

## The Birth of a Town

The land that the residents of Burgaw live on today is full of history. The Town was incorporated in 1879, but began prior to that time due to the existence of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad that was completed in 1840 to connect the port of Wilmington to the Town of Weldon. In March of 1875, Captain W. H. James, a civil engineer, noted that the land at Burgaw Station, lying between the railroad and Burgaw Creek was suitable for a town. He surveyed off 73 acres of land and divided it into lots and streets. Wilmington & Weldon Railroad would donate these acres if the Pender County Courthouse would be placed in Burgaw. It was decided that one-half of the lots would be given to the County, one-fourth of the proceeds to be given for improvements to the streets, and the remaining fourth for a ticket office and other depot conveniences. Lots for churches would be given outside of the platted 73 acres. All materials for county buildings were required to be shipped by rail. The land that Captain James plotted was deeded to the Pender County Board of Commissioners on February 6, 1876, and the courthouse was constructed in 1885 on the southwest corner of Fremont and Wright Streets.



Old and New Court House  
of  
Pender County