A Photographic Essay of Bath

By

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I had the rare and pleasurable opportunity to take pictures in lieu of a major English assignment this past quarter. I selected the historical town of Bath, the oldest incorporated town in North Carolina, because of its magnetic nostalgia. Bath is a living microcosm of the way things were.

Although my father was born and raised there, I had never attempted to taste its historical value. So with my camera equipment in tow and accompanied by my teacher Roy Armstrong, I headed east toward this little but significant town. I wanted to capture in pictures the Bonner House, the Palmer-Marsh House, the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, and perhaps other interesting sites that caught my eye.

My first stop was the Palmer-Marsh House, one of the oldest remaining homes in North Carolina, which is designated as a National Historic Landmark. It was built
in 1744—now 242 years old! It is an impressive building with its two massive chimneys and many windows.

My second stop was the St. Thomas Episcopal Church. This structure is the earliest church built in North Carolina. Construction was started in 1733 and not finished till 1762. The church has been in use for over 250 years.

My third stop was the Bonner House, which overlooks the picturesque Bath Bay. It was constructed between 1830 and 1840 and is an example of the early nineteenth century Carolina architecture. In contrast to the somewhat monolithic Palmer-Marsh House, there are added porches, wings and shed rooms, not connected to the house, in this more recent style.

My next stops were the outer areas of Bath. Here were yesterday scenes of old majestic barns towering into the horizon or stifled under falling trees, of ancient graveyards gently hidden by the foliage of the woods, of groups of trees mourning over the remains of dilapidated and fallen homes, of old churches at the end of old roads, and of an ancient gas pump that still registers $.29 a gallon. In spite of my somewhat inept handling of my photographic equipment, I managed to photograph successfully a few of these yes-
terday scenes.

I encourage all to spend a lazy Saturday afternoon to look back at the past. There seems to be no better place than the historical site of Bath for such reverie.
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Bonner House
Abandoned farm house

Country church, on lonely road

Remains of fire-destroyed home
Abandoned tobacco barns

Nancy Howard, died Nov. 11, 1852