between Fourth and Ninth streets, creating infill, but new construction in the area lagged initially. In the 1920s construction accelerated and included a number of large civic projects, including two large projects afforded by the seawall: the Morehead City Municipal Hospital designed by Wilson, NC architects Benton and Benton, completed in 1920 (demolished), and the Florentine Renaissance-style Municipal Building and Fire Station, completed in 1926. The Municipal Building was constructed on a lot purchased from Charles S. and Nina Webb Wallace (Earle, Sr.'s sister). According to the National Register nomination for the Municipal Building, "Earle Webb, native son and Esso Oil Company executive, financed the imposing masonry Florentine Renaissance-style building."<sup>16</sup> In 1929 the town built a Neoclassical Revival-style school building to replace an earlier frame school.

<sup>12</sup> "A Fine Gift From A Fine Citizen," *The Beaufort News*, May 20, 1937, 4.

<sup>13</sup> "Morehead Opens Community House," *News and Observer*, May 13, 1937, 13.

<sup>14</sup> Jane Butler, "The Big House and the Big Heart of Earle Webb," *Maritimes Magazine*, April 14, 1988, 3.

<sup>15</sup> *History of Earle Webb and The Webb Library*, undated typescript, 3.

<sup>16</sup> Beth Keane, Morehead City Municipal Building National Register nomination, 2004, 7.

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Colonial Revival

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Architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson asserts that the "Colonial Revival is the United States's most popular and characteristic expression,"<sup>17</sup> and further describes it as "our national architectural idiom."<sup>18</sup>

The impulse to design in that style can be attributed to a number of motives, among them national pride, nostalgia for a "simpler time," the desire to cash in on the popularity and endurance of the style, and a drive to define a national identity. Though its period of greatest popularity was between 1890 (spurred by the Centennial Exposition of 1876) and 1950, elements of it continue today. While some translations of the Colonial Revival style harken back to the early Dutch and Spanish settlement of the country and their characteristic styles and forms, most, like the Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library, replicate aspects of architecture with English precedents.

The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library contains many characteristics typical of the Colonial Revival style, including the use of red brick and white trim for the exterior. The building is marked by its overall symmetry, another Colonial Revival-style feature. Each elevation is bilaterally symmetrical, oriented around a central entrance. Unlike more lushly ornamented styles, the Colonial Revival style is marked by its restraint and use of ornament and trim with classical precedents, such as the building's discreet modillion cornice. Colonial Revival-style buildings generally feature multi-paned, double-hung sash windows, as the Webb Building does with its graduated fenestration. The Webb Building has an emphasis on the exterior entrances, a Colonial Revival-style feature, and they are the most prominent location for classically-inspired ornament with pilasters, raised panels in the jamb, pediments, and fan lights.

In his introduction to the collection of essays *The Colonial Revival in America*, Kenneth Ames notes, "Visions or versions of the colonial past can be found on a remarkable range of structures, including supermarkets, gas stations, shopping centers, post offices, governmental structures of many kinds, ice-cream parlors, churches, and a surprising number of other forms wherever building has taken place in the last century."<sup>19</sup> This variety was true in Morehead City. The 1940 Post Office, now used to house municipal offices, was a New Deal project built by the PWA in a stock Colonial Revival-style design seen with slight deviations across the country and attributed to supervising architect Louis Simon.<sup>20</sup>

The Colonial Revival style was also used for the Jefferson Hotel (1946) on Arendell Street, demolished in 1999. The two-and-a-half-story building featured a monumental portico, gabled dormers, and a cupola. Its associated restaurant was housed in a one-story building that also featured a large portico and cupola.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Richard Guy Wilson, *The Colonial Revival House* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004), 6.

<sup>18</sup> Wilson, *The Colonial Revival House*, 6.

<sup>19</sup> Kenneth Ames, Introduction to *The Colonial Revival in America*, edited by Alan Axelrod (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1985), 2.

<sup>20</sup> "The Living New Deal," accessed September 24, 2017, <https://livingnewdeal.org>.

<sup>21</sup> Jefferson Hotel brochure, nd.

Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library  
Name of Property

Carteret, NC  
County and State

Despite its national popularity, the ubiquitous Colonial Revival style has few examples in Morehead City. The Jefferson Hotel is no longer extant, leaving the former U. S. Post Office and the Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library as the only notable extant historic examples of the style found in public buildings. The Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library is eligible for listing on the National Register, being significant at the local level as a good example of the Colonial Revival style in Morehead City.

Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library  
Name of Property

Carteret, NC  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library  
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Carteret, NC  
County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** CR0783

Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library  
Name of Property

Carteret, NC  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .228

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Latitude: 34.720721 Longitude: -76.713977

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property for the Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library contains the full extent of Carteret County tax parcel number 638619617182000, also described as Lots 7 & 8, Block 11, Town of Morehead City. The .228 acre parcel contains the building and landscape features associated with the Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library. The property boundary is shown by the heavy line on accompanying boundary map.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all that property historically associated with the resource.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury  
organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting  
street & number: P. O. Box 6049  
city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628  
e-mail maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com  
telephone: 919-828-1905 date: 05-11-2021

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Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library  
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**Photo Log**

All photos are

Name of Property: Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library

City or Vicinity: Morehead City

County: Carteret State: North Carolina

Photographer: John P. Wood

Date Photographed: April 14, 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Exterior, Southwest Corner, view to the Northeast

1 of 16

Exterior, South Elevation, view to the North

2 of 16

Exterior, Garden and Northeast Corner, view to Southwest

3 of 16

Exterior, Primary Entrance, Facade, View to East

4 of 16

Exterior, Facade, View to Southeast

5 of 16

Interior, First Floor, Circulation Counter, View to Northwest

6 of 16

Interior, First Floor, Stairwell, View to Northeast

7 of 16

Interior, First Floor, Children's Reading Room, View to North

8 of 16

Interior, First Floor, Vestibule and Hall, View to South

9 of 16

Interior, First Floor, Reading Room, View to West

10 of 16

Interior, Second Floor, Stairwell. View to East

11 of 16

Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library  
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Interior, Second Floor, Hall, View to South  
12 of 16

Interior, Second Floor, Piano Room, View to North  
13 of 16

Interior, Second Floor, Hall, View to South  
14 of 16

Interior, Second Floor, Southwest Reading Room, View to North  
15 of 16

Interior, Second Floor, Southeast Reading Room, View to South  
16 of 16

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

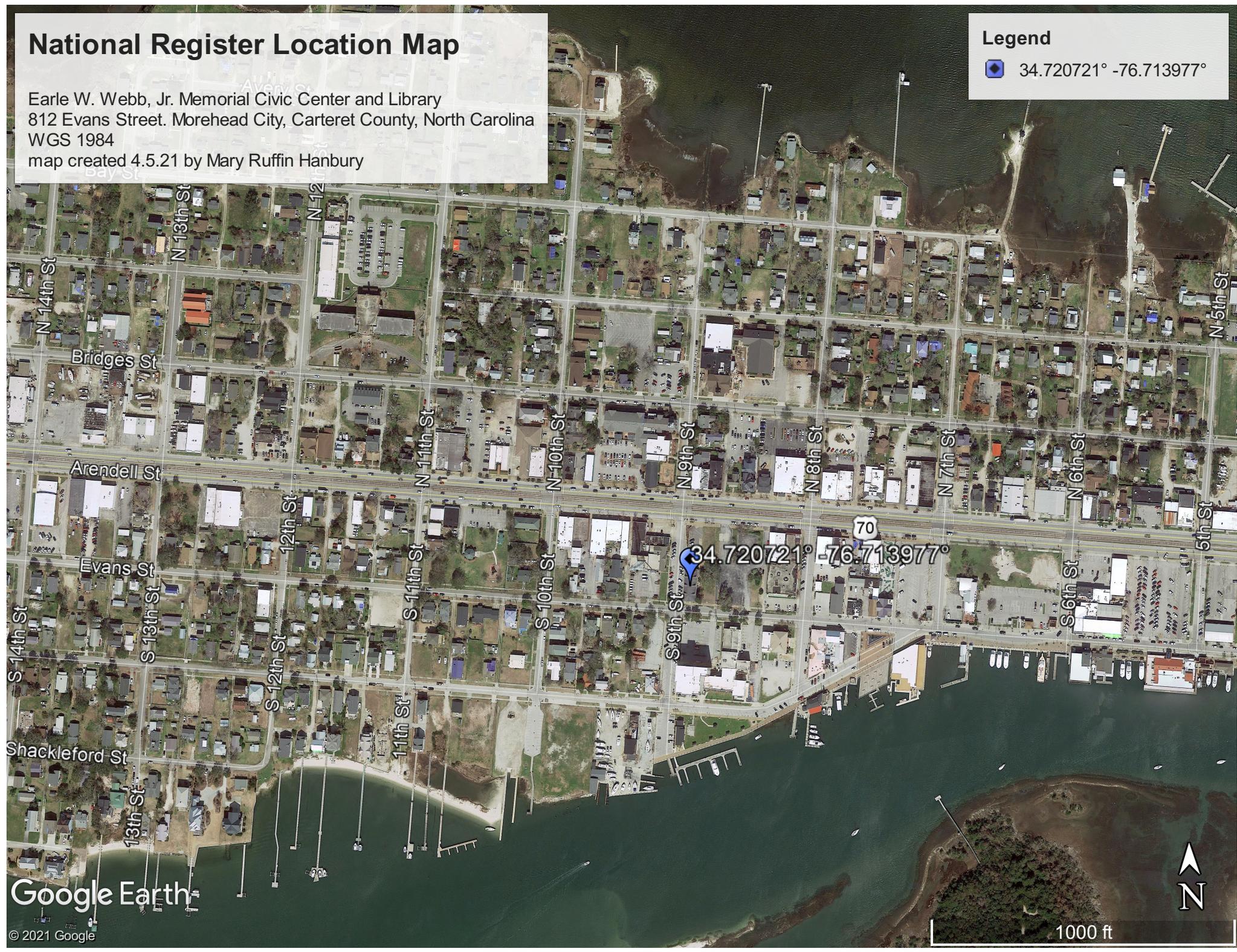
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

# National Register Location Map

Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library  
812 Evans Street. Morehead City, Carteret County, North Carolina  
WGS 1984  
map created 4.5.21 by Mary Ruffin Hanbury

## Legend

 34.720721° -76.713977°



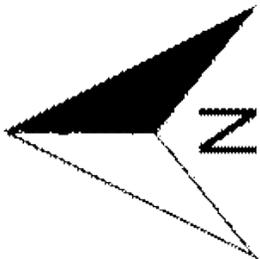
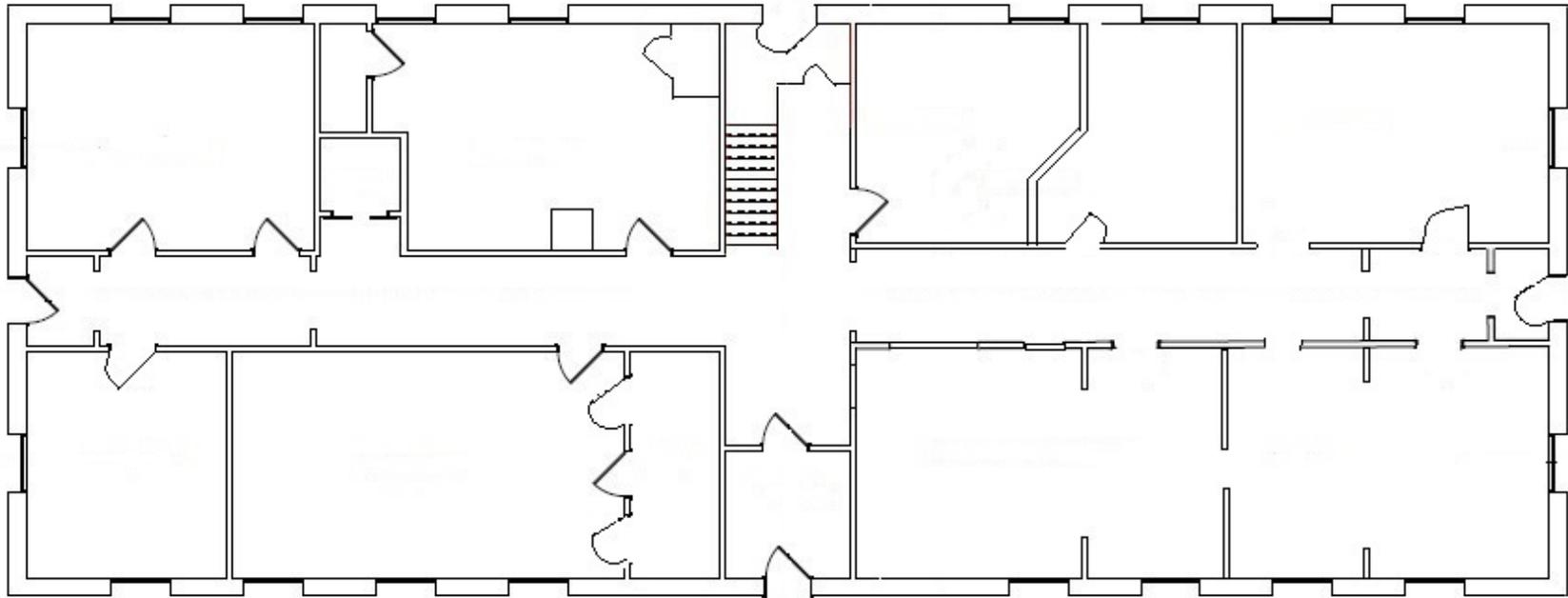
Google Earth

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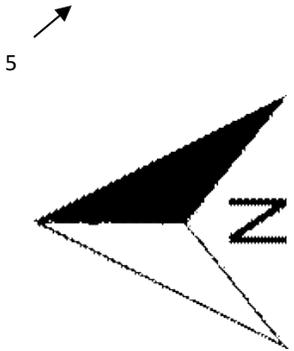
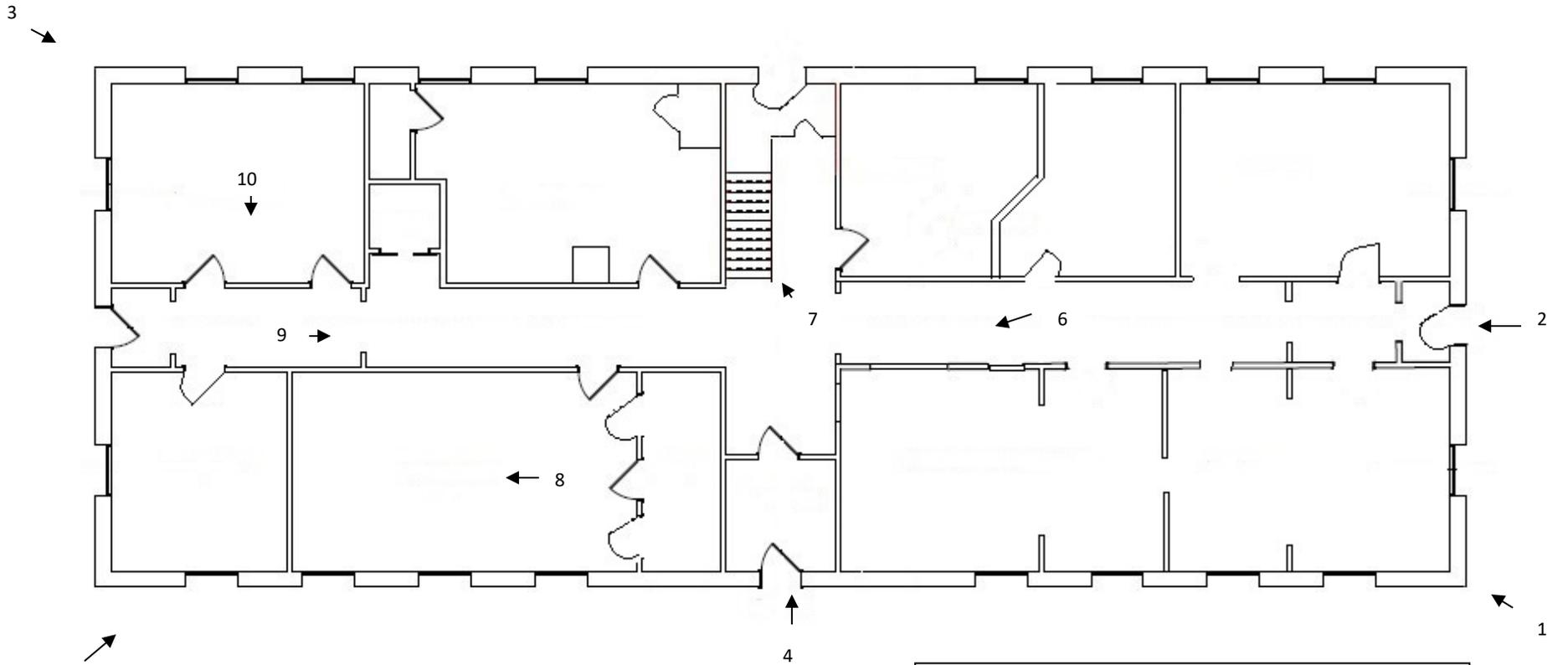


1000 ft

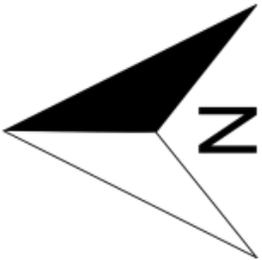
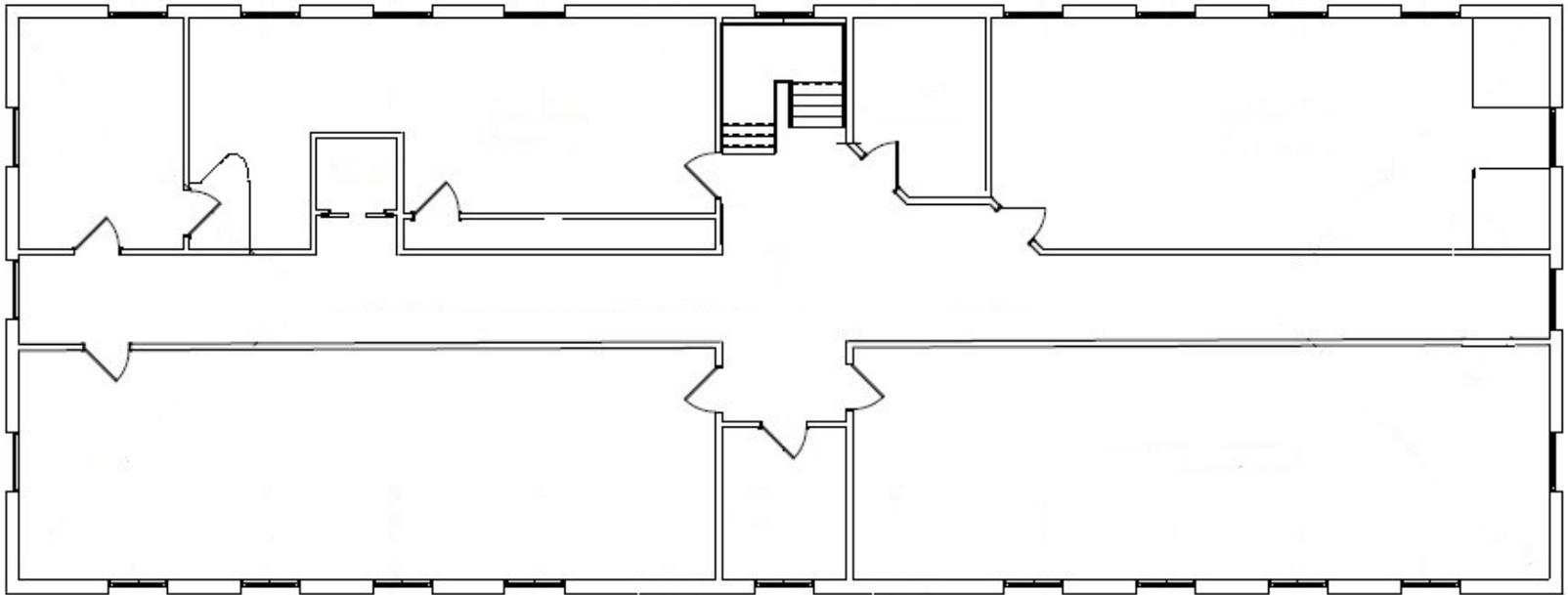




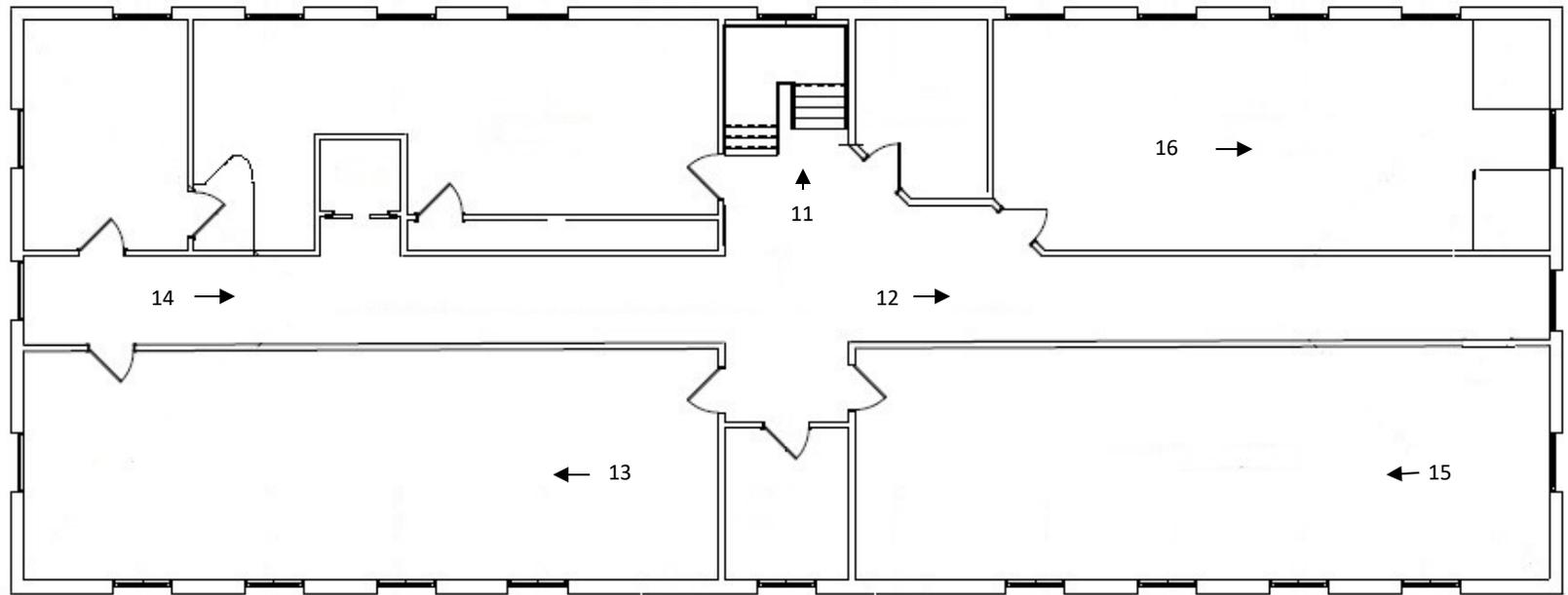
Earle W. Webb Memorial Civic Center and Library  
Morehead City, Carteret County North Carolina  
First Floor Plan



Earle W. Webb Memorial Civic Center and Library  
Morehead City, Carteret County North Carolina  
First Floor Photo Key



Earle W. Webb Memorial Civic Center and Library  
Morehead City, Carteret County North Carolina  
Second Floor Plan



Earle W. Webb Memorial Civic Center and Library  
Morehead City, Carteret County North Carolina  
Second Floor Photo Key