

# The Warren Record

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## Warren Population Rises Only 1.9 Percent

### County's Growth Rate Trails State And Nation

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
Staff Writer

Warren County's population has increased by 1.9 percent between 1980 and July, 1985, according to the most recent estimates issued by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Although the Census Bureau compiles comprehensive tallies of the national population only once each decade, it updates these totals with periodic estimates, the most recent for July, 1985. The estimates are based on a number of factors, among them federal tax information, Medicare enrollment data and birth and death statistics.

According to the Census Bureau report, Warren County's population has increased from 16,232 in 1980 to 16,647 in July, 1985. The 1.9 percent increase is lower than that reported for the state and nation. For the same period, the state's population is estimated to have increased by 6.4 percent (5,880,415 in 1980; 6,255,000 in July, 1985). The report shows a 5.4 percent increase for the U.S. population with 238,740,000 in 1980 and an estimated 226,545,805 in July, 1985.

The 1.9 percent increase is smaller than that reported for Warren County for the five-year period, 1970-1975. For that period, the increase of 990 persons represented a 6.3 percent growth rate: 15,810 in 1970 and an estimated 16,800 in July, 1985.

Although the increase estimated for 1980-1985 is smaller as well than that reported for the state and nation, it suggests the same pattern of growth experienced in all but six decades since 1790. Reports received from the Economic Development Commission show positive growth in all Census reports, except those released in 1810, 1890, 1900, 1940, 1960 and 1970.

The population of Warren County in 1790 was 9,397. Census Bureau Reports show the following increases (or decreases) in population growth for each succeeding decade:

Census Year	Percent Change
1800	20.1
1810	(-2.54)
1820	1.40
1830	6.44
1840	8.77
1850	7.69
1860	13.04
1870	12.98
1880	27.30
1890	(-16.83)
1900	(-1.09)
1910	5.82
1920	6.55
1930	8.20
1940	(-0.95)
1950	1.70
1960	(-19.8)
1970	(-24.30)
1980	2.70

The smaller rate of increase is consistent with general demographic trends that suggest a slight decline in the national rate of population growth as well.

### Maryland Cops Capture Convict Wanted Locally

Authorities in Baltimore, Md. last week captured an inmate who escaped Nov. 14 from the Warren County Prison Unit.

Richard Thompson, 32, was found about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, according to Superintendent Harry Jackson Carter of the N.C. Department of Corrections unit in Warren County.

Carter said authorities here are awaiting disposition of charges against Thompson in Maryland. In addition to any which may have been incurred since the escape, Thompson faces charges in Upper Marlboro, Md. for breaking and entering.

Authorities have also recovered an automobile which Thompson reportedly stole from a Warren County couple following his escape from the prison compound. After scaling the perimeter fence, reportedly in handcuffs, Thompson is believed to have taken a 1980 white Subaru station wagon belonging to Macon and Gladys Wemyss of near Warrenton.

Carter said local authorities have no information on where the car was found.

Thompson also has outstanding charges of second-degree burglary in South Carolina.

At the time of his escape he was serving a 10-year sentence for misdemeanor larceny.

### Overdue Daily Fine Raised To Ten Cents

Overdue and non-returned books have increased to such a degree that it has become necessary to increase the fine to ten cents per day for books overdue. According to Mrs. Mary Louise Limer, county librarian, failure to return a library book is a felony in the state of North Carolina. Legal procedures are available.

"Renewal is available, but books must be brought in for this procedure," Mrs. Limer said. "Failure to do so will result in a strictly enforced ten-cents-per-day fine," she added.

The Warren County Library welcomes circulation. "Our books are very expensive, and we want everyone in the county who wishes to use the library facilities to be able to enjoy the books, films and magazines available," she said.



The haystacks which sheltered the 'Little Boy Blue's' of days gone by have evolved into huge recreation areas for youngsters. These local haystacks which stored in a row offer new fun for youngsters. They also provide a test their sense of balance in a game of follow-the-leader on hay which will in winter's coming weeks provide forage for hungry animals. (Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

### Williams Tells Education Board

## New School Facilities: \$10.8 Million

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
Staff Writer

A projected \$10,809,245 was the dollar amount attached to upgraded school facilities in a report presented Monday night to board of education members by Superintendent Mike Williams.

The report was presented in response to the board's plan adopted Aug. 18 that would result in the following modifications:

—construction of a new middle school to accommodate the entire population of students in grades six through eight and allow closing the John Graham and Norlina sites.

—construction of additional space at Mariam Boyd and Northside to accommodate students from Hawkins and North Warren and permit closing of those sites.

—construction of a new wing at Warren County High School to house 12 classrooms, space for health occupations and ROTC programs, and of football/track facilities.

Also included in the projection are needs of the elementary school segment such as space for buses and sewer modifications.

"The modifications are affordable," Williams said. "This is not something unrealistic," he added.

The new middle school is projected to cost \$6,955,000. Included in the estimate is the acquisition of additional land. "The state requires a minimum of 28 acres," he said. "We have 77 acres at the high school site, but that would not be sufficient for both schools," he noted.

The Northside addition is estimated to cost \$1,388,475. Although the current site's 18.75 acres meet state guidelines, additional land may be needed. "The area is long and narrow and we may need some more room to spread out," Williams said.

The cost of the Warren County High School addition is projected at \$1,415,520. According to Williams, expansion would permit enrollment to increase to 950. Also included in the estimate for the addition and for athletic

facilities is the cost of paving the parking lots.

Elementary-level additions are projected to cost \$1,050,250. Transfer of 150 students from the

Mariam Boyd to the Vaughan site would make construction at Mariam Boyd unnecessary as sufficient space for grades K-5 would be available. According to

Williams, two of the existing schools are in need of new sewage treatment facilities.

The \$10.8 million expenditure would be justified by the following: (Continued on page 15)



Board of Education Chairman Henry Pitchford, Jr. (right) joins Warrenton Mayor Williams (left) in taking the oath of office at Monday night's meeting. Sworn in by Clerk of Court Richard Hunter (not shown), the two begin new terms won in the November election. (Staff Photo by Thurletta M. Brown)

### Pitchford Is Re-Elected As Chairman Of Board

Henry T. Pitchford, Jr. and Leigh Traylor were elected unanimously by board of education members in their Monday night meeting to the positions of chairman and vice-chairman respectively. The election was the climax of the swearing-in ceremonies for the two board members signalling the beginning of two more years of service.

Board members presented a plaque to John E. Moody in recognition of his retirement

### Office Will Be Closed

The Warrenton Employment Security Commission office will be closed Dec. 24 and 31. Anyone with pertinent business or inquiries can contact the Henderson office at 438-6129. The Warrenton office will resume its regular Wednesday schedule on Jan. 7.

after 16 years of service at the school bus garage. According to Superintendent Williams, it was he who was always on hand for those early-morning breakdowns and other odd-hour occurrences. Evidencing his dedication, "It has really been tough," Moody said, "but I wish that I were young enough to stay on."

They also bade farewell to Mrs. Rachael Ricks, assistant superintendent, in attendance for her last meeting prior to retirement.

In the business session, the board:

—Authorized the appointment of two committees to study and make recommendations concerning reporting student grades to parents and the use of weighted grade-point-averages at the high school level.

(Continued on page 15)

### Larceny Charged Warren Resident

A Warren County man was taken into custody in Henderson Monday afternoon and later charged in Warren County with larceny at Fleming's Grocery in Arcola.

Ikedo Shattlon Fields, 22, of Rt. 2, Warrenton, was stopped some 45 minutes after two men and one woman were seen leaving the rural grocery store in a blue Oldsmobile and after one of the men was seen leaving the store building with the cash box containing about \$1,000, according to Chief Deputy Bobby Dean Bolton with the Warren County Sheriff's Department.

Bolton said the party stopped at the store shortly before 2 p.m. supposedly to buy gas and while one of the men pumped fuel into the car, the other went inside the store and was seen leaving the store with the money box concealed under his jacket. The store attendant, who was outside the building, yelled when he saw what was happening, but the three sped from the store yard, Bolton said.

The vehicle was sighted on Andrews Avenue by officers of the Henderson Police Department and Fields, who was driving the car and alone at the time, was detained until Sgt. Lawrence Harrison of the Warren County Sheriff's Department could pick up Fields and to bring him back to Warren County for questioning.

Fields was charged with felonious larceny and placed in Warren County Jail under a \$1500 bond. He was released on bond Tuesday morning and is awaiting a court hearing.

Bolton said two additional suspects in the case have not been arrested.

Population Changes 1980-1985

