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Yesterday was when there were close to twenty lumber mills in New Bern and the immediate section. Collectively they furnished employment, mostly at dirt cheap wages, for approximately five thousand men.

These mills had a daily capacity of about 630,000 feet, with an annual cut of about 175,000,000 feet. Bigger by far than any of the others was Roper's mill, largest in the southeastern states.

Along about that time, 60 years ago with a year or two to spare, New Bern was proudly boasting of its nearly 25 miles of newly paved sidewalks, with outside granite curbing.

And that wasn't all. A contract had been let for paving the streets in the business portion of the city with citrified brick, and the work of excavating the streets had begun. Bonds in the amount of \$150,000 were issued.

C. D. Bradham had added a \$30,000 annex to his Pepsi-Cola plant. It was no small operation. The firm could turn out 1,200 gallons of syrup an hour, served 230 bottling plants, working the soda fountain trade in 38 states.

Yesterday was when the Elks Temple building, with "unquestionably" the handsomest furnished lodge and club rooms in the entire South, was erected at a cost of about \$120,000. There were 225 Elks here then.

Next door, heading north on Middle Street, W. B. Blades was erecting a \$30,000, two-story block of three stores. The brick structure was only half complete, but S. H. Kress had already rented one of the stores.

And the town was bragging about a "very substantial" two-story brick auditorium annex to the Moses Griffin Memorial School Building on the Academy Green. It had to be good, because it cost \$13,000.

The auditorium had a seating capacity of 600, but proclaimers really stretched their blanket when they called it the "finest free school auditorium in the State."

It never was that. The seats all on the same level, were worse than terrible, the stage ridiculously inadequate, and performers had to walk through the audience in order to get behind the curtain.

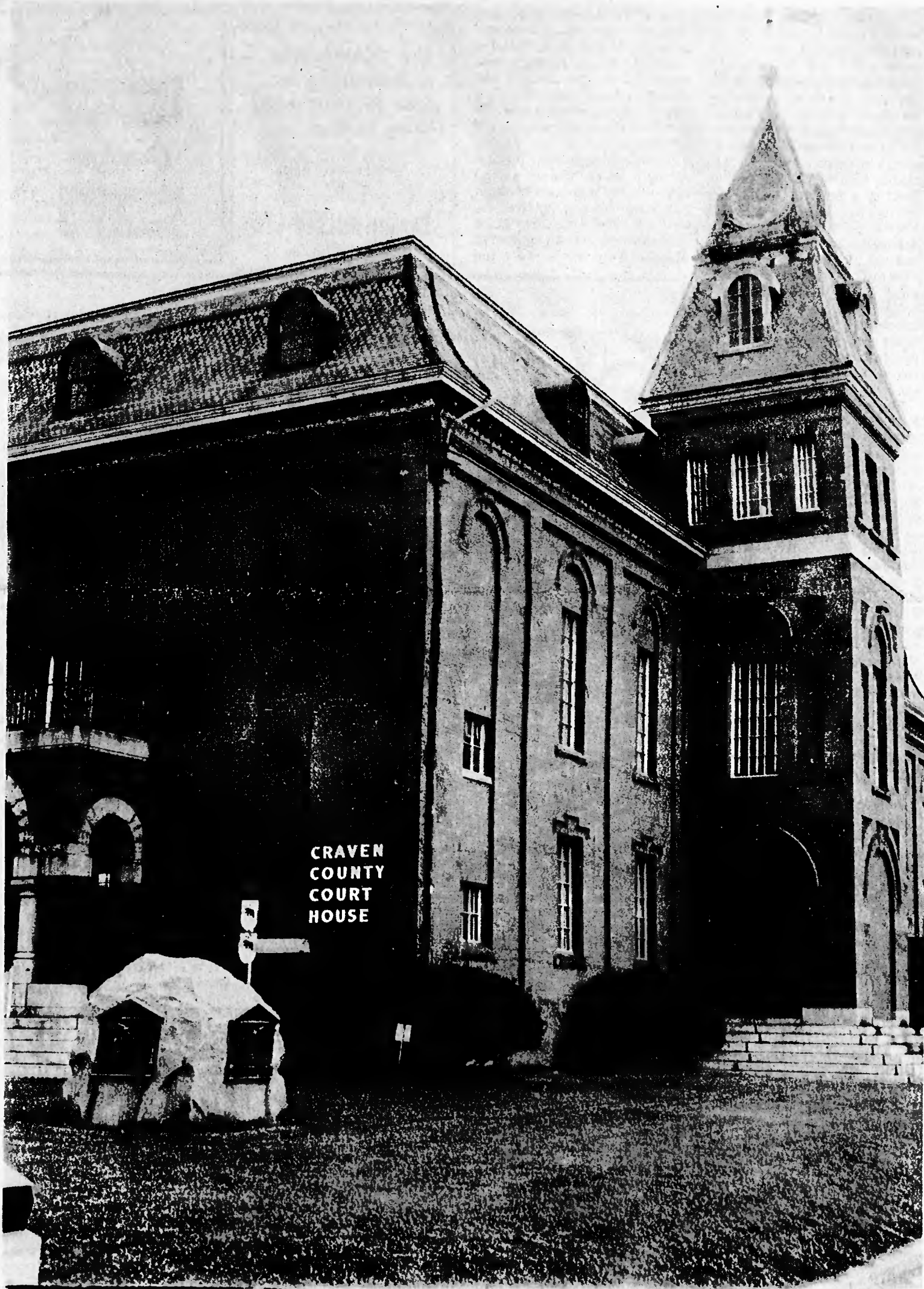
Unbelievably, it didn't occur to the architect or school officials that a second-floor auditorium, that you reached by a single flight of wooden stairs, was at best a fire trap.

The basement of the building would provide a "gymnasium" for the boys, departments of cooking and sewing for the girls, and manual training for the boys. The gym was as much that as a mouse is an elephant.

Yesterday was when New Bern's leading law firms included Warren & Warren (Thomas D. & Julien K.); Simmons, Ward & Allen (F. M. Simmons, A. D. Ward & M. H. Allen); and Moore & Dunn (L. I. Moore & William Dunn).

Yesterday (1907) was when The Peoples Bank opened its

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OURS IS DIFFERENT—There are thousands of Court Houses in the United States, but where else will you find one that doesn't have a front door? There are marble steps leading to where Craven County Court House once had a front entrance, but

at the top of those steps you face a blank wall. We believe in being practical, here in New Bern, so when citizens used only the side door for generations, the front door was finally bricked up.—Photo by Jack Layne, Chick's & Jack's Studio.