

Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford County Schools

*Mitigation for the Construction of the
Rutherfordton Bypass (US 221) in Rutherford County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
TIP No. R-2233B WBS No. 34400.1.2*



Prepared for:

Human Environment Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford County Schools

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Prepared by:
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January 2015



January 22, 2015

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Date

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North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

**Mitigation for the Construction of the
Rutherfordton Bypass (US 221)
from the South Carolina State Line
to SR 1366 in Rutherford County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
TIP No. R-2233B
WBS No. 34400.1.2**

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the construction of the Rutherfordton Bypass (US 221) in Rutherford County, North Carolina will have an effect upon Ruth Elementary School, a property determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2003. The Historic Architecture Staff of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) in-house human environment section contracted with Fearnbach History Services, Inc. (FHS) and Acme Preservation Services, LLC (APS) to carry out a three-part project.

The first task entailed photographing the existing conditions of Ruth Elementary School. Architectural historian Heather Fearnbach completed the photography in accordance with the Historic Structures and Landscape Recordation Plan provided by NCDOT and submitted the required photographs in April 2014.

The second undertaking was a reconnaissance-level architectural survey of historic schools in Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford Counties. NCDOT selected the study area based upon similarities in topography, settlement history, and architectural patterns. The third assignment comprised the creation of an architectural and historical context for consolidation-era (1910s – 1930s) public schools in the study area with the goal of providing guidance for the evaluation of similar resources throughout the region. This report summarizes the survey findings and provides the required context.

Ms. Fearnbach executed the fieldwork from March to June 2014, photographing campuses and interviewing school administrators and teachers, knowledgeable local residents, community historians, and architects who graciously shared background information and facilitated access to resources. This project would not have been possible without their assistance.

The principal investigator conducted research at Cleveland County Public Library branches in Kings Mountain and Shelby, the Henderson County Public Library's main branch and the Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society's library in Hendersonville; the archives of Holland and Hamrick Architects in Shelby; Mooneyham Public Library in Forest City, the Rutherford County Library in Spindale, the Polk County Public Library in Columbus, the State Archives of North Carolina in Raleigh, Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University, and the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem. The Rutherford and Cleveland County architectural survey publications and the survey files for all four counties at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville supplied architectural context.

Ms. Fearnbach completed North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) database forms for each surveyed school and authored the report. Michael T. Southern, Senior Architectural Historian

and GIS Coordinator at the HPO, created the maps that illustrate the relative locations of the surveyed schools and provided the database shell.

FHS conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; 36 CFR Part 800; and the NCDOT document entitled *Historic Architectural Resources: Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines* (2003). The report meets FHWA, NCDOT, and National Park Service guidelines.

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I. Methodology: Reconnaissance-level Public Schools Survey

NCDOT contracted with Fearnbach History Services, Inc. (FHS) and Acme Preservation Services, LLC (APS) to undertake a reconnaissance-level architectural survey of historic schools in Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford Counties. The survey's goal was to identify a representative sample of extant public schools built during the 1920s and 1930s in order to provide architectural and historical context for Ruth Elementary School, which will be impacted by the construction of the Rutherfordton Bypass (US 221) in Rutherford County. Principal investigator Heather Fearnbach photographed all buildings on each campus deemed to merit documentation on the basis of historic integrity and significance. She included a few schools constructed after the 1930s due to the fact that a contingent of Modernist cafeterias, gymnasiums, and classrooms erected both as additions and free-standing structures represent a statewide mid-twentieth-century school improvement campaign. Only exterior photographs were required. However, in a few cases the principal investigator included interior photographs if access was possible and buildings had not been previously surveyed.

Ms. Fearnbach conducted the fieldwork from March to June 2014, traveling secondary roads and highways to locate schools within and outside of town limits that merited investigation. She used USGS maps illustrating historic property distribution on file at the HPO to guide the survey. These maps and queries of the HPO's historic resource database revealed that the four counties within the survey area had widely disparate coverage in terms of county-wide architectural surveys.

Brian R. Eades's survey of Cleveland County's architecture, completed in 1998, is the most recent comprehensive analysis. The Cleveland County Historic Preservation Taskforce published the results in *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County, North Carolina*, in 2003. Michael Ann Williams undertook Henderson County's survey in 1980. Ted Alexander executed a reconnaissance-level survey of Polk County in 1985. Kimberly I. Merkel documented Rutherford County's historic architecture in 1979 and provided an overview in a book published by the Rutherford County Arts Council, Inc. in 1983.

Four Rutherford County schools—Cliffside Public School, Cool Springs High School, Henrietta-Caroleen High School, and Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School—are listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually and were thus the most thoroughly researched properties at this project's onset. Each building retains character-defining architectural features and has remained in continuous use by the Rutherford County school system since its construction. All have functioned in a variety of capacities: Cliffside remains in use as a public elementary school, Henrietta-Caroleen a public charter school, Rutherfordton-Spindale a public middle school, and Cool Springs serves as the administrative office for Rutherford County Schools.

Other properties are contributing buildings in National Register historic districts or have been included in county-wide architectural surveys and thus had varying degrees of historical background information: Central School in Kings Mountain's Central School Historic District, Graham Elementary School in Shelby's West Warren Street Historic District, Shelby High School in the Central Shelby Historic District, Rosa Edwards Elementary School in Hendersonville's West Side Historic District, Flat Rock School in the Flat Rock Historic District, and Alexander School in Forest City's Alexander Manufacturing Company Mill Village Historic District. A few are included on the North Carolina Study List, indicating that further investigation may support National Register eligibility: Davidson Elementary School in Kings Mountain, Dover School near Shelby, Tuxedo Elementary School and East Flat Rock School in Henderson County, and Gilkey Elementary School in Rutherford County. Ruth Elementary School in Rutherford County was determined eligible for listing in the National Register as part of an NCDOT evaluation in 2003. Some schools profiled in this report had never been

included in an architectural survey. In a few instances local historians and school systems had collected historic photographs and other materials.

The principal investigator photographed each school; interviewed administrators and teachers, knowledgeable local residents, and community historians; conducted research; and authored the report. She coordinated with Chandra Burch at the HPO to receive a survey site number for each property in order to electronically label the digital photographs and create Microsoft Access database forms. The completed forms include brief physical descriptions and historical background summaries incorporating material collected from sources such as archived documents, oral history, maps, census records, deeds, newspapers, and county history publications.

This survey utilizes primary source material from Department of Public Instruction reports and other archival sources to provide an overview of campus evolution from the 1920s through 1960. Comparison of this data with other historic documents allowed for a more informed understanding of countywide school system development. Given time and budgetary constraints, available data, and the large number of extant surveyed schools, each school history is brief. Building completion dates vary between sources. As the construction process sometimes spanned several years, building dates throughout this document reflect the year that a school was placed into service. Most campuses had a variety of successive names as the grade levels served changed with system-wide reorganizations. Therefore, unless an institution always housed the same grades, the generic “school” is used as the campus name rather than descriptive terms such as “graded,” “elementary,” “middle,” “junior high,” or “high” school.

This report will hopefully spur interest in gathering additional history. Further primary source research would be beneficial and interviews with current and former school faculty, staff, and students, are imperative to capture personal experiences as the documentation process continues. Oral history allows for the understanding of an area’s history in a manner that is not possible from any other source. Whenever possible, oral history interviews should be audio- or video-recorded. Also, identification and digitization of historical documents and photographs in private collections to facilitate their preservation and broader use should be undertaken whenever feasible. Although much work is still needed to produce a comprehensive regional overview of western North Carolina’s historic educational buildings and their evolution through the twentieth century.

North Carolina Public School Records at the State Archives of North Carolina

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction’s Division of Instructional Services required elementary and high school principals to compile annual reports detailing enrollment statistics, building history and usage, campus improvements, and teacher names and certifications. The report format changed annually. As with all documents of this type, returns vary significantly in terms of completeness and accuracy. School term beginning and end dates fluctuate yearly and by county. Principals provide disparate enrollment numbers and teacher counts on assorted documents filed the same year. Most principals taught at least a few classes daily and some therefore included themselves within the total teacher count, while others did not. Building dates and construction costs vacillate for the same building in different years.

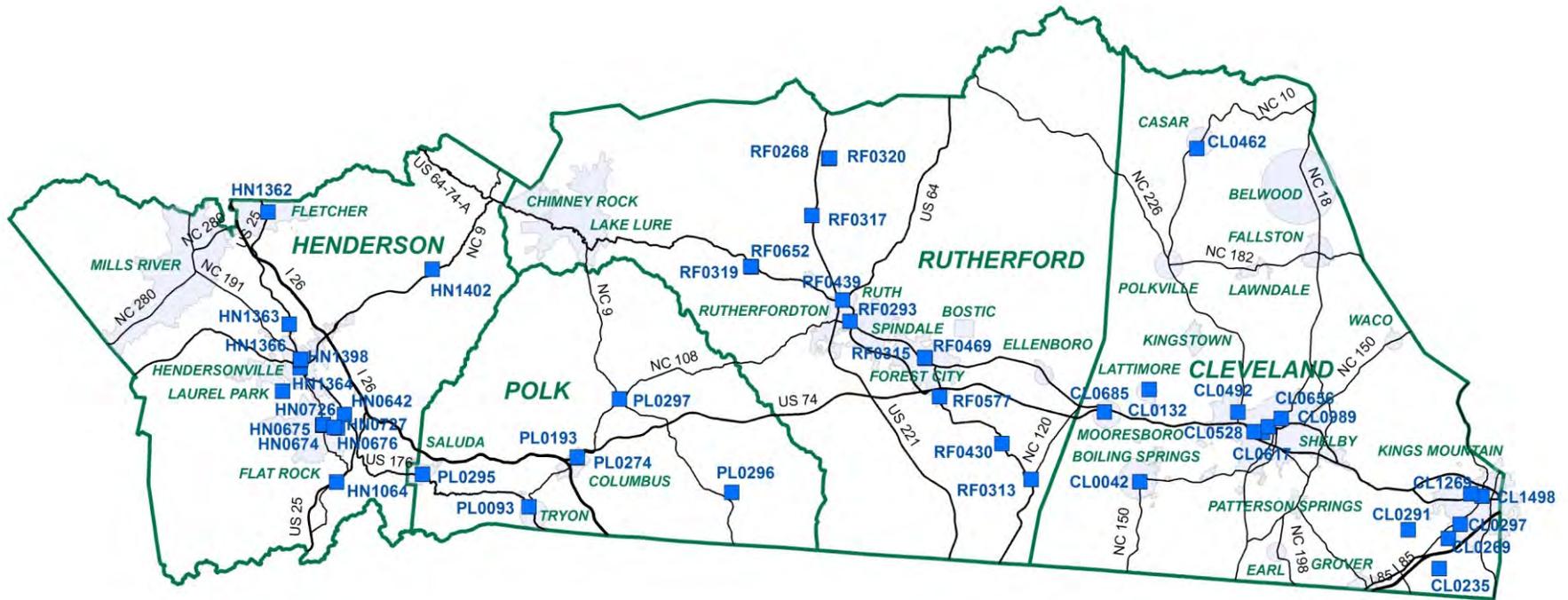
Reports are not available for every year. In some cases, principals did not complete them; in other instances reports have been discarded. Also, the North Carolina State Archives only retained selected years, typically at five-year intervals, for permanent storage. The available high school reports begin in 1919-1920, but only a few returns are on file from that year. Similarly, the first available elementary school principals’ reports, created between 1924 and 1933, contain folders for only Buncombe and Wake County schools. Comprehensive

elementary school coverage begins in 1933-1934 and concludes in 1949-1950, which is the last year of that series of principals' reports on file. The remaining returns were disposed of according to the division's records retention schedule.

Documents regarding African American public schools are sporadic. Most high school principals' reports created from 1923 through 1950 are filed separately with the Department of Public Instruction's Division of Negro Education's records, but some are included in the general Department of Public Instruction's general collection of principal's reports. Beginning with the 1950-1951 term, all reports are filed together.

Particularly useful items from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Division of Schoolhouse Planning's collection include school plans and standards from 1930, which comprise elevations, floor plans, specifications, and recommended paint color charts. Reports providing an overview of county schools by size as well as individual campus building information forms are available for selected counties in 1930. Five years later, the division collected statistics related to county school enrollment, faculty, staff, and buildings.

In the 1930s and early 1940s, Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) records detail New Deal-era school construction and campus improvement projects that received state and federal funds. A photo collection accompanies the ERA records. During the same period, the North Carolina School Commission and State Board of Health required public school principals to submit "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Surveys" that describe campus buildings and sometimes include photographs and site plans.



Map illustrating the relative locations of surveyed schools

created by Michael T. Southern, Senior Architectural Historian and GIS Coordinator,
 North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, August 2014

II. Architectural and Historical Context for Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford County Schools Constructed from the 1910s to the 1960s

North Carolina children were afforded limited educational prospects through the mid-nineteenth century. Although public schools enrolled students in some urban and rural areas beginning in 1840, terms were short and facilities primitive. Private academies provided more comprehensive courses of study, but charged tuition that was cost-prohibitive for the average family. Legislators attempted to improve and standardize conditions statewide by creating a public school superintendent's office headed by attorney and author Calvin Henderson Wiley on January 1, 1853.¹

Wiley oversaw the transformation of North Carolina's educational system, facilitating its rapid expansion to accommodate approximately 120,000 pupils at more than 3,000 locations by 1860. He instituted teacher training and certification requirements, encouraged uniform textbook adoption, and provided guidance to county governments regarding school oversight. Wiley also published numerous articles and traveled extensively to promote public education. Despite his efforts, state-subsidized school funding decreased and enrollment dropped during the Civil War. The federal government required that all office-holders in Confederate states vacate their positions in April 1865, leaving the public school system without Wiley's leadership during the challenges of Reconstruction.²

Public school enrollment remained low through Reconstruction's early years, but North Carolina children benefited as new institutions opened during the nineteenth century's final decades. Political leaders promoted education as a means of realizing individual potential and strengthening communities by facilitating access to future opportunities. African American citizens called for the establishment of campuses that would allow black youth to attain their utmost capability. The State Colored Education Convention, composed of 140 delegates from forty counties, met in Raleigh in 1877 to plan systemic educational improvements. Leaders in Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Washington, and Winston soon sponsored initiatives to create the state's first black graded schools. Normal schools in Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Franklinton, Goldsboro, Plymouth, Salisbury, and Winston trained a new generation of young African American teachers. The facilities at which these educators began their careers generally remained inadequate, however, as schools relied on local funding that was unequally distributed and left black students with inferior buildings and supplies, shorter terms, and fewer instructors.³

Little documentation survives regarding nineteenth-century schools in Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford Counties. A few ambitious private institutions such as Mills River Academy in Henderson County erected sizeable brick buildings. However, in most cases tax revenue and resident subscriptions allowed only for the construction and operation of rudimentary log and frame buildings, most of which comprised one or two rooms. These schools in some cases sufficed through the twentieth century's first decades.

¹ Jim Sumner, "The Development of North Carolina's Public School System through 1940," context essay prepared for the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, 1990, 2-3.

² *Ibid.*; Barbara M. Parramore, "Calvin Henderson Wiley," in William S. Powell, ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, Volume 6* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 196-197.

³ Although state subsidies that became available in 1897 resulted in the construction of two hundred rural public schools by 1911, the majority of the buildings were for white students. It was not until 1910 that legislators allocated funds for black elementary schools. Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott and Flora J. Hatley, *A History of African-Americans in North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992), 100-102, 154-155; Hugh Victor Brown, *A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Irving Swain Press, Inc., 1961), 32-34.

**Mills River Academy
Henderson County**

Demolished

1907 photograph courtesy of
Henderson County Genealogical
and Historical Society



As the twentieth century commenced, Charles Brantley Aycock, North Carolina's governor from 1901 to 1905, advocated extensive improvements to the public school system. In an attempt to remedy the issue that less than half of the state's 660,000 school-age children regularly attended classes in 1900, he supported four-month annual academic terms and the construction of community-centered campuses within walking distance for most of the state's youth. His campaign for universal education resulted in the creation of the Association for the Promotion of Public Education in North Carolina and stimulated the completion of approximately 3,665 new public schools across the state by 1912. Despite Aycock's reform initiative and the implementation of local taxes to subsidize school operations, funding constraints required many school systems to maintain or construct simple frame or brick buildings. The Polk County Board of Education, for example, commissioned a series of one-story, weatherboarded, hip-roofed schools with gabled entrance porticos between 1910 and 1915.⁴

Aycock's policies provided the foundation for a strong public school system, but did not address inherent inequalities. During the 1910s, prominent educators such as Nathan C. Newbold, James B. Dudley, and Charles H. Moore began ameliorating the appalling condition of African American schools. Nathan Newbold, appointed Agent for Rural Black Schools in 1913, served as the first Director of the Division of Negro Education upon its 1921 creation. With the aid of philanthropic concerns such as the Jeanes, Peabody, Rosenwald, and Slater Funds, Newbold hired supervisors and teachers for rural schools and built new campuses. The Rosenwald Fund, a national organization devoted to improving educational venues for Southern African American children, subsidized the completion of 813 buildings, including schools, teachers' residences, and industrial education shops, in North Carolina between 1915 and 1932, more than in any other state. North Carolina's first public secondary school for black students opened in 1918. Most of the early high schools offered only a few

⁴ Sumner, "The Development of North Carolina's Public School System through 1940," 5-6; William S. Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 445-447; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to Governor W. W. Kitchin for the Scholastic Years 1910-11 and 1911-12* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1912), 9; Robin S. Lattimore and Leslie M. Bush, *Remembering Green Creek, North Carolina: The Heritage of a Rural Community* (Rutherfordton: Hilltop Publications, 2004), 9, 32-33.

years of coursework and were located in more progressive counties such as Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg, and Wake.⁵

North Carolina strengthened compulsory school attendance legislation in 1919, resulting in escalated enrollment that could not be accommodated on existing campuses. The school system's 1921 inventory of 7,467 public schools revealed that 3,698 one-room and 2,460 two-room schools served the state's youth. The vast majority of those buildings were frame, but 81 log and 248 brick structures remained in use. Most housed first through seventh grades; only seventy of one hundred counties operated at least one rural high school.⁶ County school superintendents and Boards of Education subsequently oversaw widespread building improvements, the construction of new schools, and a consequent reduction in the total number of campuses and school districts. Statewide road improvements facilitated school consolidation by allowing for more efficient busing.

Although small, austere buildings continued to serve some rural communities, many schools erected during the 1920s manifested new design standards for substantial, fireproof structures. The Department of Public Instruction's Division of Schoolhouse Planning provided standardized floor plans, elevations, specifications, and guidance regarding educational building construction. Some school systems utilized the plans as they were drawn, while others hired architects to adapt them. Regardless of the approach, sizable masonry edifices, often with Classical Revival or Gothic Revival elements, replaced large numbers of frame schools during this period. Tall, grouped, double-hung, multipane windows illuminated classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, and gymnasiums. The buildings also encompassed central heating plants, multiple restrooms, and cafeterias; amenities that were not present in earlier schools. The distinctive architecture of these campuses and their function as community centers typically made them instant civic landmarks.

The Department of Public Instruction implemented academic benchmarks and high school ratings in 1920. The school system mandated that institutions interested in standard high school classification offer seventh- through eleventh-grade courses during school sessions of at least 160 days, possess a minimum of 3 certified teachers and 45 pupils in average daily attendance, and execute a department-approved study program utilizing appropriate materials. By the end of the 1920-1921 term, 116 public high schools for white students had attained accreditation. In 1924, the state certified 21 black campuses: 4 normal, 3 rural, and 14 urban schools. At the close of the 1929-1930 academic year, the Department of Public Instruction enumerated 60 white and 68 black accredited high schools.⁷

The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools endorsed the following African American public high schools for the first time in 1934: Brick Tri-County High (Brick), James B. Dudley (Greensboro), William Penn (High Point), Ridgeview (Hickory), Washington High School (Raleigh), Washington High School (Reidsville), and Williston (Wilmington). Private schools such as Palmer Memorial Institute in Guilford County and Laurinburg Institute in Scotland County were alternatives for black children from counties in which public secondary education was not available.⁸

⁵ Brown, *A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina*, 48; Crow, et. al., *A History of African-Americans in North Carolina*, 102, 123-124, 154-155; Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, Volume LXV, Number 4, October 1988, 387, 406, 408.

⁶ Sumner, "The Development of North Carolina's Public School System through 1940," 7, appendices.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 17-18, appendices; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, "Biennial Reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction," 1921-1930, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

⁸ Crow, et. al., *A History of African-Americans in North Carolina*, 156-158; Brown, *A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina*, 61, 64; James D. Anderson, *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935* (Chapel Hill:

North Carolina maintained a completely segregated public school system until forced to comply with the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision in the 1950s.

During the 1930s and 1940s, economic challenges and building material shortages ensuing from the Great Depression and World War II diminished local funds for campus improvement projects. The Cleveland County Board of Education, with New Deal government program funds and volunteer labor, erected the almost identical, one-story, brick, hip-roofed Bethlehem, Dixon, and Patterson Grove Schools in the early 1930s. New-Deal-era programs also subsidized some modest updates at campuses in Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford Counties. However, the condition of many rural structures, particularly African American schools, remained substandard.

Educational complexes continued to evolve as the twentieth century progressed. In many cases, school systems demolished buildings placed into service during the 1920s and 1930s in conjunction with improvement campaigns initiated when mid-twentieth-century population growth resulted in increased enrollment. In other instances, institutions moved to new sites. School consolidation often involved converting existing high schools to elementary, middle, or junior high schools and erecting new high school campuses.

The mid-twentieth-century educational construction boom manifests statewide school architecture standards developed during the period. Buildings are efficiently arranged, take full advantage of natural light and air circulation, and facilitate connectivity between interior and exterior spaces. The often-austere, brick-veneered, flat-roofed classrooms and cafeterias provide large, well-ventilated, and amply lit instructional areas and separate, sanitary food service facilities for North Carolina students. Spacious auditoriums supplied venues to hold academic and civic events.

Modernist architecture prevailed on public school campuses in the 1950s and 1960s, as evidenced in extant buildings documented in this report as well as structures that have been demolished. Ninth Avenue School, designed by Six Associates, was one of the largest mid-twentieth century African American schools in the survey area. Completed in fall 1951, the edifice served youth who had previously attended schools in Brickton, East Flat Rock, and Hendersonville. In addition to Henderson County residents, Ninth Avenue School accommodated Polk and Transylvania County's black students.⁹

Although the U. S. Supreme Court decreed school desegregation in 1954, most North Carolina municipalities integrated slowly. In response to a selective integration bill passed by North Carolina legislators, the Charlotte, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem school boards allowed African American students to apply for admission to white schools in the summer of 1957.¹⁰ Other counties slowly desegregated schools, but it was not until 1965 that most of the school districts in the state achieved integration. The freedom-of-choice plan, enacted in 1965, was an attempt to allow parents to choose which schools their children would attend. A federal court judge ruled the plan unconstitutional and an invalid means of desegregating schools in 1968. That finding encouraged student busing to achieve

University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 204; Hugh Victor Brown, *E-Qual-ity Education in North Carolina Among Negroes* (Raleigh: Irving Swain Press, Inc., 1964), 129-130.

⁹ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 100; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953.

¹⁰ "Supreme Court Orders Local Officials to End School Segregation 'as Soon as Practicable,'" *Winston-Salem Journal*, June 1, 1955, p. 1.

racial integration, a practice that became widespread in the 1970s.¹¹

Rosenwald Schools



African American East Flat Rock School, 1923, demolished
photograph courtesy of Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society

Modest frame schools housed most of Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford County’s African American students through the twentieth century’s first decades. In order to construct new buildings—most of which were one-story and weatherboarded—in the 1920s, school administrators solicited public donations as well as subsidies from the Rosenwald Fund. Cleveland County completed twelve facilities in this manner: Borders (one classroom, 1930), Cleveland County Training (four classrooms, 1920, partially destroyed by February 1926 fire, rebuilt and enlarged in 1927), Cleveland County Training #2 (eight classrooms, 1927), Compact (three classrooms, 1925), Douglas (five classrooms, 1929), Ebenezer (three classrooms, 1924), Ellis Chapel (four classrooms, 1926), Green Bethel (three classrooms, 1929), Kings Mountain (five classrooms, 1926), Long Branch (three classrooms, 1923), Philadelphia (three classrooms, 1924), and Washington (three classrooms, 1929). Five Polk County schools received Rosenwald subsidies: Coxe (two classrooms, 1924), Pea Ridge (two classrooms, 1921; built under Tuskegee program), Rosenwald in the Green Creek community (two classrooms, 1922), Tryon (five classrooms, 1923), and Union Grove (two classrooms, 1924). Rutherford County contained three schools erected with Rosenwald funding: Bostic (one classroom, 1929), Forest City (four classrooms, 1927), and New Hope (three classrooms, 1921; built under Tuskegee program). No Henderson County schools are included in Fisk University’s Rosenwald School database, but other records indicate that the African American East Flat Rock School completed in 1923 received a donation from the Rosenwald Fund.¹²

¹¹ Crow, et. al., *A History of African-Americans in North Carolina*, 171-173.

¹² “Cleveland County Schools,” Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2014); “North Carolina Rosenwald Schools,” <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolsnc.html> (accessed August 2014).

Classical Revival-style Schools

The style and form of Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford County educational institutions reflected statewide trends. Most of the schools placed into service during the early twentieth century displayed classical stylistic elements, then a popular choice for buildings intended to symbolize “democratic ideals, inspire patriotism, and elevate public taste.”¹³ Ancient Grecian and Roman architecture served as the archetypes for overall composition and details, with ornament drawn from classical precedents intended to embody permanence and refinement. Buildings were typically brick, flat- or hip-roofed, and one- or two-stories in height.

**Shelby High
School
Erected 1905
Cleveland County**

Demolished

Undated postcard from
the Durwood Barbour
Collection of North
Carolina Postcards,
North Carolina
Collection
Photographic Archives,
Wilson Library, UNC-
Chapel Hill



Some extant schools are fully-articulated examples of the Classical Revival style, while others are more austere. Typical classical design components include molded wood cornices, often ornamented with modillions, and large multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Single-bay, one-story, flat or gable-roofed porticoes and monumental full-height pedimented porticoes shelter primary entrances. Intact interiors contain narrow hardwood floors, plaster-on-lath walls and ceilings, tall baseboards, simple wood door and window surrounds, wood-frame blackboards, built-in coat and storage closets, raised-panel doors with operable transoms, and molded chair rails, cornices, and picture rails.

Several surviving Cleveland County schools display a Classical Revival stylistic influence. The H-plan, brick Graham Elementary School competed in 1927 is a good example. Masons executed the one-story-on-basement, gable-roofed structure in running bond with soldier-course window and door lintels and a header course that encircles the building just below the upper edge of the window openings. On the north and south elevations, inset corner entrance porches retain beadboard ceilings. Classical elements include large multipane transoms, fanlights, and stuccoed panels above doors and windows.

Kings Mountain School – Central High School is Cleveland County’s most sophisticated extant Classical Revival-style educational building. The two-story-on-basement 1933 edifice features a projecting, pedimented, central entrance bay with a molded cornice and a keystone gable oculus. A

¹³ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 457.

cast-stone surround with quoins and a keystone above a multipane fanlight ornaments the main entrance. A matching cast-stone belt course and watertable encircle the building in striking contrast to the variegated brick running-bond exterior. Quoins and tall square panels with raised-brick borders and square cast-stone corner blocks embellish the projecting end bays.

The one-story, hip-roofed, brick, 1935 Lattimore School has a projecting, hip-roofed, Classical Revival-style, central entrance bay with four pilasters supporting a denticulated cornice, a flat-pediment doorway surround, and a recessed double-leaf door that was originally surmounted by a transom. A soldier-course watertable wraps around the building.

Boiling Springs High School, completed in 1938, reflects the enduring popularity of the Classical Revival style. A projecting central bay embellished with quoins, cornice returns, and a round-arched, keystone surround at the wide central door opening distinguishes the one-story, hip-roofed, brick building. A round-arched, multipane fanlight surmounts the replacement double-leaf front door.

**Hendersonville Graded
School - Fourth Avenue
School –
Rosa Edwards School**

1911

414 Fourth Avenue West

**Hendersonville
Henderson County**

photograph
(taken prior to 1951 addition)
courtesy of
Henderson County Genealogical
and Historical Society



Henderson County also retains a significant contingent of Classical Revival-style schools. Completed in 1911, Hendersonville Graded School, later known as Fourth Avenue School and Rosa Edwards School, is the earliest such edifice included in this survey. Architect H. C. Meyer designed the two-story, brick building, which initially featured a low hip roof above its main block and matching slightly projecting end bays. A central belltower and three hipped dormers pierced the front roof slope. The pedimented central entrance portico, supported by fluted columns on paneled cast-stone plinth bases, includes a gouged cornice band.

On June 4, 1923, the Henderson County Board of Education consolidated thirty-two schools into eleven campuses and embarked upon a campaign to replace most of the frame buildings with substantial brick schools by the end of the 1920s. Erle Stillwell designed classroom buildings and/or additions for Balfour, Bat Cave, Brickton, Dana, Edneyville, Rosa Edwards, Etowah, East Flat Rock, Flat Rock, Fletcher, Hendersonville High, Mills River, Ninth Avenue (Hendersonville), Tuxedo, and

Valley Hill Schools.¹⁴ Most of the schools that Stillwell planned are similar in form and display judicious use of classical elements, often executed in cast-stone as a cost-saving mechanism. The two-story, running-bond brick Balfour and Fletcher Schools feature slightly projecting end bays and two façade entrances with simple cast-stone pilasters, entablatures with plain friezes, and pediments surmounting the doors.



East Flat Rock School, 1924, 107 East Blue Ridge Road

undated photograph courtesy of Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society

At East Flat Rock School, Stillwell embellished a typical consolidated school form—two stories with projecting end bays—with a sophisticated Classical Revival-style façade. Six pilasters and a plain frieze frame three central bays containing double-hung multipane windows. A pedimented surround ornaments the central double-leaf door and multipane transom. Cast-stone urns originally surmounted the façade entablature and a molded metal cornice and a cast-stone-capped parapet completed the classical composition.

Stillwell’s design for the state-of-the-art Hendersonville School, a monumental, three-story, Classical Revival-style edifice with a C-shaped footprint, is markedly different from the more traditional T-shaped plans of other consolidated-era schools erected throughout Henderson County. Two angled corner entrance pavilions anchor the building, but the central, projecting, two-story auditorium dominates the façade. At the east and west corner entrance pavilions, massive limestone Tuscan columns rise two stories to support entablatures comprising plain friezes and projecting molded cornices. On the auditorium’s south elevation, six Tuscan columns flank five doors. Above each entrance, square brick panels bordered with an outer stretcher course, an inner header course, and cast-stone corner blocks frame limestone panels inscribed with the names of academic subjects: art, science, letters, history, and music. The entablature frieze bears the words “Dedicated to the Sanctity of Child

¹⁴ Erle G. Stillwell Collection, Henderson County Public Library, Hendersonville, N. C.; William Mitchell, *Buildings as History: The Architecture of Erle Stillwell; A Descriptive Catalogue of His Drawings in the Henderson County Public Library* (Hendersonville: Friends of the Henderson County Public Library, 2006), 75-100; Ernest Lee Justus, “Changes in the Organization of the Henderson County School System,” in George Alexander Jones, ed., *The Heritage of Henderson County, North Carolina, Volume I* (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1985), 17.

Personality” below a molded cornice.

**Columbus High
School - Stearns
School**

1917, 1926

**125 East Mills
Street**

**Columbus
Polk County**



Polk County retains finely articulated Classical Revival-style schools in Columbus and Tryon. In 1926, builders more than doubled the size of the two-story, brick, 1917 Columbus High School, creating a sixteen-classroom edifice with an expansive Classical Revival-style façade dominated by a central, pedimented, full-height entrance portico supported by robust Tuscan columns and pilasters. At the main entrance, a segmental-arched door opening frames a recessed entrance vestibule containing a double-leaf door and an arched six-pane transom. Masons executed the 1926 classroom addition and the hip-roofed rear auditorium in five-to-one-common bond to match the original brick.

The front-gable-roofed 1923 Tryon School, executed in running bond, features a monumental pedimented tetrastyle portico supported by robust fluted columns that frame three bays of double-leaf doors set in flat-pediment surrounds. Four-section paneled spandrels, paired double-hung windows, and tall transoms with geometrically-patterned mullions further ornament the facade. Light fixtures with opaque globes hang from the coffered ceiling.

In Rutherford County, Cliffside Mills president Charles Henry Haynes financed the Classical Revival-style Cliffside School’s 1921 construction. Designed by Charlotte architect Louis Humbert Asbury Sr., the expansive brick building served youth residing in the mill village and the surrounding area. Its imposing pedimented portico with massive paired columns was an important architectural precursor of the consolidated public schools built in the county later in the 1920s.¹⁵

The Rutherford County Board of Education erected two substantial yet austere brick consolidated schools—Green Hill Elementary School (1921) and Gilkey Elementary School (1923)—from the same

¹⁵ Ina Fortune Haynes, *Raleigh Rutherford Haynes: A History of His Life and Achievements* (Cliffside, 1954), 21; Clarence W. Griffin, *The History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties*, Asheville: Miller Print Company, 1937), 596; Davyd Foard Hood, “Cliffside Public School,” National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1997.

plan. The buildings feature hip roofs with deep eaves sheltering tall, double-hung, nine-over-nine-sash wood windows. Masons executed the walls in six-to-one common bond with soldier course watertables. On the side elevations, slightly recessed brick panels separate the first and second-story windows. Two large, recessed, segmental-arched panels flank the matching central doorways on the façade and rear elevations.

**Henrietta-
Caroleen High
School -
Henrietta-
Caroleen-
Avondale High
School –
Tri-High**

1925

**2527 Highway
221A**

**Rutherford
County**



Half a million dollars in school bonds provided the seed money for the Rutherford County Board of Education’s construction of more elaborate brick consolidated schools beginning in 1924. That year, Leslie N. Boney Sr., an architect based in Wilmington, North Carolina, rendered the plans for Henrietta-Caroleen High School. The two-story building, with its seven-part façade, monumental pedimented portico, and symmetrical window placement, was similar to other consolidated schools that Boney designed during the 1920s. His first such commission was the 1919 New Hanover High School in Wilmington, one of North Carolina’s early fireproof high schools. That project inaugurated a long career in school planning and design, resulting in his involvement with approximately one thousand school projects in fifty-one North Carolina counties before his death in 1964.¹⁶

Louis Asbury prepared plans for Rutherford County’s Cool Springs High School, completed by contractor H. A. Kistler in time for classes to begin in September 1925. The imposing two-story-on-basement, T-plan, flat-roofed edifice is executed in red brick laid in running bond with Classical Revival elements including a seven-part façade and a monumental, two-story, flat-roofed portico supported by paired Tuscan columns.¹⁷

¹⁶ Leslie N. Boney Jr., “Leslie N. Boney Sr.,” *North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*, <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000529> (accessed October 2014).

¹⁷ Davyd Foard Hood, “Cool Springs High School,” National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1999.

**Rutherfordton-
Spindale
Central High
School**

1925

**545 Charlotte
Road**

**Rutherfordton
Rutherford
County**



The sophisticated, three-story, brick, Classical Revival-style Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School, also completed in 1925, is one of only three known school buildings designed by Hugh Edward White of the Gastonia firm of White, Streeter and Chamberlain.¹⁸ The façade's focal point is the angled entrance pavilion, dominated by a classical limestone frontispiece featuring a round-arched, open tympanum framing a blind panel embellished with a central bull's eye medallion. Tuscan columns support an entablature comprising a paneled frieze and a denticulated, molded cornice. Masons laid the brick walls in running bond with patterned brick and cast-stone accents.

Ruth Elementary School, constructed in 1926, is much smaller, but also stylish. Masons executed the one-story-on-basement, hip-roofed, H-plan building in running bond brick with classical accents such as soldier-course watertable and door and window lintels embellished with cast-stone corner blocks. A soldier-course band encircles the building at the upper edges of the window openings, spanning each lintel. Deep eaves shelter the single four-over-four and triple six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows that illuminate the classrooms and offices. Large, round-arched, window units containing double-hung, six-over-six-sash central sections surrounded by multipane sidelights, fanlights, and transoms light the auditorium.

By 1926, the Rutherford County Board of Education had spent almost one million dollars improving facilities in forty-one special tax school districts that enrolled 10,500 students. By 1929, twenty-four new brick schools designed by a number of architects housed the majority of Rutherford County's elementary through high school students.¹⁹

¹⁸ Davyd Foard Hood, "Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1992.

¹⁹ R. E. Price, "Rutherford County," *Greensboro Daily News*, February 21, 1926; *The Rutherford County News*, February 14, 1929.

Art Deco-style Educational Buildings

The Art Deco style, born at the 1925 Paris Exposition of Decorative and Industrial Arts, captured roaring twenties exuberance and translated well to myriad building types, from storefronts and movie theaters to skyscrapers. Popular Art Deco features include smooth stone or stuccoed walls, stylized geometric and foliate decoration, and a vertical emphasis heightened by stepped pilasters or parapets. Educational buildings erected during the late 1930s and 1940s often manifested Art Deco elements. Although architects were constrained by the economic challenges the country suffered in the first half of each decade, the fresh, sophisticated style, executed using modern construction technology, materials, and practices, appealed to a broad audience.

**Shelby
High
School**

1938

**400 West
Marion
Street**

**Shelby
Cleveland
County**



Shelby architect and engineer V. W. Breeze designed the only fully articulated Art Deco educational building included in the survey sample: the commanding three-story, brick, 1937 Shelby High School, erected with a federal Public Works Administration grant in conjunction with municipal funds. The facade's focal point is a tall, slightly projecting entrance pavilion dominated by four fluted pilasters with cast-stone plinths and capitals beneath a cast-stone cornice and stepped parapet. On the flanking wings, brick pilasters delineate the slightly recessed two-story window bays containing four-part, aluminum-frame replacement windows with cast-stone sills. A cast-stone belt course and a matching cornice encircle the building above the third-story windows. The simple cast-stone façade entrance surround bears the school's initials, "SHS," and "1937," the year that construction commenced. Kings Mountain School's gymnasium, completed the same year and discussed in the followed section, also features fluted brick pilasters.

New Deal-program Buildings and Landscape Features

The economic challenges that ensued from the Great Depression constrained campus improvement projects during the early 1930s. However, the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state's first New Deal program that created jobs for unemployed citizens, subsidized work from 1932 to 1935 including school, gymnasium, and athletic field construction and

maintenance, heating system installation, and grounds landscaping.²⁰ The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) followed, facilitating educational and athletic building construction as well as the operation of school lunch rooms through the early 1940s.²¹ Although many of the buildings and landscape features funded by these programs are no longer extant, Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford Counties retain a significant collection of New Deal-era resources.



Kings Mountain School gymnasium, 1937, 105 Ridge Street, Cleveland County

The one-story, brick Kings Mountain gymnasium erected in 1937 with WPA funds is completely intact. The structure displays Classical elements such as brick quoins and a cast stone foundation scored to look like stone blocks in conjunction with fluted brick pilasters that manifest a stylized Art Deco sensibility. Shaped parapets disguise the bowstring-truss roof and large metal-framed windows with operable central sections illuminate the interior. Corbelled surrounds topped with three projecting brick courses embellish the entrances in the projecting one-story bays on the gymnasium's east and west ends. Concrete steps with curved outer edges contribute to the building's streamlined aesthetic.

In Henderson County, the WPA orchestrated the 1939 completion of a two-story, hip-roofed, granite-veneered gymnasium that initially fronted Ninth Avenue West in Hendersonville. A tall two-story wing extends from the east elevation, while a shorter two-story wing projects to the south. Concrete steps with granite side walls capped with concrete lead to the east and west entrances. Replacement double-hung windows of various sizes illuminate the wings, while tall triple-hung sash light the gymnasium, which retains hardwood floors and painted brick walls. Steel trusses reinforce the original wood rafters and wood roof decking boards. The Board of Education erected a larger gymnasium on its north elevation in 1976.

Polk County residents also benefited from New Deal program funding. The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the NCERA oversaw Green Creek School's gymnasium

²⁰ J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse, eds., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina: A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935* (Raleigh: North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), 467.

²¹ North Carolina Works Progress Administration, *North Carolina WPA: Its Story* (Raleigh: North Carolina Works Progress Administration, 1940), 12-16, 32; Mrs. Renn Drum, "Vocational Classes Go Modern in Shelby School," *Charlotte Observer*, November 30, 1939.

construction and campus landscaping in 1936.²² The austere, two-story building features a gable-on-hip roof and walls executed in running bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A gabled entrance porch with round-arched door openings shelters the east entrance.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration contributed funds toward the landscaping of Mill Spring School's grounds in the early 1930s. After a January 1940 fire destroyed the building's north wing, WPA funds subsidized the school's repair and expansion. That year, contractors remodeled the surviving 1923 classrooms, replaced two restrooms, and added eight classrooms and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 546 people. Other campus improvements included the construction of a gymnasium and stone retaining walls throughout the grounds.²³

On the Saluda campus, masons expanded and stone-veneered the 1924 Saluda School in 1936, adding six classrooms, an auditorium, and a library to the existing structure. The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the NCERA facilitated the completion of the two-story brick gymnasium in 1938 and school grounds landscaping.²⁴



**Saluda gymnasium (left) and school (right), circa 1938, Polk County
image courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh**

²² Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512; "Gymnasium at Green Creek School, Polk County," photograph in North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Collection, NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Image 130, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

²³ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512; "Mill Spring High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," State Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services, Raleigh [hereafter abbreviated NCDPI, DIS], 1940; "Mill Spring School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940.

²⁴ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512; "Saluda Gymnasium; C.W.A. Project No. 41501," photographs in NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Images 82-87.

At Stearns School, the federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the NCERA assumed the cost of the gymnasium and cafeteria completed in 1936, as well as site landscaping, which ostensibly involved extensive stone retaining wall construction.²⁵ The same entities facilitated the no-longer extant Tryon School gymnasium's 1936 completion and contributed toward the campus's landscaping.²⁶

In Rutherford County, the National Youth Administration, initially a program overseen by the WPA, erected the one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, stone, 1939 vocational building that stands south of Union Mills Consolidated School as well as the one-story, side-gable-roofed, Rustic Revival-style, log Green Hill community building finished in 1941. At Gilkey Elementary School, the fieldstone retaining wall bears the inscriptions "1939" and "WPA" in raised mortar on two adjacent stones.

The WPA also oversaw the construction of Cliffside School's vocational building and gymnasium designed by R. E. Carpenter. The tri-partite plan comprises a central gable-roofed gymnasium with slightly-projecting, flat-roofed, flanking wings. Brick buttresses with cast-stone caps flank the gymnasium bays and a simple molded cast-stone surround ornaments the central entrance. The end wings feature molded cast-stone cornices and terra-cotta-capped cast-stone coping. In 1940-1941, the Works Progress Administration guided the execution of athletic fields; stone entrance posts, retaining walls, steps, bleachers; and a wood-shingle-roofed picnic shelter with a stone grill and chimney. The picnic shelter was demolished in the early 1970s, but the other features are intact.²⁷

**Cliffside
School**

**WPA
retaining wall
and steps
1940-1941**

**4016 US
Highway 221**

**Rutherford
County**



²⁵ "Stearns School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935.

²⁶ The Polk County Board of Education demolished the 1936 gymnasium around 2006. Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512; "Gymnasium at Tryon, Polk County," photographs in NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Images 134-135.

²⁷ Davyd Foard Hood, "Cliffside Public School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1997.

Modernist Additions to Consolidation-era Campuses

Campuses continued to evolve as the twentieth century progressed. In many cases, school systems demolished buildings placed into service during the 1920s and 1930s in conjunction with improvement campaigns initiated when mid-twentieth-century population growth resulted in increased enrollment. However, some consolidation-era schools have remained in continuous use for educational purposes since their construction and occupy campuses that also include a series of later buildings. Architects such as James L. Beam; Breeze, Holland, and Riviere, Inc.; Clemmer and Horton; Chivous Gilmer Harrill; Jackson, Padgett, and Freeman; O’Cain and Brackett Associates; Ormand and Vaughan; Six Associates; and James R. Washburn guided the renovation of existing structures and designed new buildings, most of which were Modernist in style.



Tryon School, 1960s classroom wing, Polk County

Although Modernism was slow to gain widespread acceptance, architects and others involved in the building trades promoted the style as an economical, up-to-date alternative to classical architecture. Innovative design precepts enhanced connectivity between interior and exterior spaces. Architecture critic Lewis Mumford approved of Modernist campus design, characterizing the period’s educational buildings as “schools for human beings,” a complete departure from the 1930s schools he deemed “self-important WPA barracks.”²⁸ North Carolina architects may have been inspired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York’s traveling exhibit regarding Modernist school design that was displayed in venues such as the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church auditorium in Winston-Salem during April 1945.²⁹

The North Carolina Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction evaluated educational buildings statewide in the late 1940s and found that 1920s schools and austere depression-era facilities were in many cases functionally inadequate. In 1949, the General Assembly allocated fifty million dollars and local bond issues made an additional seventy-five million dollars available for school construction. The desire for progressive campuses led to consultation with faculty of the newly created School of Design at North Carolina State College (NCSC), all strong proponents of Modernism. The School of Design and the Office of School Construction advocated contemporary

²⁸ Crow Island School, erected in Winnetka, Illinois in 1939-1940, is widely regarded as being the first public campus to use Modernist design principles to embody progressive education philosophies. Janice E. Tubergen, “Crow Island School, Winnetka, Illinois,” National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1989, 7.2-3, 8.2, 6-9; Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture* (New York, Penguin Putnam, Inc., 1998), 230.

²⁹ D. A. Holbrook and Sons, *D. A. Holbrook and Sons: Contractors and Engineers*, 17; Charlie Lovett, *Onward and Upward: A History of Summit School* (Winston-Salem: Summit School, 2007), 30.

architecture at workshops for local officials and architects in 1949 and 1950, and NCSC professor Edward W. Waugh took a leave of absence in 1949 to develop design standards for the Office of School House Planning.³⁰

Waugh called his approach to school design “organic” and recommended centrally locating communal spaces such as administrative offices, libraries, cafeterias, and combination auditoriums and gymnasiums and arranging classrooms in outlying wings. Acknowledging that learning does not take place solely indoors, the standards suggested that each classroom should have an exterior door to facilitate connectivity with the “outside classroom,” which often included interior courtyards. Buildings were to be well-integrated into their sites and allow for flexible use and future expansion.³¹ Raleigh architect William Henley Deitrick, who had been actively involved in NCSC School of Design’s creation, supported the new standards by utilizing them in his firm’s plans for campuses beginning with Sherwood-Bates Elementary School (1950) and Daniels Junior High School (1951) in Raleigh and then in myriad other locations throughout North Carolina.³²

**Cleveland
Training School #2**
1955 gymnasium
241 Hudson Street
Shelby
Cleveland County



Three African American schools in Cleveland County retain mid-twentieth-century buildings that reflect Waugh’s principles: Cleveland Training School #2 in Shelby, Compact School near Kings Mountain, and Davidson Elementary School in Kings Mountain. Cleveland Training School #2 grew from a 1927 structure subsidized by the Rosenwald Fund and its 1935 west addition to include a large, three-story, flat-roofed, brick, 1955 classroom building lighted by pairs of steel-frame windows with operable central sections. At the primary entrance on the east elevation, canted brick posts support the flat-roofed canopy above the double-leaf door. A circa 1960 three-story, flat-roofed, brick classroom wing with steel-frame windows extends north to the 1960 flat-roofed brick gymnasium, which contains a basketball court. On the 1960 gymnasium’s east side, tall rectangular windows illuminate a bowstring-truss roofed 1955 gymnasium with a projecting, flat-roofed, one-story entrance portico.

³⁰ Edward Waugh and Elizabeth Waugh, *The South Builds: New Architecture in the Old South* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1960), preface, 8; David R. Black, “Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the Faculty of the North Carolina State University School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina,” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1994, E15-16.

³¹ Waugh and Waugh, *The South Builds*, 43-44.

³² Catherine W. Bishir and M. Ruth Little, “William Henley Deitrick,” *North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*, <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000282> (accessed August 2014).

Although Compact School has a much older history, the earliest surviving edifice on campus is the one-story, gable-roofed, brick, six-classroom building at the parcel's southwest edge. Its construction date is unclear. According to Cleveland County property records, contractors erected that portion of the school in 1952. Department of Public instruction records indicate that additions comprising two classrooms, administrative offices, a lunch room, a library, and a "gymtarium," a combination gymnasium and auditorium, were completed in April 1957. The one-story, gable-roofed, brick administrative and classroom sections flank the 1952 classrooms, while the two-story, flat-roofed, brick gymtarium stands at the complex's north end. The freestanding, one-story, brick, circa 1960 classroom and office building has slightly sloped roof and an almost-full-width flat-roofed porch supported by round steel posts.

The one-story, flat-roofed, brick-veneered, Modernist Davidson Elementary School designed by architect James L. Beam was completed in 1954. The six-classroom building is the only extant structure associated with the African American Davidson School campus. Groups of large steel-framed windows, each with five horizontal panes, illuminate the interior. On each elevation, flat-roofed canopies supported by round steel posts shelter single- or double-leaf steel doors surmounted by rectangular transoms.



Graham Elementary School, 1956 classroom building, Shelby, Cleveland County

The one-story, flat-roofed, brick-veneered structures on the current Graham Elementary School campus at 1100 Blanton Street in Shelby comprise a notably intact mid-twentieth-century educational complex arranged around a cul-de-sac. Beginning on the west side and moving clockwise stand a 1969 classroom building, a 1973 gymnasium, a 1956 auditorium, a 1956 cafeteria, and a 1956 classroom building. Large metal-framed windows illuminate the interior. Metal canopies supported by round steel posts shelter the sidewalks between buildings. A tall, square, brick chimney rises on the auditorium's west elevation. Shelby architects Breeze, Holland, and Riviere, Inc., designed the campus placed into service in fall 1956, and their successor firm Holland and Riviere prepared plans for the 1969 classroom building and the 1973 gymnasium.³³

³³ John Yarbro, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Cleveland County Schools, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, September 24, 2014.



Balfour School, 1963 classroom building, Henderson County

Hendersonville architects William Henry O’Cain and William Ernest Brackett Jr., practicing as O’Cain and Brackett Associates, designed several Henderson County educational buildings during their partnership from 1960 until 1967. At Balfour School, the firm prepared plans for the 1963 four-classroom building, which features an almost-flat roof with deep eaves supported by tapered rafter ends above wide expanses of metal-framed windows, transoms, and steel doors.³⁴ Smaller metal-framed windows illuminate the flat-roofed 1976 and 1984 classroom buildings, which are also executed in oversized blonde brick. Flat-roofed steel canopies connect the three Modernist buildings, and corrugated-metal flat-roofed canopies supported by round steel posts shelter the sidewalks that connect them to the 1927 school.

The 1965 building at Hillandale Elementary School in East Flat Rock is similar in appearance to the 1963 Balfour School classroom building. O’Cain and Brackett Associates designed the one-story, flat-roofed, 1965 Hillandale Elementary School building as an addition to the eight-classroom 1963 school.³⁵ Masons utilized oversized blonde brick to erect the structure, which features a slightly-taller central block. The 1965 building provided classrooms, a library, a cafeteria, and an auditorium/gymnasium. Concrete sidewalks and steps with metal-pipe railings sheltered by a flat metal-roofed breezeway lead to the primary entrance, which is inset near the east elevation’s north end. A hyphen with high, short windows and a flat-roofed porch supported by square aluminum posts on its east elevation connects the 1965 building to the south classroom wing. Completed in 1976, the structure also has oversized blonde brick walls, steel doors, and metal-frame, tinted-glass replacement transoms and windows.

In Rutherford County, Henrietta-Caroleen High School’s plain, utilitarian, 1955 cafeteria is a product of the school system’s concern with providing separate, modern, sanitary food service areas for North Carolina students during the 1950s. A cast-stone water table and belt courses accent the one-story, flat-roofed, rectangular, red brick building. The 1966 classroom annex, located north of the cafeteria, is a one-story, flat-roofed, rectangular, red brick building. Concrete block walls, vinyl floors, exposed concrete ceiling joists, and hollow-core doors characterize the interior, which is accessed through double-leaf glass doors on the north and south elevations.

³⁴ George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1970), 94, 675; Ginny Thompson, HCGHS, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, October 1, 2014.

³⁵ *Ibid.*; Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County*, 85.

The one-story, red brick, 1957 Union Mills School gymnasium and the one-story, orange brick 1958 Cool Springs Gymnasium, both designed by Chivous Gilmer Harrill, are almost identical. The buildings each have three distinct parts: a gymnasium with a bowstring truss roof, a flat-roofed front lobby with a ticket booth and restrooms, and a flat-roofed rear wing containing locker rooms. Concrete cornices and aluminum coping contribute to the buildings' streamlined appearance. At Union Mills, bands of large steel-frame, multipane windows with operable central sections and cast-stone surrounds light the gymnasium. Recessed entrances on the lobby's north elevation and the locker room wing's east elevation provide interior access.

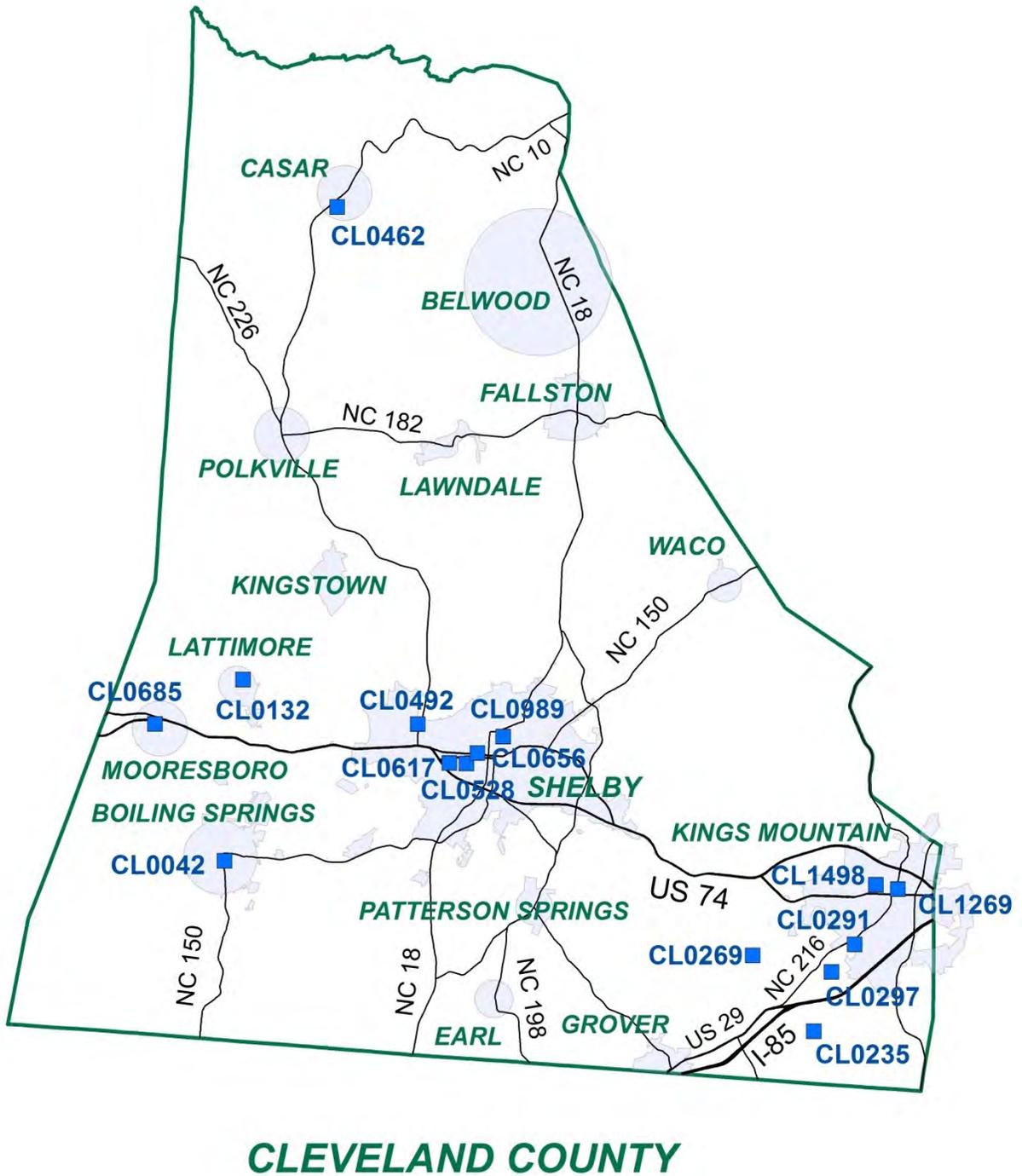
Additions at Central High School in Rutherfordton typify mid-twentieth-century educational building design, as they are efficiently arranged, take full advantage of natural light and air circulation, and facilitate connectivity between interior and exterior spaces. Three Modernist buildings erected in the 1950s and 1960s complete the campus's contingent of historic buildings. Flat-roofed metal canopies with steel posts shelter most of the campus sidewalks. Architect and engineer Chivous Gilmer Harrill designed the one-story, brick, flat-roofed cafeteria and kitchen erected by Graham Construction Company in 1957. Brick walls support the concrete canopy that shelters the two double-leaf steel doors and surrounding steel-framed curtain wall on the south elevation. A concrete cornice and matching window surrounds complete the Modernist composition.



Central High School classroom and gymnasium building, 1961, Rutherfordton

Hickory architects Clemmer and Horton designed the three-story 1961 edifice west of the cafeteria and north of the 1939 vocational building that added fifteen classrooms and a gymnasium to the campus. Concrete pilasters and belt courses frame the red brick veneer bays of the flat-roofed, rectangular, steel-frame structure executed by Mooresville contractor Barger Construction Company. The tall cast-stone cornice extends past the building footprint on the east elevation to shelter a recessed entrance porch. At the east elevation's south end, brick benches with cast-stone seats project from the wall. On the north elevation, decorative metal railings secure the concrete steps of the two-story open stair tower. Architect James R. Washburn prepared plans for the two-story building that A & G Construction erected west of the 1925 school in 1966 to provide four classrooms and a media center. A tall cast-stone cornice caps the flat-roofed, rectangular, red brick building and extends past the building footprint to shelter the sidewalk that runs along the east elevation. A decorative brick wall at the sidewalk's south end supports the overhang's exposed concrete structure.

III. Surveyed Cleveland County Schools



Map illustrating the relative locations of surveyed schools

created by Michael T. Southern, Senior Architectural Historian and GIS Coordinator,
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, October 2014

Cleveland County Historical Background and Education Context

North Carolina legislators appointed ten men to oversee Cleveland County's public school districts in 1844, but educational opportunities remained limited until the Reconstruction era. In 1870, 1,036 white children and seventy-four African American youth enrolled in the county's public schools. Private academies operating during the nineteenth century's final decades included Belwood Academy, Broad River Academy, Cleveland Female Seminary, Davenport College, Kings Mountain Military Institute, Oates Academy, Piedmont High School, Shelby Military Institute, and Shelby Seminary. H. T. Royster became the first county-wide public school superintendent in 1882.³⁶

Cleveland County's student population grew steadily through the twentieth century's first decades. In 1900, 5,269 white students enrolled in county schools, but only 3,893 regularly attended classes. African American enrollment totaled 1,029, with daily attendance averaging 580 youth. Numbers increased slightly in 1910, with 5,889 white pupils and 1,110 black students on school rosters. The legislature's 1919 passage of compulsory attendance legislation boosted enrollment to 6,896 white children and 1,539 African American youth in 1920.³⁷ By 1925, Cleveland County contained eighty white and thirty-three black school districts.³⁸

Modest frame schools served most of Cleveland County's African American students through the twentieth century's first decades. In order to construct new buildings—most of which were one-story and weatherboarded—in the 1920s, school administrators solicited public donations as well as subsidies from the Rosenwald Fund. Cleveland County erected twelve facilities in this manner: Borders (one classroom, 1930), Cleveland County Training (four classrooms, 1920, partially destroyed by February 1926 fire, rebuilt and enlarged), Cleveland County Training #2 (eight classrooms, 1927), Compact (three classrooms, 1925), Douglas (five classrooms, 1929), Ebenezer (three classrooms, 1924), Ellis Chapel (four classrooms, 1926), Green Bethel (three classrooms, 1929), Kings Mountain (five classrooms, 1926), Long Branch (three classrooms, 1923), Philadelphia (three classrooms, 1924), and Washington (three classrooms, 1929). Cleveland County Training School #2 in Shelby is the only surviving campus, although the 1927 building has been demolished.³⁹

Cleveland County school enrollment almost doubled by 1930, when 11,571 white students and 3,893 African American pupils registered to attend classes. Despite a dramatic improvement in educational facilities during the 1920s, many campuses remained primitive. Superintendent J. H. Grigg reported that thirty-seven white and twenty-three African American schools had six or fewer classrooms in 1930. All were one-story and the vast majority were weatherboarded gabled-roofed buildings with privies. Only five white schools were brick, four had plumbing, and two featured landscaped grounds. Six white and five black schools included auditoriums. Ten white consolidated schools—Belwood, Casar, Fallston, Grover, Park Grace, Piedmont, Lattimore, Mooresboro, Waco, and #8 Township—were more substantial, with seven or more classrooms. Enrollment remained stable throughout the

³⁶ Lee B. Weathers, *The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History* (Shelby: Star Publishing Company, 1956), 96-103.

³⁷ "Cleveland County," NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, 1935, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

³⁸ Weathers, *The Living Past of Cleveland County*, 105.

³⁹ "Cleveland County Schools," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed in August 2014); "North Carolina Rosenwald Schools," <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolsnc.html> (accessed August 2014).

decade. In 1935, school administrators enumerated 9,003 white elementary school and 2,401 high school students and 4,202 African American elementary and 344 high school pupils.⁴⁰

The economic challenges that ensued from the Great Depression resulted in limited facility improvement funding during the early 1930s. However, the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state's first New Deal program that created jobs for unemployed citizens, subsidized Cleveland County school projects from 1932 to 1935 including school, gymnasium, and athletic field construction and maintenance, heating system installation, and grounds improvements.⁴¹ The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) followed, engaging citizens in work endeavors ranging from public health and manufacturing initiatives to cultural activities. The program facilitated educational and athletic building construction as well as the operation of school lunch rooms through the early 1940s. During the summer of 1939, Cleveland County Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) collaborated with the WPA to plant school gardens in Kings Mountain, Shelby, and Polkville that yielded fruit and vegetables preserved by participants for use in the free lunches supplied by WPA- and PTA-sponsored lunch rooms.⁴²

As attendance escalated in the mid-1940s, the Board of Education planned to undertake school construction and maintenance that had been deferred due to building material shortages during and after World War II. A \$1.5-million bond passed in 1946 promised to improve schools throughout the county, but high construction estimates delayed project implementation. In 1947-1948, Shelby School rosters contained 3,093 youth and Kings Mountain campuses served 1,801 pupils. Rural Cleveland County school enrollment encompassed 7,241 white students at twenty-three schools and 3,291 African American pupils at twenty-five campuses. Fifteen complexes included vocational buildings, while ten sites featured gymnasiums. Steel Quonset huts provided additional classroom space at five schools.⁴³

Cleveland County public schools erected from the late 1940s through the 1960s are typically austere, brick-venered, flat-roofed forms illuminated by bands of large steel-framed windows, as are additions to earlier educational buildings completed at that time. In 1955, Cleveland County administrators reorganized the school system, appointing a separate superintendent and board of education for Kings Mountain, Shelby, and rural districts. School consolidation continued, often involving converting existing high schools to elementary, middle, or junior high schools and erecting new high school campuses. In 1960, sixteen white and six African American schools housed elementary-grade students, while twelve white and five black campuses accommodated all twelve grades. That year, the county began implementing a campaign that resulted in the closure of rural schools such as Bethware, Compact, Grover, and Park Grace, which joined Davidson School and Central, East, West and North Kings Mountain Schools in the Kings Mountain District. The Board of Education orchestrated similar mergers system-wide. County-operated schools desegregated in 1965. The municipal process was more gradual. Shelby schools initiated integration in 1963, but did not achieve full desegregation until 1968. In 1991, ten elementary, two middle, and two high schools served approximately eight thousand Cleveland County youth.⁴⁴ On January 13, 2004, Cleveland County commissioners created the

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467.

⁴² Mrs. Renn Drum, "Vocational Classes Go Modern in Shelby School," *Charlotte Observer*, November 30, 1939.

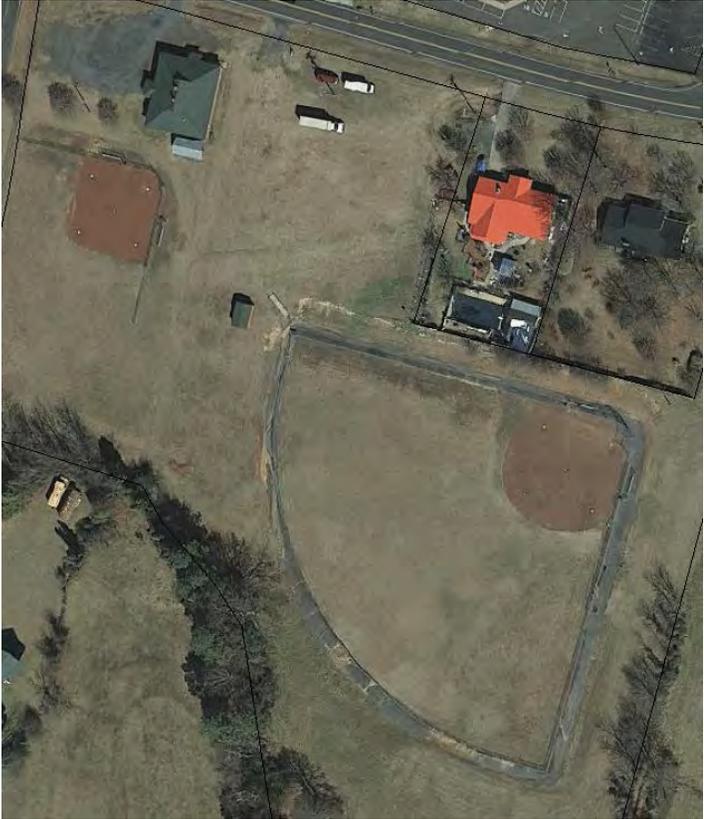
⁴³ "County Plans Building Program," *The Star*, December 10, 1948.

⁴⁴ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4* (Shelby: Westmoreland, 2009), 21-22, 72; Weathers, *The Living Past of Cleveland County*, 105; Cleveland County Sesquicentennial Committee, "Cleveland County Sesquicentennial, 1841-1991," Heritage Day Program, April 27, 1991, p. 9.

Cleveland County Consolidated School System, merging the Kings Mountain, Shelby, and rural districts.⁴⁵

The following inventory of surveyed schools appears in alphabetical order.

**Bethlehem School
1932**
**1017 Bethlehem Road
Kings Mountain**
2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



⁴⁵ Dave Baity, *Tracks Through Time: A History of Kings Mountain, 1874-2005* (Charlotte: Jostens Books, 2005), 16.

Description

The one-story, brick Bethlehem School has a broad hip roof that rises to a central gable pierced by two narrow brick chimney stacks. Louvered gable vents ventilate the attic. A hip-roofed portico supported by square brick posts shelters the primary entrance on the west elevation, while mid-twentieth-century metal posts bolster the shed-roofed canopy above the auxiliary entrance on the north elevation. Brick stoops and concrete steps originally led to both doors, but a concrete handicapped ramp with a metal pipe railing now provides access to the north entrance. The four original wide window openings have been partially enclosed with brick and contain paired, double-hung, one-over-one, synthetic sash windows. A large gravel parking area is located west and north of the school. Athletic fields, including a baseball diamond to the southeast, are intact.

Bethlehem School, Dixon School, and the no-longer-extant Patterson Grove School were identical in form and plan.

Historical Background

A two-room school served the Bethlehem community from the late nineteenth century until 1918, when the Cleveland County Board of Education constructed a four-room frame elementary school on acreage donated by M. L. McSwain in close proximity to Bethlehem Baptist Church.⁴⁶ The Federal Emergency Relief Administration contributed \$491.60 toward Bethlehem School's repair and grounds improvements in the early 1930s.⁴⁷ It is unclear if this work was executed before or after masons erected the one-story brick school on the site in 1932. H. K. Dixon remembers that his uncle transported the brick from Gaffney, South Carolina. The campus remained in use until 1945, when the Cleveland County Board of Education consolidated Bethlehem and Grover Schools. Bethlehem Baptist Church purchased the former Bethlehem School campus in November 1947 and retains ownership.⁴⁸



⁴⁶ "Bethlehem School," *The Cleveland Star*, January 25, 1905; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I*, 13; Anniversary Committee, *150th Anniversary of Bethlehem Baptist Church* (Kings Mountain: Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1992), unpaginated.

⁴⁷ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467.

⁴⁸ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 14.

**Boiling Springs School –
Crest High School
1925, 1938, 1941, 1950,
1956, 1960, 1975**

**141 South Main Street,
Boiling Springs**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Boiling Springs School, 1925

Description

This urban campus, which grew and evolved during the school’s sixty-eight year operation, comprises a U-shaped collection of connected buildings erected between 1925 and 1975. The one-story, hip-roofed, brick school built with four classrooms and an auditorium to serve Boiling Springs youth in 1925 stands at the complex’s northeast corner. Two hip-roofed bays project from the rear (east) elevation. The primary entrance on the west elevation is recessed in a round-arched opening. Tall, narrow aluminum-sash replacement windows, each with five horizontal panes, are installed in groups of three to five in the original openings on the north, west, and south elevation. Roll-up garage doors have been added north of the main entrance on the north rear wing’s east elevation. Small gabled vents aerate the attic.



Boiling Springs School, 1938

The one-story, hip-roofed, brick high school to the west, completed in 1938, fronts South Main Street. A projecting central Classical Revival-style bay embellished with quoins, cornice returns, and a round-arched, keystone surround at the wide central door opening distinguishes the building. A round-arched, multipane fanlight surmounts the replacement double-leaf front door. The small oval window at the gable's center has been enclosed with vinyl siding. Groups of two or three tall, narrow, five-horizontal-pane, aluminum-sash replacement windows fill the original openings on the east and west elevations.

The high school was initially free-standing, but a brick gabled gymnasium addition connected the 1925 and 1938 buildings in 1960. A one-story gabled hyphen extends from the high school's south end, providing interior access to the 1941 front-gable addition that matches the 1938 building. One and two-story, flat-roofed, brick additions from 1950, 1956, 1960, and 1975 contain classrooms, a cafeteria, and a gymnasium.⁴⁹

A one-story, hip-roofed, brick shop executed in six-to-one common bond with steel-frame windows stands northeast of the 1925 school, on the opposite side of a paved drive adjacent to a gravel parking area. A square brick smokestack pierces the building's south roof slope.

Historical Background

Students from three small rural Cleveland County schools—Bridges Academy, Holland, and Lovelace—began attending Boiling Springs School at its Main Street site around 1876. The two-room weatherboarded log building with end chimneys served first- through eighth-grade pupils during the late nineteenth century. A three-room frame building replaced the log school. In 1901, F. B. Hamrick, Garland Greene, and Julia McSwain oversaw 152 students in a building that had received blackboards and maple desks that year. Beginning in fall 1907, youth had the option of attending a private Baptist high school overseen by principal J. D. Huggins. Enrollment for the inaugural term comprised 135 pupils. Classes met in the public school and Boiling Springs Baptist Church until contractors finished

⁴⁹ Division of School Planning, *Cleveland County School Survey, 1976-77* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1978), 96.

the private Boiling Spring High School's four-story building at a cost of approximately \$25,000 in January 1908.⁵⁰

A \$10,000 building under construction in 1921 provided additional classrooms and a larger auditorium. At the close of the 1920-1921 school term, principal Huggins reported 226 students enrolled in eighth through eleventh grades, with daily attendance averaging 213 youth. This number included 116 students who lived on campus. Forty-two pupils graduated that spring, completing their course of study under the direction of fourteen teachers. In 1925, 256 of 276 high school students regularly attended classes taught by six female and four male teachers. A three-story brick edifice finished in 1924 at a cost of \$65,000 contained thirteen classrooms. Huggins noted that 180 students occupied campus dormitories, overseen by resident teachers, at a cost of \$4.86 per week.⁵¹

Students attending the public Boiling Spring Elementary School benefited from the 1925 construction of a one-story brick school with four classrooms and an auditorium. Boiling Springs High School became a junior college in 1928. In fall 1930, Boiling Springs's first public high school opened in the E. B. Hamrick Building on the junior college campus under principal O. P. Hamrick's supervision.⁵² During 1934-1935, O. P. Hamrick's faculty comprised four high school teachers and eleven elementary school instructors. High school enrollment encompassed 152 students, twelve of whom graduated. The federal and state Civil Works Administrations contributed \$807.33 toward the campus buildings' repair and painting in the early 1930s.⁵³

The high school remained in the E. B. Hamrick Building until its destruction by fire in 1937. The Cleveland County Board of Education then erected a one-story Classical Revival-style brick high school on Main Street adjacent to Boiling Springs Elementary School, which was renovated to create six classrooms. The new structure comprised five classrooms, the home economics department, the library/study hall, an auditorium, and offices.⁵⁴

In May 1940, Hamrick reported enrollment numbering 207 first- through seventh-grade students during the academic year that had just ended. Five female teachers educated elementary school pupils in six classrooms. Hamrick and six other teachers instructed 191 high school students, twenty of whom graduated that spring. The campus included an auditorium and a gymnasium shared by all grades. In 1946, Hamrick, seven female teachers, and one male instructor supervised a daily average of 264 of the 324 enrolled youth in the lower grades. Elementary school improvements ranged from library shelving construction to lunch room updates and restroom and water fountain installation in first, second, and third-grade classrooms. The student body also included 119 high school pupils overseen by Hamrick, three female teachers, and one male faculty member. The high school building contained five classrooms. During the 1949-1950 term, enrollment comprised 370 first- through eighth-grade pupils educated by nine female teachers and one male instructor led by principal Hamrick. Daily attendance averaged 291 students. High school attendance averaged 152 of 182 ninth

⁵⁰ Falls, *Annual Report of the Public Schools of Cleveland County*, 5; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 2* (Shelby: Westmoreland, 2009), 37, 56-58.

⁵¹ "Boiling Springs High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1921, 1925.

⁵² North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 2*, 41, 67-68.

⁵³ "Boiling Springs High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935; Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467.

⁵⁴ "Sketch of Proposed Boiling Springs High School Building," *The Shelby Daily Star*, January 17, 1938; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 2*, 68.

through twelfth-grade students under the tutelage of Hamrick, four female teachers, and three male faculty members. Extracurricular activities included athletics, 4-H club, and chapters of Brownies and Girl Scouts. The Cleveland County Board of Education improved the campus in 1950 by grading the playground and ball field and erecting an \$85,000 addition.⁵⁵

In 1954-1955, Hamrick and seven teachers educated 178 high school students, thirty-one of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included the installation of venetian blinds in the lunch room, draperies in the auditorium, and clocks in each classroom. E. B. Clayton became principal in 1957. During the 1959-1960 term, Clayton and ten faculty members oversaw 243 high school students, fifty of whom graduated. Building updates included the installation of a cyclorama, floor refinishing, and the acquisition of new desks, chairs, furniture, and blackout shades for various rooms.⁵⁶

The Cleveland County Board of Education redistributed grades several times in the 1960s and 1970s as part of school consolidation campaigns. In fall 1960, the Boiling Springs campus began serving high school students who would have attended Lattimore and Mooresboro Schools. In order to facilitate the transition, the merged entity was called Crest High School. Administrators also moved sixth- through eighth-grade students previously assigned to Boiling Springs School to Lattimore and Mooresboro Schools. This left first through fifth and high school grades in Boiling Springs until September 1967, when a new Crest High School campus opened on Old Boiling Springs Road. Contractors expanded Boiling Springs Elementary School with a one-story addition in 1975. The system-wide creation of junior high schools in 1976 resulted in the transfer of fifth and sixth-grade students from Boiling Springs, Lattimore, Mooresboro, and Number One to West Cleveland Junior High. Boiling Springs Elementary School served kindergarten through fourth-grade and high school youth from 1976 until closing in 1993.⁵⁷

Gardner-Webb University has adaptively reused the 1925 school as its Millennium Playhouse and art center, while the 1938 building's north portion accommodates the communication studies department. The south hyphen and 1941 addition serve as the Boiling Springs Town Hall, while some of the additions on the complex's southeast end house the police department.



⁵⁵ Ibid., 1940; "Boiling Springs School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950; "Boiling Springs High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950.

⁵⁶ "Boiling Springs High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

⁵⁷ Joe DePriest, "Boiling Springs School's Long History Lives On," *The Shelby Star*, May 8, 1989, p. B11; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 2, 52-53, 75-77*.

Casar School
1925, 1936, 1939, 1950,
1956, 1970, 1972, 1984,
2004

436 School House Road
Casar

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Description

This campus encompasses a series of connected buildings erected and renovated from 1925 until 2004, as well as two freestanding auxiliary buildings to the south. The oldest section—a one-story-on-basement, side-gable-roofed, brick edifice—is adjacent to the 1950 building encompassing a gymnasium, two classrooms, and a library at the complex’s southwest corner. Department of Public Instruction records indicate that the 1925 nine-classroom school received a 1936 four-classroom

addition, ostensibly to its north end.⁵⁸ A difference in brick color and bond supports this assertion. Brick and concrete steps with metal railings lead to the primary entrance on the west elevation, which is recessed in a round-arched opening. A twelve-light transom surmounts the replacement metal-frame, glass, double-leaf door. Single and groups of tall, narrow, aluminum-sash replacement windows, each with five horizontal panes, fill the original main-floor openings on the east and west elevations. The sloping grade allows for basement windows on the west elevation's south end. Mid-twentieth-century steel-frame windows, each with an operable central section, remain in these openings as well as those of the bowstring-truss-roofed, brick, 1950 gymnasium to the south. A shed-roofed canopy supported by round metal posts sheltered the west entrance. A flat-roofed open breezeway extends from the canopy to the driveway at the sidewalk's end. A one-story locker room wing projects from the gymnasium's rear (east) elevation.



Casar School, 1950 gymnasium

The long, one-story, brick, 1970 classroom building with a low-pitched side-gable roof to the northeast was initially free-standing. A matching 1972 classroom addition extends from its north end. A one-story, gabled, brick hyphen connects the 1972 building to the one-story, brick, 1984 classroom addition, which is characterized by a distinctive asymmetrical north end, as well as the one-story, brick, 2004 classroom and administrative office addition designed by Shelby architects Holland and Hamrick.⁵⁹ A shaped façade parapet capped with cast-stone disguises the addition's front-gable roof. The projecting central entrance portico's parapet matches and features a wide round-arched door opening that emulates that of the 1925 school.

A one-story, brick, low-gable-roofed 1948 vocational shop executed in five-to-one common bond stands south of the school. Most window opening have been fully or partially enclosed with brick. A

⁵⁸ Division of School Planning, *Cleveland County School Survey, 1976-77* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1978), 100.

⁵⁹ Holland and Hamrick Architects, "Additions to Casar Elementary School of the Arts for Cleveland County Schools," January 31, 2003, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

one-story, front-gable-roofed, concrete-block garage is to the east.

Historical Background

The Cleveland County Board of Education erected a two-story, gable-roofed, weatherboarded school that began serving youth residing in Casar and the surrounding area in 1903. During the 1905-1906 term, J. H. Brackett, A. B. Peeler, and A. C. Wortman instructed 171 first- through eighth-grade pupils in a building with an assessed value of \$460. Although the district levied a special tax to fund a new school's construction, it was almost twenty years before sufficient funds became available.⁶⁰

The Board of Education subsidized the one-story brick Casar School's 1925 completion at a cost of approximately \$25,000. Contractor J. Hampton Brackett erected the building, which featured an auditorium with a five-hundred-person seating capacity, but did not have a library or a gymnasium. In 1929-1930, principal H. M. Loy and nine teachers oversaw seventy-three high school and 291 elementary school pupils. High school students utilized three of nine classrooms, and eight youth graduated that spring. Boys' sports included football, baseball, and basketball, while girls joined a basketball team.⁶¹

During the 1933-1934 academic year, Casar School enrolled 287 first- through seventh-grade pupils educated by principal Loy, six female teachers, and one male instructor. An additional ninety-two students attended high school classes. At that time, the one-story, brick, H-plan building comprised ten classrooms, seven of which housed elementary grades, as well as offices, a library, and an auditorium. In 1934-1935, principal Lu Cain's faculty consisted of three high school teachers and eight elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 118 students, nine of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 398 pupils.⁶² In 1935, the federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the construction of a one-story, gable-roofed, metal-sided frame gymnasium at a cost of \$2,653.85 and contributed \$377.25 toward other campus buildings' repair and painting.⁶³

In 1939-1940, Cain, seven female teachers, and one male instructor supervised a daily average of 290 of the 381 enrolled elementary school youth. Cain and five other teachers instructed 154 high school students, twenty-three of whom graduated that spring. The campus then encompassed the 1925/1936 school, the 1935 gymnasium, and a small one-story building. The sixteen-classroom school did not have a cafeteria. In June 1946, principal W. H. Dodd reported that ten female teachers led 381 elementary school youth over the course of the previous term. The student body also included 108 high school pupils instructed by Dodd, two male teachers, and two female faculty members. Facility improvements that year included new lighting installation in the gymnasium, baseball diamond grading, and school yard sanding.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ C. N. Peeler, "The Coming Town of Casar," *The Cleveland Star*, July 1903, special edition, p. 8.; Falls, *Annual Report of the Public Schools of Cleveland County*, 30-31.

⁶¹ "High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930; "Casar High School," "School Building Information," April 3, 1930, NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

⁶² "Casar School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934; "Casar School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935.

⁶³ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467.

⁶⁴ "Casar School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946; "Casar School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946; "Casar School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

Contractor A. A. Parker erected the brick vocational classroom building at a cost of \$9,000 in 1948. World War II veterans enrolled in Casar School's masonry training class executed its poured-concrete foundation.⁶⁵ During the 1949-1950 term, principal James Edward Buff led the nine female teachers and one male faculty member who educated 389 first- through eighth-grade pupils. Daily attendance averaged 291 students. High school attendance typically comprised one hundred of 126 ninth- through twelfth-grade students under the tutelage of Buff, one female teacher, and three male faculty members. Extracurricular activities included athletics and hobby clubs. The Cleveland County Board of Education improved the campus that year by repairing the gymnasium roof and floor, repainting the school roof, and grading the athletic field.⁶⁶ Contractor C. T. Bennett began constructing the \$68,240 gymnasium and classroom building in the summer of 1950.⁶⁷

In 1954-1955, principal D. W. Ayers and five teachers educated 124 high school students, nineteen of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included painting, remodeling the home economics department, and the fabrication of draperies for the auditorium. During the 1959-1960 term, principal M. T. Honeycutt and seven faculty members oversaw 145 high school students, seventeen of whom graduated. Building updates included the installation of a new library bulletin board and furniture.⁶⁸ The Board of Education transferred tenth- through twelfth-grade youth to Polkville High School in fall 1960 and ninth-grade students joined them at the new Burns High School in fall 1967. Seventh and eighth grades moved to Central Cleveland Elementary School in fall 1969. Casar School has housed only elementary-level students since that time.⁶⁹



Casar School, 2004 classroom and administrative office addition (left) and 1950 gymnasium

⁶⁵ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 3*, 170.

⁶⁶ "Casar School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1950; "Casar School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955, 1966.

⁶⁷ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 3*, 170.

⁶⁸ "Casar High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

⁶⁹ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 3*, 170.

**Cleveland County
Training School #2 -
Shelby
1935, 1955, 1960
341 Hudson Street
Shelby**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Cleveland County Training School #2 - Shelby School, 1935, 1955

Description

In 1935, the school system erected a three-story, hip-roofed, brick, six-classroom addition at the 1927 Rosenwald school's west end. The hip-roofed, open-air stair tower that projects from its west elevation has round-arched window openings. Tall, twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood-sash windows illuminate the interior. A firewall separates the 1935 section from the 1955 addition to the east, which replaced the 1927 building. The primary entrance to the large, three-story, flat-roofed, brick, 1955 classroom building, lighted by pairs of steel-frame windows with operable central sections, is on the east elevation. Canted brick posts support the flat-roofed canopy above the double-leaf door. A 1960 three-story, flat-roofed, brick classroom wing with steel-frame windows extends north to the 1960 flat-roofed brick gymnasium, which contains a basketball court. Brick and concrete steps with metal pipe railings lead to the entrance on the gymnasium's west elevation. A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by square steel posts shelters triple steel doors. On the 1960 gymnasium's east side,

tall rectangular windows illuminate a bowstring-truss roofed 1955 gymnasium with a projecting, flat-roofed, one-story entrance portico that is slightly taller than the flanking restrooms.

Historical Background

Modest frame schools served most of Cleveland County's African American students through the early twentieth century. In order to construct new buildings in the 1920s, the board of education solicited public donations as well as subsidies from the Rosenwald Fund. The four-room, weatherboarded Cleveland County Training School, built in 1920, was damaged by a February 1926 fire. Contractors subsequently repaired and expanded the building to create the two-story, fourteen-bay-wide, weatherboarded, hip-roofed, eight-classroom Cleveland County Training School #2, completed in 1927 at a cost of \$30,000. The local African American community contributed \$1,500, the Rosenwald Fund \$900, and the county school system the remaining \$27,600.⁷⁰

The building featured a library, an auditorium, and offices. A hip-roofed central portico supported by square posts sheltered two single-leaf entrances fronting Hudson Street. In 1930-1931, principal N. L. Massey's faculty comprised eight female elementary school teachers, two female high school instructors, and one male high school teacher in addition to himself. Enrollment encompassed 117 high school and 427 elementary school pupils. High school students utilized four classrooms. Eighteen youth graduated that spring. The student body participated in extracurricular activities including a baseball team and drama, glee, literary, and science clubs. Enrollment increased slightly the following term, numbering 125 high school and 460 elementary school pupils.⁷¹

Contractors completed a six-room brick addition at the 1927 building's south end in 1935. A historic photograph illustrates that the 1927 building had been brick veneered by that time. In May 1936, principal E. C. Horton reported that ten female and two male teachers led the elementary school. Daily high school attendance averaged 194 youth enrolled in classes taught by Horton and three female and two male instructors in six of the building's nineteen classrooms. After-school opportunities included football and basketball teams; debate, drama, glee, and science clubs; Boy Scouts; and the publication of a newspaper called *Voices of Cleveland*. Thirty-seven students graduated that spring.⁷²

In 1954-1955, principal James D. Hoskins and four teachers mentored high school students including twenty graduates. During the 1956-1956 term, Hoskins and five faculty members oversaw 148 high school students. Building updates comprised the installation of floor tile and the correction of water leaks in the classroom addition completed in 1955. In 1959-1960, Hoskins and eight instructors educated 173 high school students and contractors erected a new gymnasium. Around the same time, construction of the wing that connects the 1960 gymnasium to the 1955 addition commenced. The addition contained sixteen classrooms, offices, an auditorium, a library, and a lunchroom. Twenty-two teachers instructed approximately eight hundred first through twelfth-grade students at the time of the school system's 1967 integration, after which Cleveland School housed six-grade pupils until 1977.⁷³

⁷⁰ "Cleveland County Schools," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2014).

⁷¹ "Cleveland County Training School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1931, 1932.

⁷² North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series I*, 94, 98; "Cleveland County Training School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1936.

⁷³ "Cleveland Training School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCPI, DIS, 1955, 1956, 1960; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series I*, 100-101.

**Compact School
1952, 1957, 1960**

**150 Dixon School Road
Kings Mountain**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Description

The earliest extant building on the former Compact School campus is the one-story, gable-roofed, brick, six-classroom building with boarded-up windows at the parcel's southwest edge. Its construction date is unclear. According to Cleveland County property records, the contractors erected that portion of the school in 1952. Department of Public instruction records indicate that additions comprising two classrooms, administrative offices, a lunch room, a library, and a "gymtarium," a combination gymnasium and auditorium, were completed in April 1957. The one-story, gable-roofed, brick administrative and classroom sections flank the 1952 classrooms, while the two-story, flat-roofed, brick gymtarium stands at the complex's north end. Most of the gymtarium windows have been enclosed with brick, but two steel-frame sash remain on the south elevation's second-story. A one-story, flat-roofed, brick wing projects from the gymtarium's northwest corner. A modern gable-roofed, metal-sided warehouse extends to the northwest.



Compact School, circa 1960 classroom and office building

The freestanding, one-story, brick, circa 1960 classroom and office building has roof with a slight slope from the façade (west elevation) to the rear (east elevation). An almost-full-width flat-roofed porch supported by round steel posts extends across the façade. Single and grouped metal-frame windows with four horizontal panes illuminated the interior. Most windows have been boarded-up. The building is east of and parallel to the 1952 classrooms.

Historical Background

In 1872, African American farmer Peter Forney donated acreage to allow for Compact School's construction and chaired the twelve-man committee that oversaw its establishment and operation. Local families agreed to a tuition rate of \$2.50 per month for four-month terms, payable in cash or its equivalent value of wheat, 2 1/2 bushels. The money subsidized the building's completion and paid white educator Hill Culp a monthly salary of \$25.00. Volunteers crafted benches and long tables to serve as desks. Thirty-five students including Peter and Clara Forney's daughter Lavinia enrolled in the inaugural term, which began in July 1872. Culp headed the school until 1877, when Lavinia assumed its oversight. She remained the only teacher through 1904, instructing fifty children in a twenty-by-thirty-foot frame building. In 1905-1906, Reverend R. H. Simmons received a \$20-per-month salary to teach ninety-four Compact School students.⁷⁴

In order to erect new buildings on African American campuses in the 1920s, the Cleveland County Board of Education solicited public donations as well as subsidies from the Rosenwald Fund. Compact students benefited from the construction of a frame school in 1922 and a hip-roofed, weatherboarded, three-classroom building in 1924-1925. Contractors completed the 1925 building at a cost of \$3,200. The local African American community contributed \$500, the Rosenwald Fund \$900, and the Board of Education the remaining \$1,800.⁷⁵

In 1940, Compact School comprised two frame one-story buildings and enrolled 325 African

⁷⁴ US Census, population schedules, 1870-1880; J. A. Anthony, "Public Schools," *The Cleveland Star*, March 2, 1904, p. 4; Falls, *Annual Report of the Public Schools of Cleveland County*, 32; Carl A. Burris and Addieleen Crocker, eds., "The Beginning of Compact School," Compact Reunion Booklet, 1988, pp. 4-5; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 1* (Shelby: Westmoreland, 2009), 68-69.

⁷⁵ "Cleveland County Schools," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2014); North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 1*, 70.

American students under the supervision of principal L. L. Adams. The elementary school and high school buildings stood approximately 140 feet from each other. Three privies and an outdoor pump for hand washing served the campus.⁷⁶ During the 1940-1941 academic term, four female teachers oversaw the elementary grades. Adams, two female, and two male faculty members instructed ninety-seven high school pupils, eight of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students occupied seven of eight classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including athletics and drama, glee, home economics, literary, and science clubs.⁷⁷

In 1942, the Cleveland County Board of Education consolidated Gold Mine and Long Branch Schools at Compact School. The campus grew in 1943, when families of Compact School students donated funds and labor to allow for the construction of an agricultural building. The structure served the broader community as well as youth enrolled in classes as Compact School teacher, M. L. Campbell, who was also a pastor, led local crop production and food preservation initiatives. He established a local National Farmers Association chapter and facilitated the statewide creation of farmers' credit unions.⁷⁸

During the 1949-1950 academic year, principal Adams reported enrollment of 203 first- through eighth-grade African American pupils educated by himself, four female teachers, and one male faculty member. Daily attendance averaged 167 students. Five high school classes comprised eighty-seven students led by Adams, one female, and two male full-time teachers. Extracurricular activities included athletics and music, reading, and science clubs. The Cleveland County school system improved the seven-classroom facility during that term by installing new privies and drinking fountains.⁷⁹

In 1954-1955, Adams and four teachers educated 109 high school students, twenty-one of whom completed their course of study. Campus improvements included installing an instructor's science table, electric water fountains, and landscaping. During the 1955-1956 term, Adams and five faculty members oversaw 107 high school students. Facility updates underway at that time included painting existing buildings and erecting additions comprising two classrooms, administrative offices, a lunch room, a library, and a "gymtarium," a combination gymnasium and auditorium completed in April 1957. During 1959-1960, Principal Adams and five instructors taught 106 high school students, nineteen of whom graduated.⁸⁰ The Cleveland County Board of Education erected the freestanding classroom building in 1960.

Kings Mountain School District's 1961 consolidation of rural and urban schools resulted in Davidson High School students being bused to Compact School. The campus operated until 1967.⁸¹ The complex subsequently served a variety of functions, most recently as Barrett's Floor Covering's showroom and warehouse.

⁷⁶ "Compact School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

⁷⁷ "Compact High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1941.

⁷⁸ Compact School Committee, "Compact School," Compact Reunion Booklet, 1995.

⁷⁹ "Compact School," "Principal's Annual Elementary School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950.

⁸⁰ "Compact School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1956, 1960.

⁸¹ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 1*, 38, 74.

**Davidson Elementary School
1954**

**533 West Parker Street
Kings Mountain**

**North Carolina Study List
2014**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Description

The one-story, flat-roofed, brick-veneered, 1954 classroom building for elementary grades is the only extant structure associated with the Davidson School campus. Groups of large steel-framed windows, each with five horizontal panes, illuminate the interior. On each elevation, flat-roofed canopies supported by round steel posts shelter single- or double-leaf steel doors surmounted by rectangular transoms. A tall, square, brick chimney rises on the north elevation. The school sits at the top of a hill. A brick retaining wall west of the school adjacent to the lower parking lot ameliorates the grade change. Concrete steps lead to the west and south entrances, while the east entrances are at the same level as the east parking lot.

Historical Background

Beginning around 1888, African American youth who resided in Kings Mountain had the opportunity to attend classes led by one teacher that met in Bynum A. M. E. Zion Church. This endeavor,

organized by Reverend A. L. Martin and church elders, was the town's primary African American educational instruction until the school system constructed a new graded school in the 1920s, soliciting public donations as well as subsidies from the Rosenwald Fund. Contractors completed the one-story, gable-roofed, brick, H-plan, five-classroom Kings Mountain School in 1926 at a cost of \$10,500. The local African American and white communities contributed \$500 each, the Rosenwald Fund \$1,300, and the school system the remaining \$8,200.⁸² Reverend J. W. Roberts served as principal, assisted by his wife Ida, who was also a teacher. R. J. Davidson next assumed the school's leadership, and in 1934, per the recommendation of the Parent-Teacher's Association, the school system renamed the campus in his honor.⁸³

During the 1934-1935 term, Davidson's faculty consisted of two high school educators other than himself and seven elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised eighty-one students, twelve of whom graduated. The faculty distribution remained the same in June 1941, when one male and six female teachers oversaw the elementary grades. Davidson and two male faculty members instructed seventy-one high school pupils, nine of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students occupied four of eleven classrooms, participated in extracurricular activities including athletics and drama, glee, and literary clubs, and published a newspaper called *The Guidepost*.⁸⁴

During the 1949-1950 academic term, the eleven-classroom Davidson School enrolled 164 first-through eighth-grade African American pupils educated by principal John Albert Gibson and five female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 146 students. Extracurricular activities included athletics, drama, and hobby clubs. High school attendance typically comprised sixty-nine of seventy-three students under the tutelage of two female teachers and one male faculty member. Facility improvements included front sidewalk installation and associated landscaping. In 1954, contractors finished a one-story, flat-roofed, Modernist, six-classroom, elementary school building designed by architect James L. Beam. In 1959-1960, Gibson and three instructors taught 77 high school students, sixteen of whom graduated.⁸⁵

Kings Mountain School District's 1961 consolidation of rural and urban schools resulted in Davidson High School students being bused to Compact School. First through eighth grades remained at Davidson School, which operated until 1968. That year, Kings Mountain District schools demolished the 1926 Rosenwald school. The 1954 elementary school functioned briefly as a campus for students with special needs before being renovated to serve as the district's administrative offices from 1969 until 1994.⁸⁶

⁸² "Cleveland County Schools," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2014).

⁸³ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 1*, 77-78.

⁸⁴ "Davidson School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1936, 1941.

⁸⁵ "Davidson School," "Principal's Annual Elementary School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950; Davidson School, "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955, 1960, James L. Beam, "Davidson School," plans dated July 31st, 1953.

⁸⁶ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 1*, 78-80; Baity, *Tracks Through Time*, 16.

**Dixon School
1933**

**603 Dixon School Road
Kings Mountain**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Description

The one-story, brick Dixon School has a broad pyramidal hip roof. A matching portico supported by square brick posts shelters the primary entrance on the west elevation, while mid-twentieth-century metal posts bolster the shed-roofed canopy above the auxiliary entrances on the north and south elevations. Brick stoops and concrete steps originally led to all three doors, but a concrete handicapped ramp with a metal railing now provides access to the main entrance. The two original wide window openings on the facade have been partially enclosed with vinyl siding and contain paired, double-hung, synthetic sash windows. The original window opening at the east elevation's south end holds three replacement windows surrounded by vinyl siding, as does the north opening, which also contains a single-leaf door that opens onto a wood deck. A large gravel parking area and a playground are north of the school.

Dixon School, Bethlehem School, and the no-longer-extant Patterson Grove School were identical in form and plan.

Historical Background

A one-story frame school served the Dixon community beginning the late nineteenth century. In 1901, S. C. Ratterree received a \$35-monthly salary to instruct seventy-two first- through eighth-grade students in a building with an assessed value of \$150. Area residents volunteered to erect a brick school in 1933 and W. Gordon Hughes subsidized the project's execution.⁸⁷

In May 1940, Dixon School principal Eugene S. King reported enrollment numbering 103 first-through seventh-grade students during the academic year that had just ended. Hamrick, full-time teacher Norma C. King, and part-time music and piano teacher Helen Borders educated pupils. The one-story brick school featured two classrooms flanking the central hall off the portico. A movable partition divided the two classrooms at the end of the hall and allowed the space to be opened for use as an auditorium. The campus grounds included privies and a well. Principal Nevette Hughes and Blanch W. Yarboro taught seventy-one students in 1946.⁸⁸

The Cleveland County Board of Education consolidated Dixon and Grover Schools in fall 1951. Marion Jackson acquired Dixon School in 1952. After renovating the building to serve as a residence, he sold the property to Delbert and Lilly Jackson, who remained owner-occupants until 1993. Dixon Presbyterian Church, located just across the road, then purchased the former Dixon School property and still uses it as a fellowship hall.⁸⁹



Dixon School, rear elevation

⁸⁷ Falls, *Annual Report of the Public Schools of Cleveland County*, 11; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 15; "Dixon School," survey file, Western Offices of Archives and History, Asheville.

⁸⁸ "Dixon School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946; "Dixon School," and "Patterson Grove School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

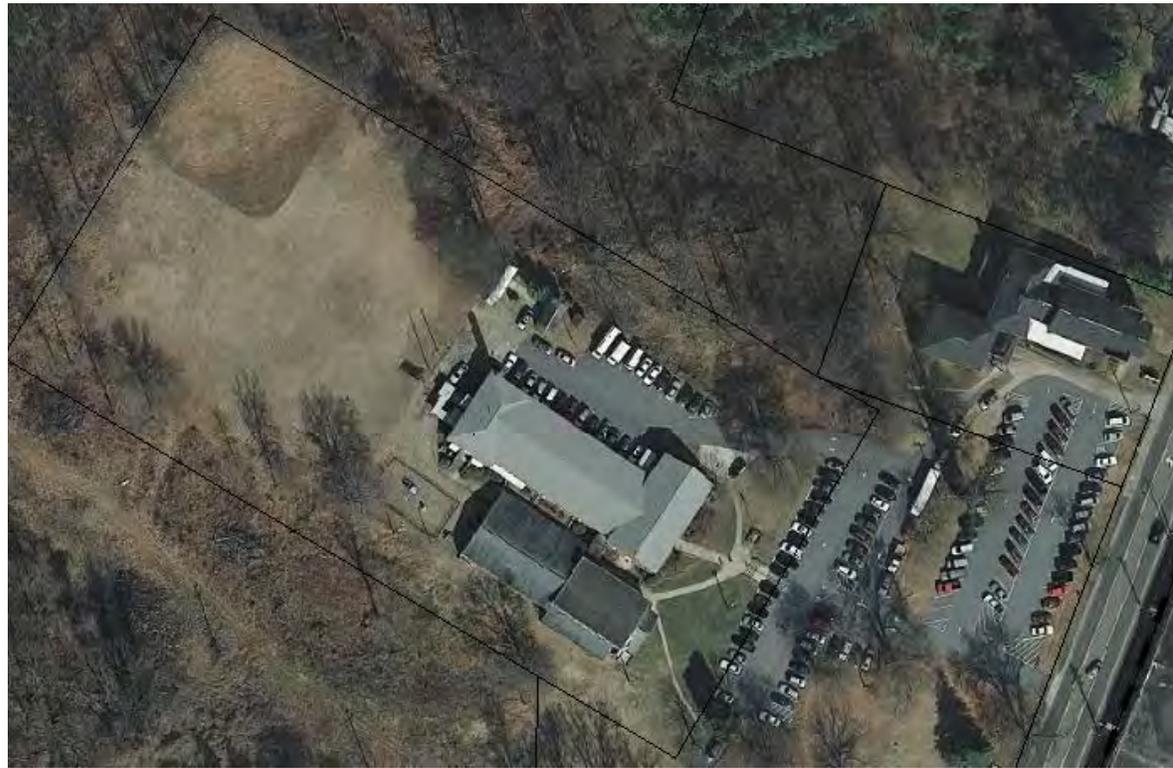
⁸⁹ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 16; "Dixon School," survey file, Western Offices of Archives and History, Asheville.

**Dover School
1934, 1956**

**409 Polkville
Road
Dover**

**North Carolina
Study List,
1998**

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Cleveland County
GIS



Description

The former Dover School campus comprises a 1934 classroom building and a 1956 gymnasium, both of which have been renovated several times.⁹⁰ The 1934 school to the north has a side-gable-roofed main block at its east end, a gable-roofed central section, and a hip-roofed west wing. Masons embellished the running bond brick structure with a soldier-course watertable and window and door lintels. Classical Revival-style elements include transoms above double-leaf entrances, the molded cornice that encircles the building, and the round keystone openings containing louvered attic vents in the east block's gables. Concrete steps with solid brick railings capped with concrete lead to the entrances on the hip-roofed wing's west and south elevations. Single and grouped tall, aluminum-framed, replacement windows, each with five horizontal panes, illuminate the interior. A tall, square, brick chimney rises at the building's northwest corner.

⁹⁰ Division of School Planning, *Cleveland County School Survey, 1976-77*, 105.

Shelby architects Breeze, Holland, and Riviere designed the two-story, flat-roofed, brick, 1956 gymnasium that stands to the south, separated from the main building by a concrete sidewalk. The flat-roofed metal canopy that originally sheltered the double-leaf entrance on the east elevation was removed to allow for the construction of a gable-roofed addition at that location.⁹¹ A narrow one-story, shed-roofed addition projects from the gymnasium's south elevation and a sizable classroom addition extends from its west elevation. Metal-frame sash remain at the second-story-level on the gymnasium's north and south elevations. Athletic fields are west of the school.

Historical Background

In 1923, the Cleveland County Board of Education erected a frame school containing five classrooms and an auditorium to serve first- through eighth-grade children who resided in or near the Dover Mill village. The building featured electric lights and woodstoves for heat. A spring provided drinking water and the complex included two privies. The first three principals were Mr. Covington, C. S. Snow, and George Greenway.⁹² The federal and North Carolina Emergency Relief Administrations contributed \$1,814.55 toward grounds improvements in the early 1930s.⁹³ Dover Mill and the Cleveland County Board of Education split the construction cost of a one-story brick school on Dover Mill property in 1934. The company donated the building and four acres to the Board of Education in 1935.⁹⁴

During the 1939-1940 academic year, principal Wilbur Wilson and five female teachers instructed Dover School's 243 enrolled first- through seventh-grade pupils. An additional ninety-two students attended high school classes. The one-story brick school included seven classrooms, an auditorium, a library, and lunch room. The campus received new playground equipment that year. Principal R. F. Lancaster and five female teachers taught 176 enrolled students in 1946. In June 1950, Lancaster reported that enrollment comprised 162 first- through seventh-grade pupils educated by him and five female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 145 students.⁹⁵ Dover Mill subsidized the tuition of youth who desired to further their education beyond eighth grade to attend public schools in Shelby until the Board of Education consolidated county high and junior high schools on new campuses in the 1960s and 1970s.⁹⁶

⁹¹ Breeze, Holland, and Riviere, "Addition to Dover School," January 20, 1956, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

⁹² North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 60.

⁹³ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467.

⁹⁴ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 61.

⁹⁵ "Dover School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950; "Dover School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

⁹⁶ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 61.

**Graham Elementary
School 1927, 1951**

**701 West Oak Street
Shelby**

**Contributing Building
West Warren Street
Historic District
National Register 2009**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Description

This campus comprises a Classical Revival-style, H-plan, brick school completed in 1927 as well as a Modernist brick classroom and cafeteria addition erected to the south in 1951. Masons executed the one-story-on-basement, gable-roofed, 1927 structure in running bond with soldier-course window and door lintels and a header course that encircles the building just below the upper edge of the window openings. On the north and south elevations, brick and concrete steps lead to inset corner entrance porches that retain beadboard ceilings and are secured by metal railings. Classical elements include large multipane transoms, fanlights, and stuccoed panels above doors and windows. Single and paired six-over-six and four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows illuminate the 1927 building's interior. Three gabled wall dormers ornament the primary (north) elevation. A one-story addition spans the space between the rear wings.

Steel-frame windows with six horizontal panes and operable central sections pierce the two-story 1951

addition's east and west elevations at the second-story level. The first-floor windows are shorter, each with only four horizontal panes. The south elevation is blind, containing only a double-leaf first-story entrance and a single-leaf second-floor door accessed by steel steps with a metal railing. Concrete and brick steps with metal railings lead to the west entrance. A very low-pitched gable roof protects the building.

A stone water fountain stands on the north side of the sidewalk that extends across the Oak Street façade. A gravel parking lot is south of the school and an athletic field is to the west.

Historical Background

In conjunction with Shelby's municipal limit expansion in 1925, the school system erected new buildings city-wide. Graham Elementary School, completed at a cost of \$22,706 in time for classes to begin in fall 1927, featured the same six-classroom plan as South Shelby (Morgan) and North Shelby (Washington) Schools.⁹⁷ Ruth Elementary School in Rutherford County is very similar in form.

In May 1934, Graham Elementary School principal Louise N. Gill reported enrollment numbering 418 elementary students during the academic year that had just ended. Eight female teachers, including the principal, educated first- through seventh-grade pupils in the school's eight classrooms. During the 1939-1940 term, Principal Rosie T. Hudson and eight female teachers taught nine sections of 360 pupils enrolled in first through seventh grades. The building contained offices, an auditorium, and a lunch room. Hudson, seven full-time female faculty members, and two part-time female teachers (music supervisor and band director) oversaw 325 first- through sixth-grade students enrolled in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 265 youth. Extracurricular activities included band, Jr. Red Cross, and drama, recitation, and stamp clubs. Facility improvements ranged from new playground equipment installation to the acquisition of wall art, library books, and records, as well as plates, glasses, and silverware for the lunch room. In June 1950, principal Hudson's annual report noted that first- through sixth-grade enrollment comprised 332 pupils educated by her, eight full-time, and two-part-time female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 281 students.⁹⁸ Contractors finished the \$45,684-classroom and cafeteria addition in 1951.⁹⁹ The Shelby Educational Association purchased the property in 1979 for use as Twelve Oaks Academy, a private Christian school that operated until 2007.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 82.

⁹⁸ "Graham School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS 1934, 1940, 1946, 1950.

⁹⁹ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 83.

¹⁰⁰ J. Daniel Pezzoni, "West Warren Street Historic District," National Register nomination, 2009.

**Graham
Elementary School
1956, 1969, 1973**

**1100 Blanton Street
Shelby**

2010 aerial view courtesy
of
Cleveland County GIS



1956 classroom building

Description

The one-story, flat-roofed, brick-veneered structures on the current Graham Elementary School campus at 1100 Blanton Street in Shelby comprise a notably intact mid-twentieth-century educational complex arranged around a cul-de-sac. Beginning on the west side and moving clockwise stand a 1969 classroom building, a 1973 gymnasium, a 1956 auditorium, a 1956 cafeteria, and a 1956 classroom building. Large metal-framed windows illuminate the interior. Metal canopies supported by round steel posts shelter the sidewalks between buildings. A tall, square, brick chimney rises on the auditorium's west elevation.

Historical Background

Graham Elementary School moved to a new site on Blanton Street in fall 1956. The \$384,232-complex encompassed a Modernist classroom building, cafeteria, and auditorium designed by Shelby architects Breeze, Holland, and Riviere, Inc. Their successor firm Holland and Riviere prepared plans for the 1969 classroom building completed at a cost of \$108,900 as well as the 1973 gymnasium and subsequent window and roof replacement projects.¹⁰¹



1956 classroom building (above) and 1956 auditorium (below)



¹⁰¹ Breeze, Holland, and Riviere, "Graham Elementary School," July 25, 1955, and Holland and Riviere, "An Addition to Graham Elementary School," October 15, 1968, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.; John Yarbro, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Cleveland County Schools, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, September 24, 2014; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 83.

**Kings Mountain School –
Central High School
1924, 1933, 1937, 1950**

**105 Ridge Street
Kings Mountain**

**Contributing Building
Central School Historic
District
National Register 2001**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



1933 school



Description

The two-story-on-basement, Classical Revival-style, 1933 edifice features a projecting, pedimented, central entrance bay featuring a molded cornice and a keystone gable oculus. A cast-stone surround with quoins and a keystone above a multipane fanlight ornaments the main entrance. A matching cast-stone belt course and watertable encircle the building in striking contrast to the variegated brick running-bond exterior. Quoins and tall square panels with raised-brick borders and square cast-stone corner blocks embellish the projecting end bays. Soldier-course lintels span the first-story window openings. Single, paired, and tripled, tall, narrow, aluminum-sash replacement windows, each with five horizontal panes, fill the original window openings.

Granite steps flanked by brick sidewalls capped with concrete lead to a slate landing outside the recessed main entrance. Original aggregate lampposts rest on the sidewalls. The metal railings are later additions. A multipane transom and matching sidelights surround the double-leaf, wood-frame, multipane front door. The stair tower entrances are more austere, embellished only with cast-stone surrounds. A small, one-story, almost-flat-roofed brick addition projects from the west elevation.



The Classical Revival-style rear section, when finished in 1924, provided eight classrooms and an auditorium as an addition to the no-longer-extant 1910 school. The building is executed in running bond with a cast-stone watertable and windows sills and a molded metal cornice. The upper-level auditorium is two-stories high, with brick buttresses flanking tall, narrow, multipane, aluminum-sash replacement windows. Corrugated-metal flat-roofed canopies supported by round steel posts shelter the sidewalks between the buildings.

The one-story, brick, 1937 gymnasium stands east of the 1924 building. The structure, erected with funds from the Works Progress Administration, displays Classical elements such as brick quoins and a cast stone foundation scored to look like stone blocks in conjunction with fluted brick pilasters that manifest a stylized Art Deco sensibility. Shaped parapets disguise the bowstring-truss roof. Large metal-framed windows with operable central sections illuminate the interior. Corbelled surrounds topped with three projecting brick courses embellish the entrances in the projecting one-story bays on the gymnasium's east and west ends. Concrete steps with curved outer edges contribute to the building's streamlined aesthetic. The double-leaf doors, transoms, and the small, narrow windows flanking the doors have been replaced or enclosed.

A one-story, hip-roofed, brick, two-bay garage executed in five-to-one common bond with steel-frame windows stands east of the 1933 school. A front-gable-roofed, metal-sided and roofed, 1940s workshop with metal-framed windows with operable central sections rests on a concrete block foundation a few feet west of the gymnasium. A cluster of three sizable metal-sided 1980s storage buildings stands to the northwest.

Kings Mountain School – Central High School is located within the Central School Historic District, which contains residential, religious, and commercial building, as well as a depot constructed between 1870 and 1950.¹⁰²

Historical Background

The Charlotte-Atlanta Railway's arrival in conjunction with the textile industry spurred Kings Mountain's growth during the nineteenth century's final decades. In 1876, town residents constructed a two-story frame school on the current Ridge Street site of Kings Mountain School – Central High School. Principal William T. Bell initially headed the private campus, which functioned as Bell School, Kings Mountain Military Academy, and then the Public High School of the Town of Kings Mountain, all subscription institutions, until 1905, when it became a public school under the direction of superintendant S. W. Carwile. That year, Carwile, who received a \$29-per-month salary, and his faculty instructed first- through eighth-grade students in a building with an assessed value of \$1,200. A 1910 fire destroyed the frame building, which was replaced that year with a two-story, brick, Classical Revival-style school distinguished by a full-height, four-bay entrance portico. The edifice encompassed twelve classrooms, an auditorium, a music room, and an office. In 1920, increased enrollment required the conversion of the second-floor auditorium into four classrooms.¹⁰³

At the close of the 1920-1921 school term, Kings Mountain School principal F. C. Nye reported 126 students registered in eighth through eleventh grades, with daily attendance averaging 108 youth. Sixteen pupils graduated that spring, completing their course of study under the direction of four female teachers. A rear addition finished in 1924 provided eight classrooms and an auditorium. Principal J. Y. Irvin and six female teachers instructed 204 students in 1925, when the graduating class numbered twenty-five young men and women. Students occupied eighteen classrooms, six of which housed high school grades. Four students resided on campus. In 1929-1930, principal B. N. Barnes and thirty-five teachers oversaw 201 high school and 1,194 elementary school pupils. Thirty-four students graduated that spring.¹⁰⁴

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized grounds improvements at a cost of \$5,537.25 in the early 1930s.¹⁰⁵ The campus's 1910 building was destroyed in a fire on November 14, 1932, but contractors completed the renovation of the 1924 annex and the construction of a spacious classroom building the following year. During the 1933-1934 term, principal Claude Grigg and twelve female teachers educated 475 first-

¹⁰² Megan D. Eades and Brian R. Eades, "Central School Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2001.

¹⁰³ Falls, *Annual Report of the Public Schools of Cleveland County*, 11; W. A. Mauney, "Histories of Schools," in Cleveland County Historical Association, *The Heritage of Cleveland County* (Shelby: Cleveland County Historical Association, 1982), 20; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I*, 20; Weathers, *The Living Past of Cleveland County*, 75; Baity, *Tracks Through Time*, 15.

¹⁰⁴ "Kings Mountain High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1921, 1925, 1930.

¹⁰⁵ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467.

through seventh-grade pupils enrolled at Kings Mountain School. At that time, the building comprised twenty-eight classrooms, fourteen of which housed elementary grades, as well as offices, a library, an auditorium, and a recently-completed gymnasium. Principal A. H. Patterson's high school faculty consisted of eight teachers in 1934-1935. High school enrollment comprised 352 students, twenty-eight of whom graduated. Works Progress Administration funds subsidized the gymnasium's construction in 1937 and the lunch room's operation. Principal D. M. Bridges, thirteen full-time, and three part-time female educators supervised 579 enrolled elementary school students in 1939-1940. Bridges and thirteen other teachers instructed 397 high school students, sixty of whom graduated that spring. Extracurricular activities ranged from athletics to band, drama, and glee clubs. Campus improvements that year included music and first aid room construction and furnishing.¹⁰⁶

Principal J. E. Huneycutt, sixteen female teachers, one male instructor, and four part-time faculty members (three female and one male) oversaw 689 first- through eighth-grade students enrolled in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 564 youth. The student body also included 264 high school pupils educated by Huneycutt, nine female teachers, and three male faculty members in twelve of the school's thirty classrooms. Extracurricular activities included athletics, band, and glee, health, and stamp clubs. Facility improvements ranged from cafeteria painting and updates to the acquisition of new library tables, chair, and books.¹⁰⁷

In May 1950, Central School's campus was so large that it had two principals. Willie McGill supervised 280 first- through third-grade pupils educated by him and seven female teachers. Rowell Lane oversaw an additional eleven full-time and three part-time female teachers and one part-time male instructor. Lane's faculty taught 395 youth enrolled in fourth through eighth grades, where daily attendance averaged 339 students, as well as ninth through twelfth grades, where 314 of 361 students typically attended classes. The student body participated in after-school activities such as athletics, band, and health and science clubs. Facility improvements in 1950 included exterior trim painting, installation of a new heating system and furnace chimney, and construction of a brick bus garage.¹⁰⁸

In 1954-1955, Lane and sixteen teachers educated 438 high school students, fifty-nine of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included the fluorescent light installation throughout the building. During the 1959-1960 term, principal Harry E. Jaynes and twenty-two faculty members oversaw 542 high school students, 111 of whom graduated. Campus updates included floor refinishing and the installation of a flagpole.¹⁰⁹

After the high school moved to a newly-constructed campus in the fall of 1965, Central School functioned as the district's junior high school, accommodating seventh and eighth grades system-wide. Ten years later, sixth grade replaced eighth grade, which relocated to the new junior high school on Phifer Road. Central School remained in operation until becoming the Kings Mountain District's administrative offices in 1994.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁶ "Kings Mountain High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935, 1940; "Kings Mountain (Central) School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1940.

¹⁰⁷ "Kings Mountain (Central) School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946; "Kings Mountain High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946.

¹⁰⁸ "Kings Mountain (Central) School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS 1950; "Kings Mountain High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955.

¹⁰⁹ "Central School," and "Kings Mountain High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

¹¹⁰ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I*, 22, 30-31; Baity, *Tracks Through Time*, 16.

**Lattimore School
1935, 1951, 1956,
1960**

**101 Stockton
Street
Lattimore**

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



1935 school



Description

This campus, which grew and evolved during Lattimore School's sixty-eight year operation, comprises five buildings and additions erected between 1935 and 1960. The one-story, hip-roofed, brick, 1935 school stands at the complex's northeast corner, facing Stockton Street. The projecting, hip-roofed, Classical Revival-style, central entrance bay features four pilasters supporting a denticulated cornice, a flat-pediment doorway surround, and a recessed double-leaf door that was originally surmounted by a transom. A soldier-course watertable wraps around the building and a square brick smokestack rises near the west elevation's north end. The original cornice has been covered with vinyl siding. Flat-roofed canopies supported by round steel posts shelter the replacement double-leaf glass doors on the north and south elevations. The Cleveland County Board of Education removed the original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows and installed tall, narrow, five-horizontal-pane, aluminum-sash replacement windows. In June 2014, Ambassador Baptist College replaced the windows in the façade's central bays with smaller single-pane windows and filled the openings' upper sections with particle board covered with vinyl siding.

Masons executed the auditorium that projects from the center of 1935 school's west elevation in running-bond brick with buttresses flanking doors and large windows. Tall, narrow, aluminum-sash replacement windows, most of which contain five horizontal panes, fill the window openings. Rectangular transoms surmount the double-leaf doors on the north and south elevations.

A one-story gabled hyphen and an open breezeway supported by square brick posts extend from the west end of the auditorium's south elevation, providing sheltered access to the east elevation of what was originally the 1956 gymnasium, now Kennedy Library. Ambassador Baptist College added new shed, hip, and gable roofs to the breezeway as part of the campus renovation completed in 2006. Glass block fills the windows of the front-gable-roofed brick building, which displays a distinctive common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. The one-story flat-roofed former locker room addition projecting from the rear elevation retains original metal windows with operable central sections. Shelby architects and engineers V. W. Breeze and Associates prepared plans for the gymnasium and locker room.¹¹¹

A flat-roofed metal breezeway connects the 1935 auditorium to a series of one-story brick buildings completed in 1956 and 1960.¹¹² In the structures directly west of the auditorium, Ambassador Baptist College removed the original windows in the 1956 classroom building and the attached 1960 auditorium and filled the openings with stuccoed walls and rectangular single-pane-windows. The one-story, hip-roofed, 1956 classroom building to the southwest is oriented on a diagonal axis. The walls are common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A flat-roofed entrance vestibule with brick side walls and a concrete roof shelters the south entrance. The window openings have been filled with stuccoed walls and rectangular single-pane-windows.

A one-story, hip-roofed, brick agriculture building erected in 1938, expanded in 1951 per the plans of V. W. Breeze and Associates, and updated in 2006 by Ambassador Bible College stands northwest of the 1923 school, on the opposite side of a paved drive and parking area.

¹¹¹ V. W. Breeze and Associates, "Addition to Lattimore High School," October 12, 1950, and undated locker room plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

¹¹² Division of School Planning, *Cleveland County School Survey, 1976-77*, 109.

Historical Background

The Cleveland County Board of Education funded the two-story brick Lattimore School's 1923 completion. The State Department of Public Instruction Division of Schoolhouse Planning, then led by director John J. Blair, provided plans for the building erected by contractor Claud Mauney at a cost of approximately \$34,500. The school featured a 476-seat auditorium, a library, and a forty-by-one hundred-foot gymnasium containing a basketball court. Principal Lawton Blanton and two other teachers instructed 128 high school pupils enrolled in 1925, when the graduating class numbered seventeen young men and women. Four of ten classrooms housed high school grades and the remainder of which served a daily average of 174 of 270 enrolled elementary school students. Athletic teams included baseball, basketball, tennis, and track. Nineteen youth resided on campus. In 1929-1930, Blanton and eighteen teachers oversaw 203 high school and 607 elementary school pupils. Forty-two youth graduated that spring. High school students utilized six of fifteen classrooms in the two-story brick building completed in 1923 at a cost of approximately \$40,000.¹¹³

The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the painting of Lattimore School at a cost of \$715.70 in the early 1930s.¹¹⁴ In April 1934, principal Glenn Stine reported enrollment numbering 525 elementary and 173 high school students during the academic year that had just ended. Eleven female teachers and one male instructor educated first- through seventh-grade pupils in ten of the school's classrooms, while the high school faculty comprised four men and three women who utilized the remaining five classrooms. The campus included an auditorium and a gymnasium. In 1934-1935, principal Ralph D. Arrowood's faculty consisted of seven high school teachers and eleven elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 174 students, thirty of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 546 pupils.¹¹⁵

In 1939-1940, the campus encompassed the three-story, brick, 1923 school; a one-story, frame, 1932 gymnasium sheathed in metal siding; and a one-story, brick, 1935 high school. Principal Lawton Blanton, twelve female teachers, and one male instructor supervised a daily average of 459 elementary school youth. Blanton and eight other teachers instructed 255 high school students, forty-four of whom graduated that spring. Twelve classrooms housed elementary grades, while high school students occupied eight classrooms. Facility improvements that year ranged from painting to library book acquisition and classroom cabinet installation. Extracurricular activities included athletics and glee, 4-H, and society clubs. Students enjoyed two playgrounds.¹¹⁶

Principal Chivous C. Padgett, thirteen female teachers, one male instructor, and a part-time female music teacher oversaw 553 first- through eighth-grade students in 1945-1946. Daily attendance averaged 441 youth. The eighth grade remained housed in the eight-classroom high school building. The student body also included 118 high school pupils overseen by Padgett and three male and three

¹¹³ "Lattimore High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1925, 1930; "Lattimore Public Schools," "School Building Information," April 3, 1930, NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

¹¹⁴ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467.

¹¹⁵ "Lattimore High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935; "Lattimore School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934.

¹¹⁶ "Lattimore School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; "Lattimore School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

female teachers. Extracurricular activity options included athletics, band, and glee and music clubs. Campus improvements that year ranged from painting to restroom, drinking fountain, and window shade installation. In May 1950, Padgett reported that enrollment for the previous academic term comprised 576 first- through eighth-grade pupils educated fourteen full-time and two part-time female teachers and two male faculty members. Daily attendance averaged 462 youth. High school attendance typically comprised 132 of 153 ninth- through twelfth-grade students under the tutelage of Padgett, four female teachers, and two male faculty members. The student body enjoyed after-school activities such as athletics, band, 4-H, and glee club. Facility improvements included bookshelf and cabinet construction, a classroom and library addition, and playground fencing and lighting system installation.¹¹⁷

In 1954-1955, Padgett and eight teachers educated 165 high school students, twenty-nine of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included fabricating and painting a stage set, sanding and varnishing desk tops, repairing doors, installing a flag pole, grading, and landscaping. The next year, students enjoyed a new gymnasium and one-story classroom building. An auditorium and another classroom building followed in 1960. During the 1959-1960 term, Padgett and seven faculty members oversaw 173 high school students, twenty-five of whom comprised the campus's last graduating class. Building updates included the installation of new draperies and a cyclorama in the auditorium.¹¹⁸

The Cleveland County Board of Education redistributed grades several times in the 1960s and 1970s as part of school consolidation campaigns. In fall 1960, the Boiling Springs campus began serving high school students who would have attended Mooresboro and Lattimore Schools. In order to facilitate the transition, the merged entity was called Crest High School. Administrators also moved sixth- through eighth-grade students previously assigned to Boiling Springs School to Lattimore and Mooresboro Schools. Chivous C. Padgett remained Lattimore School's principal until 1973. The system-wide creation of junior high schools in 1976 resulted in the transfer of fifth and sixth-grade students from Boiling Springs, Lattimore, Mooresboro, and Number One to West Cleveland Junior High. The campus served kindergarten through fourth-grade youth from 1976 until closing in fall 1991.¹¹⁹

Ambassador Baptist College, established in August 1989, acquired the former Lattimore School in 1994 and undertook its comprehensive renovation before moving from Shelby to Lattimore in January 1997. Improvements since that time include dormitory construction and the 2007 rehabilitation of an adjacent commercial building on the campus's south end to serve as Alumni Commons, a student center, bookstore, and coffee shop.¹²⁰

¹¹⁷ "Lattimore School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950; "Lattimore High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950, 1955.

¹¹⁸ "Lattimore School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

¹¹⁹ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 2*, 52-53, 75-77, 142-146.

¹²⁰ Ambassador Baptist College, "History of ABC," <https://ambassadors.edu/AboutUs/History.php> (accessed May 2014).

**Mooresboro
School
1952**

**308 West Main
Street
Mooresboro**

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Cleveland County
GIS



1952 gymnasium (left) and classroom wing

Description

The 1924 Mooresboro School has been demolished, but the town utilizes the 1952 gymnasium and two-classroom wing as a community center and offices and maintains the playground, picnic shelter, baseball diamond, and athletic fields. V. W. Breeze and Associates designed the 1952 addition.¹²¹ The austere, Modernist, brick gymnasium features a bowstring truss roof and walls executed in a distinctive common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A flat-roofed entrance vestibule with brick side walls and a concrete roof shelters the west entrance. North of the entrance, a one-story, brick room once accessed through a garage door now enclosed with concrete block projects from the west elevation. The clerestory glass block windows on the north and south elevations that illuminated the gymnasium have been covered and the small square

¹²¹ V. W. Breeze and Associates, "Additions and Alterations to Mooresboro High School," January 25, 1952, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

window opening at the north elevation's basement level have been enclosed with brick. A square brick chimney rises from the gymnasium's northeast corner adjacent to a one-story, shed-roofed room.

A Modernist, one-story, brick, side-gable classroom wing extends east from the gymnasium's east elevation. A entrance vestibule with a brick side wall pierced with six cast-stone-bordered openings and a concrete roof shelters the west entrance. The shed roof above the vestibule was a later addition. A multipane transom and matching sidelights surround the single-leaf door. Paired metal-frame windows, each comprising five horizontal panes on the façade and three horizontal panes on the rear (north) elevation, illuminate the interior. A round steel post supports the shed-roofed canopy above the rear entrance. A front-gable-roofed, stuccoed addition with an asymmetrical façade projects from the classroom wing's east end. A one-story, brick, 1950s building with vinyl-sided gable ends and enclosed windows and doors, likely originally a vocational classroom, stands north of the gymnasium.



1950s building

Historical Background

The Cleveland County Board of Education erected a one-story, hip-roofed, weatherboarded school to serve youth residing in Mooresboro and the surrounding area in 1904. During the 1905-1906 term, Lilah Bridges, Daisy Lovelace, and Wilma Scoggins instructed 148 first- through-eighth pupils in a building with an assessed value of \$1,300.¹²²

The campus was in dire need of improved facilities by 1924, when the Cleveland County Board of Education funded a one-story brick school's completion at a cost of approximately \$27,000. The building featured a 450-seat auditorium and a library, but no gymnasium. In 1929-1930, principal J. D. Huggins and eight teachers oversaw ninety-one high school and 238 elementary school pupils. High school students utilized three of eight classrooms, and ten youth graduated that spring. In 1934-1935, principal R. G. Burrus's faculty consisted of four high school teachers and nine elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 125 students, ten of whom graduated.¹²³

The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the construction of the one-story, metal-roofed and sided Mooresboro

¹²² Falls, *Annual Report of the Public Schools of Cleveland County*, 20-21.

¹²³ "Mooresboro High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930, 1935; "Mooresboro School," "School Building Information," April 3, 1930, NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

School gymnasium and improved the athletic field at a cost of \$2,377.05 in the early 1930s.¹²⁴ Principal B. E. Simmons, four female teachers, and one male instructor taught Mooresboro School's 251 first- through seventh-grade pupils enrolled during the 1939-1940 term. Simmons and four other teachers instructed 132 high school students, twenty-nine of whom graduated that spring. In 1940, the two-story, brick, hip-roofed Mooresboro School, a U-shaped building with a hip-roofed rear wing, included five elementary and six high school classrooms, offices, a library, an auditorium, and a lunch room. A frame gymnasium stood approximately one hundred feet from the rear ell. Principal W. M. Lovelace, nine female teachers and one male instructor oversaw 401 first- through eighth-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 309 youth. The student body also included sixty-eight high school pupils educated by Lovelace, two male teachers, and one female instructor. The school contained fifteen classrooms.¹²⁵

In May 1950, principal T. W. Martin reported that enrollment encompassed 417 first through eighth-grade pupils educated by nine female teachers and one male faculty member. Daily attendance averaged 312 students. High school attendance typically comprised ninety of 125 ninth- through twelfth-grade students under the tutelage of Martin, two female teachers, and two male faculty members. The student body enjoyed after-school activities such as athletics and 4-H. Facility improvements included restroom installation in first- through fourth-grade classrooms and the creation of outdoor volleyball and basketball courts.¹²⁶

In 1954-1955, Martin and four teachers educated 124 high school students, fifteen of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included interior painting, remodeling the office and restrooms, and installing new furniture in three classrooms. During the 1959-1960 term, Martin and six faculty members instructed 129 high school students, twenty-four of whom graduated. Building updates included the office and lunch room painting and the installation of new hall floors; venetian blinds, draperies, and floor tile in the office; and new draperies and cornices in the lunchroom.¹²⁷

The Cleveland County Board of Education redistributed grades several times in the 1960s and 1970s as part of school consolidation campaigns. In fall 1960, the Boiling Springs campus began serving high school students who would have attended Mooresboro and Lattimore Schools. In order to facilitate the transition, the merged entity was called Crest High School. Administrators also transferred sixth-through eighth-grade students previously assigned to Boiling Springs School to Lattimore and Mooresboro Schools. Mooresboro's elementary grades moved to Green Bethel School in 1967. The system-wide creation of junior high schools in 1976 resulted in the transfer of fifth and sixth-grade students from Boiling Springs, Lattimore, Mooresboro, and Number One to West Cleveland Junior High.¹²⁸

¹²⁴ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467. "Cleveland County Project #11534," photographs in North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Collection, NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Images 155-157, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

¹²⁵ "Mooresboro School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946; "Mooresboro High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; "Mooresboro School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

¹²⁶ "Mooresboro School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1950; "Mooresboro High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955.

¹²⁷ "Mooresboro School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

¹²⁸ North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 2*, 52-53, 75-77, 129.

**Park Grace
Elementary School
1929, 1950, 1962**

**115 Park Grace
Road Kings
Mountain**

2010 aerial view courtesy
of
Cleveland County GIS



Description

This campus comprises a Classical Revival-style, T-plan, brick school completed in 1929 as well as the Modernist brick cafeteria and classroom building erected to the south in 1950 and 1962. Masons executed the one-story, side-gable-roofed, 1929 structure in five-to-one common bond with a soldier-course watertable and window and door lintels. On the primary façade (west elevation), paired Tuscan columns support the central entrance pediment and deep cornice that frame a recessed double-leaf door, multipane transom, and the blinded round-arched panel above the door opening. At the main entrance and on the north elevation, brick and concrete steps lead to inset porches that retain beadboard ceiling and wall sheathing. Plywood panels cover single and grouped six-over-six double-hung, wood-sash windows. A header-course accents the arched gable end openings that contain louvered attic

vents. Four pedimented dormers with louvered attic vents pierce the front (west) roof slope. A square brick chimney rises on the east elevation south of the rear gabled auditorium wing.

A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by round steel posts shelters the sidewalk between the 1929 building and the one-story, flat-roofed, brick 1950/1962 cafeteria and classroom building. In the tallest and central section, a classroom building, the west elevation windows have been enclosed with brick. The west windows of the slightly shorter classroom building to the north have been removed and covered with plywood panels. The shortest section, ostensibly the cafeteria, extends southeast from the central building's southeast corner. A double-entrance is recessed in the west elevation, just south of the central building's double-leaf door.

Historical Background

Eloise W. Nickels began providing classes for youth residing in Park Yarn and Margrace Mill villages in the early 1920s.¹²⁹ Upon the nearby Park Grace School's completion, she became its inaugural principal. In 1930, Nickels reported that four teachers instructed 170 students. She also noted that Mr. Bearn, ostensibly a local contractor, finished the building in 1929 at a cost of \$17,700 from plans provided by the state. The school featured eight classrooms and an auditorium with a 350-person seating capacity, but did not have a library or a gymnasium.¹³⁰

In May 1940, Nickels reported enrollment numbering 210 elementary school students during the academic year that had just ended. Six female teachers educated first- through seventh-grade pupils in the school's six classrooms, which were painted that year. The one-story brick building included offices and an auditorium. Nickels and six female teachers oversaw 214 first- through seventh-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 166 youth. Eighth-grade students attended Central School in Kings Mountain. Extracurricular activity options at Park Grace School included athletics, glee and citizenship clubs. Students enjoyed the new playground equipment installed during the 1945-1946 school term. In May 1950, principal Nickels's annual report delineated that enrollment comprised 217 first- through seventh-grade pupils educated by herself and six female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 180 students who enjoyed after-school activities such as athletics and citizenship clubs. Facility improvements that year included the construction of a cafeteria.¹³¹

Park Grace School became part of the Kings Mountain school system in 1961 and remained an elementary school until closing in 1969. The property then functioned as offices and equipment storage for the Kings Mountain's maintenance department until a welding concern purchased the complex in 1992.¹³²

¹²⁹ US Census, population schedule, 1930; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I*, 37.

¹³⁰ "Park Grace School," "School Building Information," April 3, 1930, NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

¹³¹ "Park Grace School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946; "Park Grace School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

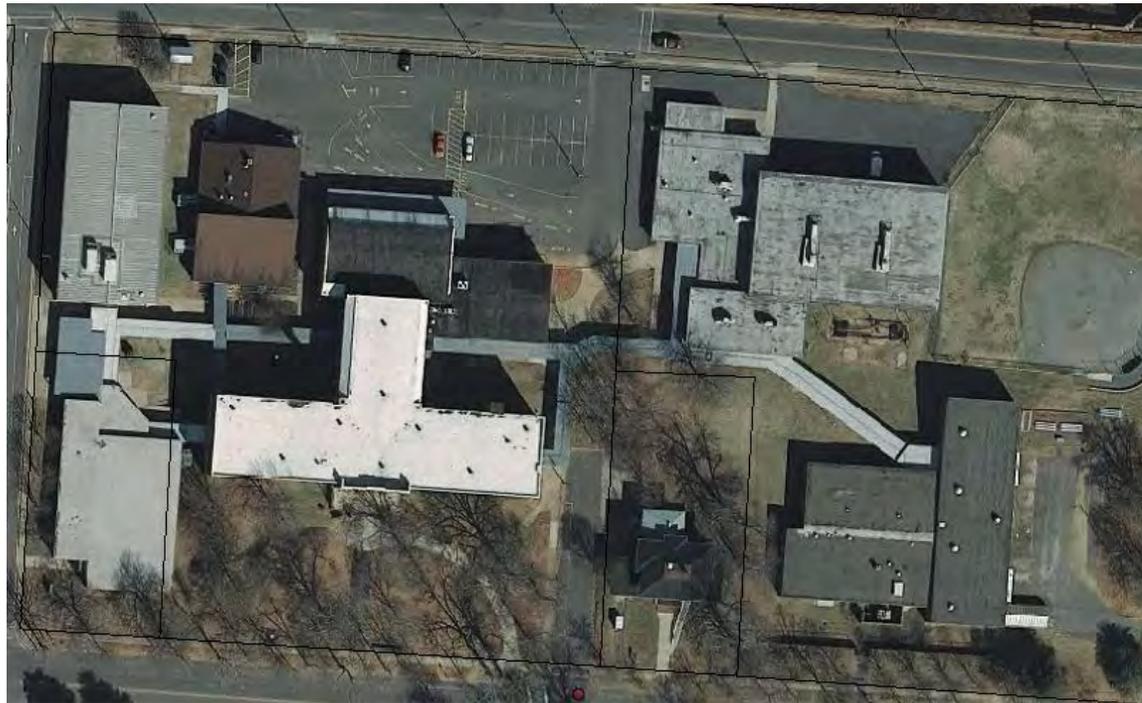
¹³² North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I*, 38; "Park Grace School," survey file, Western Offices of Archives and History, Asheville.

**Shelby High School
1938 with
additions**

**400 West Marion
Street**

**Central Shelby
Historic District
National Register
1983**

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Cleveland County GIS



Description

Shelby architect and engineer V. W. Breeze designed the commanding three-story Shelby High School, which stands at the center of a campus expanded through the 1970s with a collection of Modernist buildings. The facade's focal point is a tall, slightly projecting entrance pavilion dominated by four fluted pilasters with cast-stone plinths and capitals beneath a cast-stone cornice and stepped parapet. Masons laid the brick walls in a distinctive common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. On the flanking wings, brick pilasters delineate the slightly recessed two-story window bays containing four-part, aluminum-frame

replacement windows with cast-stone sills. A cast-stone belt course and a matching cornice encircle the building above the third-story windows. The parged foundation is partially above grade on the south elevation and fully-exposed elsewhere, allowing large windows to illuminate the basement. An elevator tower rises on the north elevation.

The simple cast-stone façade entrance surround bears the school's initials, "SHS," and "1937," the year that construction commenced. The aluminum-frame double-leaf doors, sidelights, and transoms in the recessed façade entrance are replacements, as are those at the side entrances. Concrete steps with metal railings provide access to each door. A flat-roofed, two-story, brick-walled vestibule shelters the west entrance, while a flat-roofed metal canopy shelters replacement double-leaf steel doors on the north elevation near its west end.

A gable-roofed, three-story auditorium wing extends from the north elevation's center, creating a T-shaped plan. Brick buttresses flank tall, rectangular window openings that contain large, aluminum-frame replacement windows. Concrete and brick steps with metal railings lead to the two-story, flat-roofed, brick addition that projects from the east elevation. A square brick smokestack rises from the auditorium's southwest corner. Stepped parapets distinguish the gable-roofed, two-story, brick early-1950s addition that extends across the auditorium's north elevation. A two-story, brick, flat-roofed, 1955 classroom wing designed by architects and engineers Breeze, Holland, and Riviere projects from the auditorium's northeast corner.¹³³

Modernist buildings erected from the 1950s through the early 1970s provided a cafeteria, additional classrooms, a gymnasium, and a library as enrollment grew. Moving in a clockwise direction from the 1938 school's west elevation, a flat, corrugated-metal-roofed canopy supported by steel posts connects the school to the one-story, brick, flat-roofed 1971 library that now occupies its own tax parcel at the property's southwest corner. The brick bond matches that of the school: five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A soldier-course watertable wraps around the building. Tall, narrow, aluminum-frame windows with operable lower sections are recessed in openings that contain aggregate panels at the top and bottom. The steel-framed entrance is on the north elevation.

North of the library, the original section of a two-story, brick, almost-flat-roofed, 1966 classroom building is executed with the same masonry bond and window type. A flat-roofed, one-story, brick-walled vestibule shelters the replacement aluminum-framed north entrance bay beneath a large, twelve-part, aluminum-framed replacement window. East of the 1966 classrooms, one-story, brick, flat-roofed building with a projecting gabled wing on its north end and a one-story, brick, flat-roofed 2013 addition at its northeast corner houses Turning Point Academy.

To the east, a three-part complex encompasses the one-story flat-roofed 1958 cafeteria, the attached 1969 two-story gymnasium, and a one-story wing of intermediate height that extends from the gymnasium's southwest elevation and connects to an entrance hyphen south of the cafeteria. All feature brick walls executed in five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. The cafeteria's window openings, all of which are tall and narrow with the exception of one wide kitchen window, contain square aluminum-frame windows at the top and aggregate panels at the bottom. Brick pilasters delineate each bay of the gymnasium's walls. On its north elevation, flat-

¹³³ Breeze, Holland, and Riviere, "Addition to Shelby High School," September 20, 1954, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

roofed concrete canopies with exposed structural beams shelter two double-leaf steel doors. Pilasters frame the doors and the tall aggregate panels that surmount them. The southwest wing's exposed concrete roof structure rest on the brick walls, framing clerestory windows. Aluminum coping caps each building's walls.



1958 cafeteria (above) and 1969 gymnasium (below)



The one-story, flat-roofed, 1974 vocational classroom building at the campus's southeast corner is executed in red brick laid in running bond. Tall, narrow, aluminum-frame windows with operable lower sections are recessed in openings that contain aggregate panels at the top and bottom. The primary north and south entrances are recessed in vestibules topped with tall aggregate-paneled cornices, while flat-roofed steel canopies shelter the auxiliary single-leaf entrances as well as the garage doors on the east elevation.

Historical Background

At the close of the 1920-1921 school term, Shelby High School principal I. C. Griffin reported 174 students enrolled in eighth through eleventh grades, with daily attendance averaging 151 youth. Twenty-two pupils graduated that spring, completing their course of study under the direction of nine teachers in a two-story, brick, thirteen-classroom building erected in 1905 at a cost of approximately

\$50,000. Principal J. H. Grigg and fourteen teachers instructed the 433 students enrolled at Shelby High School in 1925, when the graduating class numbered sixty-nine young men and women. In 1929-1930, principal W. E. Abernathy and seventeen teachers oversaw 507 high school pupils. Sixty-six youth graduated that spring. Athletics included football, baseball, basketball, and track. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the high school athletic field's improvements at a cost of \$1,194.80 in the early 1930s. Abernathy's faculty consisted of sixteen teachers in 1934-1935. High school enrollment then comprised 549 students, sixty-two of whom graduated that year.¹³⁴

Planning for a new building began in 1931, but it was not until 1937 that a federal Public Works Administration grant combined with municipal funds allowed for the construction of a new high school designed by V. W. Breeze. Contractors completed the three-story Art Deco-style edifice in January 1938 at a cost of \$145,072.¹³⁵

During the 1939-1940 academic term, Principal C. E. Rankin and twenty-one other teachers instructed 707 high school pupils, 105 of whom successfully completed the course of study. Students occupied twenty classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including athletics, debate club, and the publication of the *Shelby Hi Outlook*. In 1945-1946, principal J. G. Hagaman, fifteen female teachers and three male faculty members instructed 508 students. During 1949-1950, attendance typically comprised 551 of 620 students under the tutelage of nineteen female teachers and four male faculty members in twenty-three classrooms.¹³⁶

In 1954-1955, principal Frank B. Greer's twenty-two-teacher faculty mentored a graduating class of 121 students. Facility improvements included interior painting. Five classrooms, an industrial arts shop and planing room, and a biology classroom and laboratory designed by Breeze, Holland, and Riviere were under construction in June 1955 with anticipated completion in August. During the 1959-1960 term, principal Wayne J. Caudill and thirty-two faculty members oversaw 943 high school students, 188 of whom graduated. Campus updates included the construction of a cafeteria planned by Shelby architects Ormand and Vaughan.¹³⁷

A new Modernist Shelby High School campus on Dixon Boulevard began serving tenth- through twelfth-grade students in September 1961. The Marion Street site then served as Shelby Junior High School. Ormand and Vaughan's successor firm, Vaughan, Talley, and Associates, designed additions to the campus executed in the 1960s and early 1970s. The Cleveland County Board of Education renovated the complex in 2013 per the plans of Shelby architects Holland and Hamrick to serve as administrative offices.¹³⁸

¹³⁴ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 467; "Shelby High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1921, 1925, 1930, 1935.

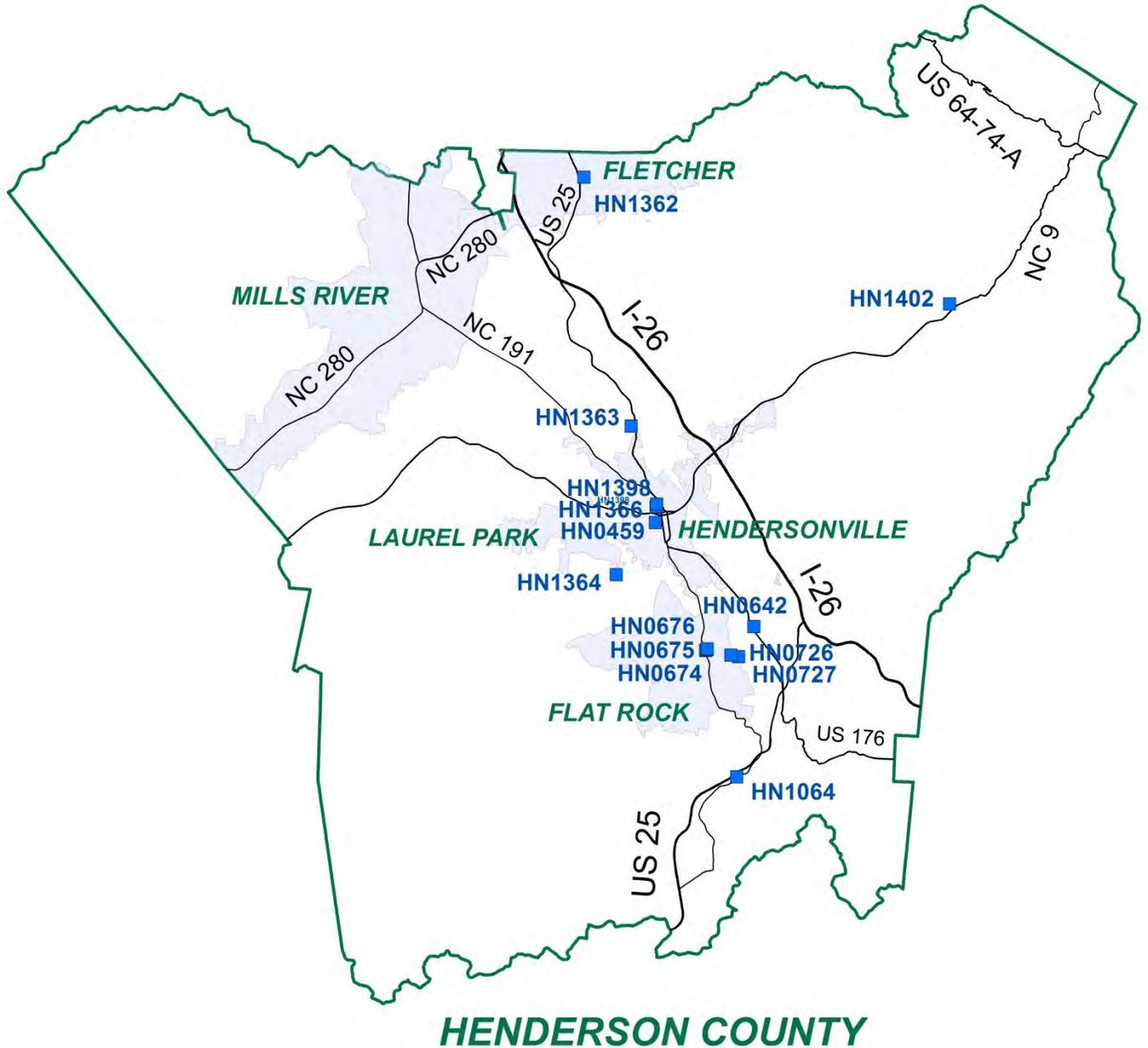
¹³⁵ V. W. Breeze, "High School Building - Shelby," March 1, 1937, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.; W. E. Abernathy, "Shelby Schools Reflect Progressive Community," *The Star*, December 10, 1948; "First Board of Education Named for System, March 2, 1887," *The Star*, October 1, 1966, p. G5; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 70.

¹³⁶ "Shelby High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950, 1955.

¹³⁷ "Central School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960; Breeze, Holland, and Riviere, "Addition to Shelby High School," September 20, 1954, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.; John Yarbro, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Cleveland County Schools, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, September 24, 2014.

¹³⁸ George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1970), 945; North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Cleveland County, *Tracings: Schools and Schooling, Volume I, Series 4*, 72.

IV. Surveyed Henderson County Schools



Map illustrating the relative locations of surveyed schools

created by Michael T. Southern, Senior Architectural Historian and GIS Coordinator,
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, October 2014

Henderson County Historical Background and Education Context

Educational opportunities were minimal in rural western North Carolina in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Revolutionary War veteran James Brittain bequeathed a ten-acre tract of Buncombe County land to residents who constructed a log school around 1797 in a community that would become known as Mills River by 1828. Other early institutions included Edneyville School (1810); Pace School (1820) and Burns Creek School (1830), both located in what became Dana between 1890 and 1894; Blue House Academy (1830); Mills River Academy (1830), and a school at St. John's in the Wilderness (1837). Following Henderson County's 1838 creation, a January 8, 1839, ruling by the North Carolina legislature delineated thirty-one Henderson County public school districts. Taxes and levies subsequently funded the construction of small log and frame schools throughout the county. Families paid nominal fees, called subscriptions, to compensate teachers.¹³⁹

Reconstruction programs subsidized building and staffing schools for the county's African American population in 1870. Within five years, 483 black students attended classes. During the 1883-1884 academic term, forty schools served 1,448 white Henderson County youth and eleven schools housed 249 African American students. The Henderson County Board of Education held its first documented meeting on July 6, 1885. W. A. G. Brown served as Henderson County's inaugural public school superintendent from 1885 until 1889. In 1898, teenagers had the opportunity to attend three Henderson County high schools. Fruitland Institute, a private boarding campus, reported an enrollment of 225 students, while Hendersonville High School served 125 pupils and Mills River seventy-five youth. The Hendersonville school system separated from the Henderson County Board of Education in 1901 under superintendent R. M. Irvin's oversight.¹⁴⁰

Attendance increased dramatically during the late nineteenth century, resulting in the construction of fifty-one schools for white youth and eleven schools for black children by 1900, but the student population grew slowly through the twentieth century's first decades.¹⁴¹ In 1900, 3,098 white students and 357 African American pupils enrolled in county schools. Numbers increased slightly in 1910, when fifty-five white schools and six African American schools served 3,429 white pupils and 471 black students on county school rosters and approximately 1,106 white and 229 black youth attended Hendersonville schools. In 1919, North Carolina legislators strengthened compulsory school attendance laws and added an eleventh grade to the curriculum, thus creating an immediate need for school expansions and new construction. White county enrollment grew to 3,673 children in 1920, but only 2,402 regularly attended classes. African American enrollment declined to 383, with daily attendance averaging 151 youth.¹⁴²

In March 1921, as school administrators began planning a system-wide facility improvement campaign, Henderson County contained fifty-four white schools and eleven black schools. To prepare for school consolidation, architect Erle G. Stillwell mapped fifty-one educational buildings outside of

¹³⁹ Sadie Smathers Patton, *The Story of Henderson County* (Asheville: Miller Printing Company, 1947), 146, 152; Henderson County Public Library, "Other Schools in Henderson County," in *The Heritage of Henderson County, North Carolina, Volume I*, 18; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels created in 2012 on display at the Henderson County School System offices in the former Rosa Edwards School, Hendersonville; William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 133, 327.

¹⁴⁰ Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² "Henderson County," NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, 1935, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Hendersonville, noting the number of rooms, teachers, and pupils in each facility. During the 1921-1922 academic term, 101 teachers instructed 5023 students under the oversight of superintendent R. G. Anders. Most schools were one-story, weatherboarded, front-gable-roofed structures where all grades shared one room. The two-story, brick, hip-roofed Mills River School was the largest, with eight classrooms, followed by the newly-constructed, two-story, brick, seven-room East Flat Rock School. Edneyville, Flat Rock, Fletcher, Oak Forest, Oakley, Tuxedo, and Valley Hill Schools had four classrooms each, while Big Willow, Ebenezer, Etowah, Mt. Page, and Upward were three-room schools. East Flat Rock served 359 students, the county's largest number, followed by Fletcher School with 270 enrolled pupils.¹⁴³

Modest frame schools served most of Henderson County's African American students through the twentieth century's first decades. In order to construct new buildings—most of which were one-story and weatherboarded—in the 1920s, school administrators solicited public donations as well as subsidies from the Rosenwald Fund. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction facilitated the construction of only one Henderson County school utilizing a Rosenwald donation: a three-room weatherboarded building erected in East Flat Rock at a cost of \$4,781 in 1923.¹⁴⁴

On June 4, 1923, the Henderson County Board of Education consolidated thirty-two schools for white students into eleven campuses and embarked upon a campaign to replace most of the frame buildings with substantial brick schools by the end of the 1920s. Erle Stillwell designed classroom buildings and/or additions for Balfour, Bat Cave, Brickton, Dana, Edneyville, Rosa Edwards, Etowah, East Flat Rock, Flat Rock, Fletcher, Hendersonville High, Mills River, Ninth Avenue (Hendersonville), Tuxedo, and Valley Hill Schools. Most structures feature Classical Revival-style elements.¹⁴⁵

White registration increased sixty-two percent by 1930, when 5,952 students planned to attend Henderson County schools, but only 4,724 were regularly present. African American enrollment escalated only twenty-eight percent, but 474 of 492 registered pupils typically attended classes. The County Board of Education operated fourteen white schools and five African American schools in 1930, while Hendersonville's school system comprised two white campuses and one black school. Thirty-six buses transported white students to consolidated schools in Balfour, Dana, Edneyville, Etowah, East Flat Rock, Fletcher, and Mills River. Two buses served African American pupils who attended Brickton and Horse Shoe Schools.¹⁴⁶

Enrollment remained stable throughout the decade as consolidation continued. The Board of Education closed eleven campuses on July 31, 1931 and transferred Balfour School's upper grades to Hendersonville and Edneyville High Schools. By 1934, the county had ten school districts outside of

¹⁴³ Ibid.; Erle G. Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922; Ernest Lee Justus, "History of Henderson County Schools," *The Heritage of Henderson County, North Carolina, Volume I*, 16.

¹⁴⁴ "East Flat Rock School," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2014); "North Carolina Rosenwald Schools," <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolsnc.html> (accessed August 2014).

¹⁴⁵ Erle G. Stillwell Collection, Henderson County Public Library, Hendersonville, N. C.; William Mitchell, *Buildings as History: The Architecture of Erle Stillwell; A Descriptive Catalogue of His Drawings in the Henderson County Public Library* (Hendersonville: Friends of the Henderson County Public Library, 2006), 75-100; Ernest Lee Justus, "Changes in the Organization of the Henderson County School System," *The Heritage of Henderson County, North Carolina, Volume I*, 17.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.: "Henderson County School Plant," NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, 1930, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Hendersonville’s city-managed schools. Five county-operated schools—Dana, Edneyville, Etowah, Fletcher, and Mills River—then housed all grades. Balfour, East Flat Rock, Tuxedo, and Valley Hill served elementary school students and Flat Rock was a high school. In 1935, county school administrators enumerated 4,440 white elementary and 1,302 high school students and 423 African American elementary and seventy-five high school pupils.¹⁴⁷

The economic challenges that ensued from the Great Depression resulted in limited school improvement funding during the early 1930s. However, the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state’s first New Deal program that created jobs for unemployed citizens, subsidized Henderson County school projects from 1932 to 1935 including school, gymnasium, and athletic field construction and maintenance, heating system installation, and grounds improvements.¹⁴⁸ The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) followed, engaging citizens in work endeavors ranging from public health and manufacturing initiatives to cultural activities. The program facilitated Henderson County educational and athletic building construction as well as the operation of school lunch rooms through the early 1940s.

Henderson County public schools erected from the late 1940s through the 1960s are typically austere, brick-veneered, flat-roofed forms illuminated by bands of large steel-framed windows, as are additions to earlier educational buildings completed at that time. The Asheville-based firm Six Associates, established by Erle Stillwell and five other architects, designed many of these structures, including Ninth Avenue School, completed in fall 1951 to serve African American youth who had previously attended schools in Brickton, East Flat Rock, and Hendersonville. In addition to Henderson County residents, Ninth Avenue School accommodated Polk and Transylvania County’s black students.¹⁴⁹

In 1960, the Henderson County began implementing its largest school consolidation campaign, redistributing grades and erecting new campuses. That year, upperclassmen from Balfour, Etowah, Fletcher and Mills River Schools began attending West Henderson High School. Dana and Flat Rock consolidated to create East Henderson High School and Edneyville High School served residents of the county’s northern section. City and county-operated schools desegregated in 1965. Ninth Avenue School then became Hendersonville’s middle school.¹⁵⁰

The Henderson County and Hendersonville City school systems merged on July 1, 1993, and consolidated campuses. At that time, the Edneyville, East Flat Rock, Flat Rock, and Tuxedo campuses ceased to function as public schools.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁷ “County Loses 11 Schools By New Law,” *Hendersonville News*, July 31, 1931; Ginny Thompson, HCGHS, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, October 1, 2014.

¹⁴⁸ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 487-488.

¹⁴⁹ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 100; “Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems,” *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953.

¹⁵⁰ David Johnson Jr. “Dedicate School Plant for Colored,” *The Western Carolina Tribune*, October 25, 1951, p. 3; “Use 5 Buses to Transport Negro Pupils,” *The Western Carolina Tribune*, October 25, 1951, Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 75-100; Justus, “History of Henderson County Schools,” *The Heritage of Henderson County, North Carolina, Volume I*, 16.

¹⁵¹ Henderson County Education History Initiative, “Henderson County School History,” exhibit panels; Phil Alexander, “Empty schools may house mall, alternative program,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 18, 1994, p. 3B.



Edneyville School, 1926, demolished, Erle G. Stillwell, architect

1942 photograph courtesy of Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society

Erle G. Stillwell

Architect Erle G. Stillwell, a Hannibal, Missouri, native, resided in Hendersonville, North Carolina, for much of his life, arriving there as a child in 1904. After completing Cornell's two-year architecture program in 1912, he participated in a European study tour and interned with an Atlanta architect, experiences that informed his later designs. By 1913, he established a Hendersonville practice with Hans C. Meyer that he continued after Meyer's departure the next year. Meyer had designed Hendersonville Graded School, completed in 1911. Stillwell and his successor firm remained the county's primary architects for educational complex through the 1950s. After significant losses from real estate speculation and work shortages during the real estate crash of the 1920s and the subsequent economic depression, Stillwell's practice enjoyed resurgence during the mid-1930s, when he designed many movie theaters and public works projects. He partnered with five other architects to create the Asheville-based firm Six Associates during World War II in order to increase their likelihood of obtaining government contracts, but also maintained his Hendersonville office until 1953. Stillwell joined the AIA in 1916, became a Fellow in 1942, and served as the North Carolina chapter's president for four terms in the 1920s and the 1940s. He also led the North Carolina Board of Architecture as president from 1942 to 1945. Stillwell continued to consult after his 1970 retirement.¹⁵²

Erle Stillwell's theater commissions comprised a considerable part of his oeuvre after 1934 given his association with the Wilbey-Kincey group, which invested in and managed Paramount theaters throughout the Southeast until 1949. Historians have identified approximately sixty Stillwell-designed theaters in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The vast majority are modest in scale and Art Deco in style, employing scored stucco facades to create a streamlined geometric appearance. A few examples, such as the Classical Revival Carolina Theatre in Chapel Hill, the Mediterranean Revival Carolina (later Rex) Theatre in Hendersonville, and the Center Theatre in Rocky Mount, manifest other architectural influences. The Sumter Opera House in South Carolina is one of his most elaborate interior designs, the result of Public Works Administration-funded renovations to the 1893 City Hall and Opera House to create a vibrant Art Deco theater.¹⁵³

¹⁵² Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, ix-x; C. David Jackson, and Charlotte V. Brown, *History of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 1913-1998* (Raleigh: North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 1998), 89, 98, 190.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, 119-154; "Wilby, Kincey Theatre Interests Sold," *Atlanta Herald-Journal*, December 4, 1949.

Balfour School
1927, 1959, 1963, 1976, 1984

2529 Asheville Highway
Hendersonville

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

Balfour School, a commanding, two-story, Classical Revival-style structure with slightly projecting end bays, occupies a prominent hilltop site. Mason executed the walls in running-bond brick accented with cast-stone at the two façade entrances in the form of simple pilasters, entablatures with plain friezes, and broken pediments. The cast-stone surrounds extend to frame the second-story windows above the pediments. Soldier-course lintels span the remaining window openings. Quoins and tall rectangular panels with soldier-course borders and rectangular, cast-stone, central plaques embellish the projecting end bays. A watertable comprising a soldier course topped with a header course encircles the building.

A molded metal cornice and a cast-stone-capped parapet with taller pointed sections above the two façade doors originally completed the classical composition. However, the Henderson County Board of Education removed the cornice and covered it with a vinyl band and leveled the parapet and capped it with metal coping. The original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows have also been replaced. Tall, narrow, multipane aluminum-sash replacement windows fill the original window openings. At each entrance, concrete steps with metal railings lead to double-leaf steel replacement doors. The rectangular transoms have been covered with metal panels.

A one-story auditorium/gymnasium extends from the 1927 school's west elevation. Brick buttresses flank tall window openings that have been filled with brick below two-pane, aluminum-sash replacement windows. A one-story, flat-roofed, 1959 cafeteria executed in common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers projects from the 1927 school's northwest corner. Steel-frame windows, most containing four or five horizontal panes, illuminate the interior.

**Balfour School
1963 classroom
building
rear elevation**



South of the auditorium/gymnasium, corrugated-metal flat-roofed canopies supported by round steel posts shelter the sidewalks that connect the 1927 school to three Modernist one-story classroom buildings executed in oversized blonde brick. Matching retaining walls flank the concrete handicapped ramp and steps that ameliorate the grade change south of the parking lot. The four-classroom 1963 building features an almost-flat roof with deep eaves supported by tapered rafter ends above wide expanses of metal-framed windows, transoms, and steel doors. Smaller metal-framed windows illuminate the flat-roofed 1976 and 1984 classroom buildings. Flat-roofed steel canopies connect the three classroom buildings.

Historical Background

The two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboarded Balfour School that previously stood on this site contained four classrooms. Enrollment grew to 151 students instructed by four teachers in 1921-1922. The

Henderson County Board of Education approved the construction of a new school on September 6, 1926.¹⁵⁴ Architect Erle Stillwell designed the two-story, brick, fourteen-classroom edifice completed in 1927 at a cost of approximately \$60,000. The building featured a library, an auditorium, and offices. In 1929-1930, principal E. L. Justus and ten teachers oversaw fifty-five high school and 316 elementary school pupils. High school students utilized five classrooms. Eight youth graduated that spring. The Henderson County Board of Education's school reorganization the following year resulted in the upper grades being transferred to Hendersonville and Edneyville High Schools beginning in fall 1931.¹⁵⁵

In March 1934, Balfour School principal L. A. Gossett reported enrollment numbering 333 first-through seventh-grade students during the academic year that had just ended. Eight female teachers and one male instructor educated first- through seventh-grade pupils in the school's fourteen classrooms. The building included a lunch room. During the 1939-1940 academic year, principal J. M. Foster, eight female teachers, and one male faculty member instructed an average of 291 first-through seventh-grade students, although 322 had enrolled. First, second, fourth, and fifth grades had one-and-one-half sections and the remaining grades one each. Foster and nine female teachers oversaw 382 first- through eighth-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 331 youth. The student body also included one ninth-grade class of thirteen pupils. Extracurricular activity options ranged from athletics to Junior Red Cross, and glee, citizenship, and safety clubs. Playground equipment installed during the 1945-1946 school term resulted in a facility with swings, see-saws, a basketball court, and two softball diamonds.¹⁵⁶

In June 1950, Foster reported that first- through eighth-grade enrollment comprised 373 pupils educated by him and ten female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 343 students, some of whom participated in Junior Red Cross, book, citizenship, flower, glee, and safety clubs. Facility improvements included installing velour curtains and a cyclorama in the auditorium.¹⁵⁷

The Henderson County Board of Education allocated \$10,000 allocation for Balfour School repairs in 1951, erected a cafeteria in 1959, and constructed three freestanding classroom buildings in 1963, 1976, and 1984.¹⁵⁸ Hendersonville architects William Henry O'Cain and William Ernest Brackett Jr., practicing as O'Cain and Brackett Associates, prepared plans for the 1963 four-classroom building.¹⁵⁹ Balfour School suffered damage in 1971 when an arsonist set fire to the building along with several other Henderson County schools. Some campuses were totally destroyed, but Balfour was quickly repaired and continued to house elementary and middle school students through the early twenty-first century. The complex has operated since 2002 as Balfour Education Center, a public school.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁴ Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels.

¹⁵⁵ "Balfour School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930; County Loses 11 Schools By New Law," *Hendersonville News*, July 31, 1931; Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 75.

¹⁵⁶ "Balfour School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1940, 1946.

¹⁵⁷ "Balfour School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955, 1960.

¹⁵⁸ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 100; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953; Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County, 1978-79* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1979), 80.

¹⁵⁹ Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed., 94, 675; Ginny Thompson, HCGHS, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, October 1, 2014.

¹⁶⁰ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 75.

**Edneyville School
1951, 1960, 1973, 1984
3971-3973 Chimney Rock
Road
Edneyville**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

The Henderson County Board of Education completed the oldest extant structure on this campus, a flat-roofed, brick, two-story high school with sixteen classrooms, a library, and an auditorium, in 1951. The school system completed the building's renovation in 1985. The Justice Academy updated the interior, installed metal-frame, tinted-glass windows, and erected a two-story brick addition at the south end around 1998. Subsequent campus expansions involved erecting a brick and metal-framed

glass hyphen with a central elevator to connect the addition and the three-story brick and stucco dormitory that projects to the southeast at an angle.

Concrete sidewalks lead to the one-story, flat-roofed, brick cafeteria and classroom building erected in 1984 between the 1951 school and Chimney Rock Road to the east. Mason executed the structure in running-bond with a soldier-course water-table and slightly projecting courses above the windows. Tall, rectangular, metal-frame, three-pane, tinted-glass replacement windows illuminate the interior. Concrete steps with metal-pipe railings and a matching handicapped-accessible ramp lead to the primary entrance, which is inset in a portico near the northeast corner. The south entrance is also inset. The Justice Academy added the curved awnings above the west entrance.

Northeast of the 1951 school stands a one-story, brick, L-shaped, gable-roofed building originally used as an agriculture-industrial arts building and band room. That structure, completed in 1960, is just south of the expansive two-story, running-bond brick, 1973 gymnasium.¹⁶¹ The Justice Academy added the curved awnings that shelter the south and west entrances and the handicapped-accessible ramp that provide interior access. A one-story locker room wing projects from the gymnasium's north elevation. The flat-roofed entrance vestibules with brick sidewalls at the three first-story doors on the west elevation appear to be original.

Historical Background

A brief summary of Edneyville's earlier school history follows as context for the later buildings.

Edneyville has born the name of early settler, Methodist minister, magistrate, and postmaster Samuel Edney since around 1830. The area's first documented school, erected circa 1810, stood near his property. The Henderson County Board of Education constructed a series of later educational buildings including a two-story, hip-roofed, wood-shingled graded school completed in 1914. Enrollment grew to 178 students instructed by five teachers in 1921-1922.¹⁶²

In order to accommodate additional students, architect Erle Stilwell designed the one-story, twelve-classroom, brick edifice completed in 1926 at a cost of approximately \$60,000. The Classical Revival-style building featured a projecting, central, hip-roofed entrance bay, shorter hip-roofed bays flanking the main block, a small cupola at the roof's center, and arched-pediment dormers. In 1929-1930, Edneyville School principal Bessie Jordan and twelve teachers oversaw 123 high school and 210 elementary school pupils. Fourteen youth graduated that spring. High school students utilized six classrooms. The building also contained offices, a library, and an auditorium. In the academic term that ended in March 1934, Edneyville School principal Turner A. Cathey, seven female teachers and one male instructor educated 310 elementary school pupils in eight classrooms. Four female teachers and two male instructors oversaw an additional 184 students who attended high school in the remaining seven classrooms. In 1934-1935, Cathey's faculty consisted of six high school teachers and eight elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 165 students, twenty-six of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 322 pupils. The Works Progress Administration subsidized the construction of the one-story brick gymnasium and auditorium with a

¹⁶¹ Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County*, 89.

¹⁶² Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer*, 158; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels; Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922

stepped parapet completed at a cost of \$20,000 in 1938.¹⁶³

During the 1939-1940 academic year, Edneyville School principal Turner A. Cathey and ten female teachers instructed an average of 356 first- through seventh-grade students, although 422 had enrolled. Cathey and seven other teachers instructed 234 high school pupils, twenty-eight of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students occupied nine of nineteen classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including athletics; home economics, science, and Beta clubs; and the publication of a school magazine. Facility improvements that year included bulletin board and picture molding installation. Principal W. J. Nesbitt, eleven female teachers, and two male instructors oversaw 537 first- through eighth-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 454 youth. The student body also included 145 high school pupils instructed by Nesbitt, two male teachers, and three female faculty members in five classrooms. Extracurricular activities included athletics and art, citizenship, and health clubs.¹⁶⁴

In June 1950, Nesbitt reported that first- through eighth-grade enrollment comprised 673 pupils educated by him, fifteen female teachers, and two male faculty members in eighteen classrooms. Daily attendance averaged 585 students, some of whom participated in 4-H, Boy Scouts, health, and science clubs. High school attendance typically comprised 158 of 177 enrolled pupils instructed by Nesbitt, three female teachers, and three male faculty members in five classrooms. Construction of a new high school building designed by Erle Stillwell commenced in June 1950, with a target completion date of June 1951.¹⁶⁵ The fourteen-classroom high school, completed at a cost of approximately \$304,000, opened in fall 1951.¹⁶⁶

In 1954-1955, principal Nesbitt and nine teachers educated 235 high school students, forty-eight of whom graduated. During the 1959-1960 term, Nesbitt and twelve faculty members oversaw 290 high school students, sixty-eight of whom graduated. Campus updates included the construction of an agriculture-industrial arts building and a band room that were almost completed in June 1960.¹⁶⁷

The campus, expanded with a gymnasium in 1973 and a classroom building in 1984, served high school students until 1993, when the Henderson County and Hendersonville City school systems merged and consolidated campuses. The North Carolina Justice Academy then acquired the property to function as a law enforcement training school. The agency renovated the buildings and a constructed the three-story dormitory adjacent to the 1951 school. The Justice Academy's twenty-three-acre Western Campus began offering classes in September 1998.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶³ "Edneyville School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930, 1935; "New Gymnasium – Auditorium at Edneyville," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 9, 1938; Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 85.

¹⁶⁴ "Edneyville School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946; "Edneyville School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946.

¹⁶⁵ "Edneyville School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1950; "Edneyville School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950.

¹⁶⁶ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 100; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953.

¹⁶⁷ "Edneyville School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

¹⁶⁸ Phil Alexander, "Empty schools may house mall, alternative program," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 18, 1994, p. 3B; North Carolina Justice Academy, "FAQs," <http://ncja.ncdoj.gov/FAQs.aspx> (accessed August 2014).

**East Flat Rock School
1924, 1952, 1956**

**107 East Blue Ridge Road
East Flat Rock**

**North Carolina Study List
1993**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

At East Flat Rock School, architect Erle Stillwell embellished a typical consolidated school form—two stories with projecting end bays—with a sophisticated Classical Revival-style façade. Six pilasters and a plain frieze frame three central bays containing double-hung, six-over-six, wood-sash windows and two outer bays with double-hung, four-over-four, wood-sash windows. A pedimented surround ornaments the central double-leaf door and multipane transom. Cast-stone urns originally surmounted the façade entablature and a molded metal cornice and a cast-stone-capped parapet completed the classical composition. However, the Henderson County Board of Education removed urns as well as

the cornice, now covered with an aluminum band, and leveled the parapet and capped it with metal coping.

Masons executed the walls in common bond with three courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. On the projecting end bays, three tall rectangular panels feature outer soldier-course and inner header-course borders, all with cast-stone corner blocks. Soldier-course lintels span the window openings. A watertable comprising a header course topped with a soldier course encircles the building. Concrete steps with metal railings lead to each entrance. A matching handicapped-accessible ramp provides access to the front door.

A one-story auditorium/gymnasium executed in common bond with three courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers extends from the school's east elevation. Large steel-frame windows with operable central sections illuminate the interior. A one-story, flat-roofed, 1952 cafeteria addition executed in common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers projects from the school's southeast corner. Multipane steel-frame windows light the interior.



1956 classroom building

Northwest of the school, the freestanding one-story, flat-roofed, Modernist, 1956 classroom building also has common bond walls with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by round steel posts shelters the entrances.

The athletic fields to the south, formerly associated with the school, have served since 1995 as East Flat Rock Park, operated by the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department.

Historical Background

East Flat Rock School commenced operating in 1908 from a dwelling in the neighborhood adjacent to the hosiery mill. By 1921-1922, enrollment had grown to 359 students instructed by seven teachers in a frame school and neighboring buildings.¹⁶⁹ In order to meet the demands of increased attendance,

¹⁶⁹ Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922; Henderson County Public Library, "Other Schools in Henderson County," 18; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels; East Flat Rock Elementary School, "East Flat Rock School: A Chronology," 1989.

architect Erle Stillwell designed a two-story brick school completed at a cost of approximately \$70,000 in 1924 that included an auditorium, a library, offices, and fourteen classrooms. High school grades occupied four rooms and the remainder served a daily average of 201 of 327 enrolled elementary school students. Principal Bessie Steedman and two other teachers instructed sixty-three high school pupils in 1925, when the graduating class numbered eleven young men and women. Facility improvements that year included landscaping the seven-acre campus and creating a baseball diamond and two outdoor basketball courts. Students also played tennis and ran track. In 1929-1930, Steedman and sixteen teachers oversaw 123 high school and 394 elementary school pupils. Fifteen youth graduated that spring. The Board of Education closed Tracey Grove School and assigned students who would have attended that campus to East Flat Rock School beginning in fall 1931.¹⁷⁰

In March 1934, Steedman reported that East Flat Rock School enrolled 545 elementary school pupils educated in twelve classrooms by twelve female teachers. An additional 147 youth attended high school overseen by four female teachers and one male instructor in the remaining two classrooms. In addition to athletic fields, students enjoyed a playground with a slide. In fall 1934, the Board of Education deemed that East Flat Rock School's upper grades would move to Flat Rock High School.¹⁷¹

During the 1939-1940 academic year, East Flat Rock School Steedman and fifteen female teachers instructed an average of 532 first- through seventh-grade students, although 591 had enrolled. First grade had three sections and the remaining grades two each. Works Progress Administration funding subsidized student lunches. Steedman headed the school until her death in 1941, after which Ralph W. Jones became principal in 1943. Jones and thirteen female teachers oversaw 507 first- through seventh-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 453 youth. Eighth grade students attended Flat Rock High School. Extracurricular activity options included athletics, glee, and 4-H clubs. Facility improvements during the 1945-1946 school term ranged from lunch room updates to basketball court grading. In June 1950, principal Jones reported that first- through eighth-grade enrollment comprised 605 pupils educated by him and fourteen female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 462 students, some of whom participated in athletics and 4-H, citizenship, and glee clubs.¹⁷² Asheville-based architects Six Associates designed the one-story, brick, 1952 cafeteria and may have prepared plans for the freestanding 1956 classroom wing erected northwest of the school.¹⁷³

The campus served students until 1993, when the Henderson County and Hendersonville City school systems merged and consolidated campuses. The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. acquired the property in 1998 and facilitated its 2004 sale to Winston-Salem developers The Landmark Group, who orchestrated the building's rehabilitation to serve as affordable housing.¹⁷⁴ WAJ Management, LLC, operates the complex, which is called Parkside Commons.

¹⁷⁰ "East Flat Rock High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1925, 1930; "County Loses 11 Schools By New Law," *Hendersonville News*, July 31, 1931

¹⁷¹ East Flat Rock School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, "A History of Flat Rock High School," undated document in the files of the HCGHS, Hendersonville.

¹⁷² "East Flat Rock School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950; East Flat Rock Elementary School, "East Flat Rock School: A Chronology," 1989.

¹⁷³ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 84; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953; Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County*, 84.

¹⁷⁴ "Phil Alexander, "Empty schools may house mall, alternative program," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 18, 1994, p. 3B.

**Flat Rock High School
1934, 1951**

**2688, 2700, and 2702
Greenville Highway
Flat Rock**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

Three historic educational buildings and two early twenty-first-century commercial buildings stand on the site once occupied by Flat Rock High School. The 1925 eight-classroom building and auditorium burned on August 18, 1971, leaving the 1951 addition that projected from its east end, the 1934 gymnasium, and the 1951 cafeteria and library.

The hip-roofed, brick, 1951 addition is oriented so that the north elevation is one-story in height, while the sloping grade allows the rear (south) elevation a full two-story exposure. On the north elevation, a pedimented portico supported by Tuscan columns shelters the double-leaf door with a flat-pediment

surround. Concrete and brick steps with metal railing and a matching handicapped-accessible ramp lead to the entrance. Masons executed the walls in common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. Soldier-course lintels span the window openings and a soldier course watertable encircles the building, becoming a belt course on the two-story elevations. Multipane fixed and double-hung replacement windows pierce the north, west, and east elevations. Groups of steel-frame windows and transoms punctuate the south elevation.

The 1951 cafeteria and library's orientation and execution is similar to that of the classroom addition. The hip-roofed building is situated so that the north elevation is one-story in height and the rear (south) elevation has a two-story exposure. On the north elevation, an open-pediment portico supported by Tuscan columns shelters a double-leaf door and sidelights with a flat-pediment surround. Concrete and brick steps with metal railing and a matching handicapped-accessible ramp lead to the entrance. East of the façade's main entrance, a single-leaf door with a transom and flat-pediment surround provides access into a commercial storefront. A soldier-course belt course and watertable embellish the five-to-one common bond brick walls. Six-over-six double-hung replacement windows illuminate the interior.

The 1934 gymnasium stands northeast of the cafeteria. According to school histories, the Board of Education brick-veneered the building around 1936. A basket-weave-patterned belt course, watertable, and stepped-parapet north and south elevations embellish the running bond walls. The building rests on a granite foundation. The property has been significantly altered to function as condominiums. A two-tier, six-bay, arcaded entrance porch has been added at on west elevation, porches for each unit project from the east (rear elevation), and a two-bay garage addition extends from the south elevation.

A one-story, brick, U-shaped complex of three office buildings has occupied the site's northwest corner since 2003. A two-story, brick commercial building completed in 2008 stands southwest of the 1951 classroom building.

Historical Background

The no-longer-extant two-story, hip-roofed, frame school erected in 1907 to serve Flat Rock youth included a library and five classrooms, two of which housed high school grades and the remainder of which served a daily average of 118 of 165 enrolled elementary school students. The school roster encompassed 214 students instructed by four teachers in 1921-1922. During the 1924-1925 term, Flat Rock High School principal J. C. Eckerman instructed twenty-four school pupils enrolled in eighth through tenth grades.¹⁷⁵

In September 1925, upon the completion of a one-story, brick, eight-classroom high school building at a cost of approximately \$45,000, the Flat Rock campus began serving students from neighboring communities including Crab Creek, East Flat Rock, Green River, Pleasant Hill, Tuxedo, and Valley Hill. The commanding building, which featured a classical pediment that surmounted the projecting entrance bay and tall multipane windows, contained offices, a library, and an auditorium. The school attained state accreditation in 1927.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁵ "Flat Rock High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1925; "A History of Flat Rock High School," undated document in the files of the HCGHS, Hendersonville.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, Ernest Lee Justus, "Flat Rock High School," *The Heritage of Henderson County, North Carolina, Volume I*, 18.

In 1929-1930, Eckerman and nine teachers oversaw eighty-four high school and 154 elementary school pupils. High school students utilized three classrooms. Ten youth graduated that spring. In 1934-1935, principal Earnest L. Justus's faculty consisted of nine high school teachers. Enrollment comprised 267 students, thirty-one of whom graduated.¹⁷⁷

Around 1936, the Board of Education brick-veneered the frame gymnasium erected in 1934. In 1939, the Works Progress Administration facilitated the construction of a vocational building on the campus.¹⁷⁸ During the 1939-1940 academic term, Justus and nine other teachers instructed 319 high school pupils, fifty-seven of whom successfully completed the course of study. Students occupied twelve classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including athletics; glee, literary, and science clubs; and the publication of a school newspaper. In 1946, Justus reported that Flat Rock High School housed two eighth-grade classes containing one hundred enrolled pupils. In addition to Flat Rock residents, the school served eighth-grade youth who lived near East Flat Rock, Tuxedo, and Valley Hill Schools, as those campuses then ended at seventh grade. Principal Justus, five female teachers, and one male instructor oversaw 153 ninth- through eleventh-grade students in seven of the school's eight classrooms. Daily attendance averaged 121 youth. In 1949-1950, attendance typically comprised 251 of 294 enrolled pupils educated by Justus, seven female teachers, and four male faculty members in ten classrooms.¹⁷⁹

Asheville-based architects Six Associates designed the addition erected at the 1925 school's east end as well as the 1951 cafeteria.¹⁸⁰ In 1954-1955, principal Justus and twelve teachers educated 337 high school students, fifty-seven of whom completed their course of study. During the 1959-1960 term, Justus and eighteen faculty members oversaw 478 high school students, ninety-four of whom graduated.¹⁸¹

In fall 1960, the county opened a new high school. The former Flat Rock High School campus became a junior high school and functioned as such until the 1925 eight-classroom building and auditorium burned on August 18, 1971. The property served as school system storage through 1993, when the Henderson County and Hendersonville City school systems merged and consolidated campuses. Flat Rock resident and developer Thomas Singleton acquired the Flat Rock School campus in August 1994 and converted the gymnasium into condominiums, the library and classroom addition into retail/restaurant space, and erected a new building.¹⁸²

¹⁷⁷ Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922; "Flat Rock High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, Raleigh, 1925, 1930, 1935.

¹⁷⁸ A History of Flat Rock High School," undated document in the files of the HCGHS, Hendersonville.

¹⁷⁹ "Flat Rock High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960; "Flat Rock High School," "Principal's Annual Elementary School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950.

¹⁸⁰ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 84; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953

¹⁸¹ "Flat Rock High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

¹⁸² Mead Parce, "Flat Rock Junior High School Burns," *Times-News*, August 18, 1971, p. 16; "Fire Levels Main Building of Flat Rock Junior High," August 1971 newspaper clipping, Henderson County Public Library, Hendersonville; Phil Alexander, "Empty schools may house mall, alternative program," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 18, 1994, p. 3B.

**Fletcher School
1928, 1951, 1956, 1959, 1984**

**17 Cane Creek Road
Fletcher**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

Fletcher School, a two-story brick structure with slightly projecting end bays, manifests classical elements including streamlined cast-stone pilasters, molded cornices, and entablatures with plain friezes at the two façade entrances. Veritas Christian Academy added the stained-glass transoms above each double-leaf wood-paneled façade doors' multipane upper section. The cast-stone surrounds extend to frame the second-story windows above the entrances with quoins, hood molding, and a crest embellished with a central urn and swags. Soldier-course lintels span the remaining window openings.

Masons executed the walls in common bond with three courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. Quoins and tall rectangular panels with soldier-course borders and

rectangular, cast-stone, central plaques embellish the projecting end bays. A watertable comprising a soldier course topped with a header course a molded metal cornice embossed with an acanthus-leaf motif encircle the building. The cast-stone-capped parapet's two taller pointed bays rise above the two façade doors. Concrete steps with metal railings provide access to each entrance. The Henderson County Board of Education replaced the original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows with tall, narrow, aluminum-sash windows, most containing six horizontal panes.

A one-story auditorium/gymnasium extends from the 1928 school's north elevation. Brick buttresses flank tall window openings that have been filled with aluminum-frame replacement windows below solid white panels. A flat-roofed metal canopy spans the space between the 1928 auditorium/gymnasium and the one-story, flat-roofed, brick, 1984 classroom building to the north. Wide expanses of square metal-framed windows illuminate the interior.



The 1984 building extends north to the 1958 cafeteria, 1956 two-classroom building, and the 1951 gymnasium. Masons executed each structure in common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. The one-story flat-roofed cafeteria extends across the gymnasium's south elevation, a one-story locker room wing projects from its rear elevation, and a small flat-roofed boiler room extends from its west elevation adjacent to a tall square brick smokestack. Flat-roofed concrete canopies shelter the replacement metal-frame windows and steel doors of each building.

Historical Background

In 1904, the two-story, three-classroom, frame Fletcher School began serving students who had previously attended Boiling Springs, Byers Academy, Fletcher, Good Luck, Maxwell, and Oak Forest Schools. The Henderson County Board of Education added a fourth classroom and enrollment grew to 270 students instructed by four teachers in 1921-1922. A fire destroyed the substantial brick building completed in 1927, but the school was reconstructed in 1928.¹⁸³ Erle Stilwell designed the two-story, brick, fifteen-classroom edifice completed within the year at a cost of approximately \$90,000 that contained offices, a library, and an auditorium. In 1929-1930, principal N. A. Melton and fourteen teachers oversaw eighty high school and 377 elementary school pupils. Twelve youth graduated that spring. High school students occupied four classrooms.¹⁸⁴

¹⁸³ Erle G. Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels; Mary Louise Bagwell, "Hoopers Creek Township Schools," in *The Heritage of Henderson County, North Carolina, Volume I*, 104.

¹⁸⁴ "Fletcher School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930; Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 90; Henderson County Public Library, "Other Schools in Henderson County," 18.

In March 1934, Melton reported that ten female teachers instructed Fletcher School's 376 enrolled elementary school pupils. An additional 118 students attended high school overseen by four male teachers. In 1934-1935, Melton's faculty consisted of five high school teachers and nine elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 125 students, twenty-two of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 354 pupils. In 1937, the Fletcher Junior Garden Club collaborated with Neilson Nursery to install planting beds, gravel walks, a fish pond, a bird bath, and benches in the Speed Memorial garden. Located northwest of the school, the garden bore the name of Biltmore Forest resident and conservationist Sarah Speed, who had volunteered to teach nature study classes at the school.¹⁸⁵

During the 1939-1940 academic year, principal J. O. Youngblood, eight female teachers, and one male faculty member instructed an average of 293 first- through seventh-grade students, although 337 had enrolled. Youngblood and three other teachers educated eighty-two high school pupils, thirteen of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students utilized six classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including athletics, home economics and literary clubs, Future Farmers of America, and the publication of *Fletcher News*.¹⁸⁶ The Works Progress Administration funded the construction of a vocational building on the campus in 1940.

Youngblood and nine female teachers oversaw 367 first- through seventh-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 310 youth. The student body also included fifty-one high school pupils instructed by Youngblood and two female teachers in three of the school's fourteen classrooms. Extracurricular activity options included athletics and 4-H club. In June 1950, principal W. Albert Hill reported that first- through eighth-grade enrollment comprised 453 pupils educated by twelve full-time female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 365 students. High school attendance typically comprised eighty-three of ninety-three enrolled pupils educated by Hill and two female teachers in four of fifteen classrooms. Some students participated in athletics, 4-H, Boy Scouts, and glee club. The school system announced plans to erect a cafeteria, gymnasium, and classrooms that year.¹⁸⁷

Asheville-based architects Six Associates designed the gymnasium erected north of the 1928 school in 1951 and likely prepared plans for the 1958 cafeteria.¹⁸⁸ In 1954-1955, principal Hill and five teachers educated 122 high school students, twenty-two of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included playground grading and stone installation. During the 1959-1960 term, Hill and seven faculty members oversaw 148 high school students, 25 twenty-five of whom graduated.¹⁸⁹ The Henderson County Board of Education moved the upper grades to West Henderson High School in 1960 and accommodated younger students at the new Fletcher Elementary School campus at 500 Howard Gap Road beginning in 2001. Veritas Christian Academy, Inc., established in 1998, purchased the property on December 4, 2001 and renovated it in time for the spring semester to begin on January 7, 2002.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁵ Fletcher School, "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934; "Fletcher High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935; "Students at Fletcher Honor Late Mrs. Speed," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, February 28, 1937.

¹⁸⁶ Fletcher School, "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; "Fletcher High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940.

¹⁸⁷ "Fletcher School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950.

¹⁸⁸ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 84; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953

¹⁸⁹ "Fletcher School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

¹⁹⁰ Veritas Christian Academy, "History," <http://www.veritasnc.org/history> (accessed August 2014).

**Hendersonville Graded
School - Fourth Avenue
School –
Rosa Edwards School
1911, 1951**

**414 Fourth Avenue West
Hendersonville**

**West Side Historic District
National Register, 2001**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

The two-story, brick, Classical Revival-style school that began serving Hendersonville students in 1911 faces north toward Fourth Avenue a few blocks west of the downtown commercial district. The building initially featured a low hip roof above its main block and matching slightly projecting end bays. A central belltower and three hipped dormers pierced the front roof slope. Mason executed the walls in common bond with three courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. Flat-arched lintels span the door and window openings. The pedimented central entrance portico, supported by fluted columns on paneled cast-stone plinth bases, includes a gouged cornice band. The building rests on a rough-face granite block foundation. A corbelled cornice originally completed the classical composition. However, the Henderson County Board of Education removed the cornice and the roof system above it, creating a flat roof surrounded by a flat parapet capped with metal coping. The school system also replaced the original double-hung, eight-over-eight wood-sash windows and the four-pane transoms that surmounted them. The existing vinyl-sash windows are smaller than the window openings. At each entrance, concrete steps with metal railings lead to steel

replacement doors surrounded by steel-frame transoms and/or sidelights. The two-story, flat-roofed, brick additions containing stairs and restrooms that flank the main block and the one-story, flat-roofed, brick auditorium erected at the building's west end were completed in 1915.¹⁹¹ A wood handicapped-accessible ramp and railing provide access to the east entrance. A paved parking lot separates the former school from athletic fields to the south. Two sets of concrete steps with metal railings ameliorate the grade change.

Historical Background

A series of public schools have served Hendersonville's white youth. Hendersonville High School enrolled 125 students in 1898. The Hendersonville School System dedicated Rosa Edwards School on March 15, 1912. Architect H. C. Meyer designed the Classical Revival-style building, which initially housed all grades. In 1919 increased enrollment necessitated the conversion of the Noterman residence to serve as the public high school campus.¹⁹²

During the 1933-1934 academic year, administrators renamed the campus in honor of former principal Rosa Edwards. The school then enrolled 697 first- through seventh-grade pupils educated by principal F. M. Waters and fifteen female teachers. At that time, the building comprised twenty classrooms, offices, and a library, but did not contain an auditorium or a gymnasium. The one-acre campus encompassed baseball diamond and a playground with exercise bars. In 1939-1940, principal Mrs. Almonte Jones and ten female teachers instructed an average of 282 first- through sixth-grade students, although 337 had enrolled. Facility improvements that year included interior painting and the removal of two classroom partition walls to create an auditorium.¹⁹³

Jones and ten female teachers oversaw 377 first- through sixth-grade students in 1945-1946, when daily attendance averaged 294 youth. Seventh and eighth grade students attended Eighth Avenue School, which was part of the Hendersonville High School campus. Extracurricular activities included athletics and citizenship clubs. Facility improvements during the school term ranged from lunch room updates to basketball court grading.¹⁹⁴

In June 1950, principal Jones reported that first- through seventh-grade enrollment comprised 455 pupils educated by twelve full-time female teachers and a part-time female music instructor. Daily attendance averaged 365 students, some of whom participated in Junior Red Cross, Audubon, assembly, citizenship, and scholarship clubs. Facility improvements included painting the auditorium interior, grading the rear yard, replanting grass in the front yard, and installing playground equipment provided by the Parent-Teachers Association.¹⁹⁵ Asheville-based architects Six Associates designed the flat-roofed additions containing stairs and restrooms that flank the main block as well as the one-story, brick, \$33,000 auditorium erected in 1951.¹⁹⁶ The building has served as the Henderson County Board of Education's administrative offices since 1974.

¹⁹¹ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 97; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953.

¹⁹² Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels.

¹⁹³ "Rosa Edwards School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1940,.

¹⁹⁴ "Rosa Edwards School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946.

¹⁹⁵ "Rosa Edwards School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1950.

¹⁹⁶ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 97; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953.

**Hendersonville School
1926, 1939, 1951, 1976**

**1 Bearcat Boulevard
Hendersonville**

2010 aerial view courtesy of



**Hendersonville School,
west entrance**

Description

Architect Erle Stillwell designed the state-of-the-art Hendersonville School, a monumental, three-story, Classical Revival-style edifice with a C-shaped footprint that is markedly different from the more traditional T-shaped plans of other consolidated-era Henderson County schools. The 1926 building occupies the southwest corner of an 8.85-acre tract bounded by Oakland Street on the west, Ninth Avenue West on the north, North Church Street on the east, and Bearcat Boulevard on the south. A two-story building comprising a 1951 cafeteria, a 1974 band room, and a 1980s classroom addition stands north of the school's east wing. The 1937 stone gymnasium and the 1976 Modernist gymnasium extend north to Ninth Avenue. Two one-story classroom buildings front Oakland Street in the parcel's northwest corner. The track, football field, and metal bleachers occupy the lot's east half.

The 1926 school faces Bearcat Boulevard. Two angled corner entrance pavilions anchor the building, but the central, projecting, two-story auditorium dominates the façade. At the east and west entrances, massive limestone Tuscan columns rise two stories to support entablatures comprising plain friezes and projecting molded cornices. The columns flank a recessed steel-framed curtain wall containing replacement double-leaf steel and glass doors, sidelights and transoms below decorative screens, paneled spandrels, and square second-story windows. Stepped cast-stone parapets top the entrance pavilions. Concrete steps lead to concrete landings at each door.

Masons laid the brick walls in Flemish bond with limestone, cast-stone, and patterned and corbelled brick accents. The watertable comprises upper and lower header courses flanking a central soldier course. Cast-stone sills and soldier course lintels embellish the window openings. A corbelled cornice with a recessed soldier-course frieze topped with a header course wraps around the building above the second-story windows and a molded cast-stone cornice surmounts the third-story windows. Metal coping caps the flat parapets.



At the auditorium's south entrance, six Tuscan columns flank five replacement steel-frame glass door, sidelight, and transom units. Above each door, square brick panels bordered with an outer stretcher course, an inner header course, and cast-stone corner blocks frame limestone panels inscribed with the names of academic subjects: art, science, letters, history, and music. The entablature frieze bears the words "Dedicated to the Sanctity of Child Personality" below a molded cornice. On the side elevations, three tall, slightly recessed bays each contain groups of three windows on each floor, separated and topped by stuccoed panels. Above the windows, a decorative corbelled band and a cast-stone belt course encircle the building.

The Board of Education replaced the original windows throughout the 1926 school with one-over-one synthetic sash. Most of the window openings initially contained six-over-six sash, but the windows were narrow four-over-four sash on the east and west wing's interior walls. Steel fire escapes serve an emergency exit door on each floor of the same elevations. Flat-roofed metal canopies supported by

steel posts shelter the first-story rear entrances.

Concrete pilasters and belt courses frame the red brick veneer bays of the flat-roofed, rectangular, steel-frame, 1951 cafeteria and 1974 band room designed by Asheville-based architects Six Associates. Deep eaves shelter the east and west elevations, which contain replacement windows with four narrow horizontal panes. A one-story wing with a replacement entrance bay sheltered by a shed-roofed standing-seam metal canopy, projects from the west elevation.

The two-story, hip-roofed, granite-veneered gymnasium subsidized by the Works Progress Administration fronted Ninth Avenue West from its 1939 completion until the 1976 gymnasium was erected on its north elevation.¹⁹⁷ A tall two-story wing extends from the east elevation, while a shorter two-story wing projects to the south. Concrete steps with granite side walls capped with concrete lead to the east and west entrances. Replacement double-hung windows of various sizes illuminate the wings, while tall triple-hung sash light the gymnasium, which retains hardwood floors and painted brick walls. Steel trusses reinforce the original wood rafters and wood roof decking boards. The bleachers and basketball goals have been updated.

Two sets of doors on the 1939 gymnasium's north elevation provide access to the Modernist 1976 gymnasium designed by Asheville architects Jackson, Padgett, and Freeman. Clerestory windows light the brick, steel, and concrete structure. Steel trusses support the almost-flat roof that shelters the expansive space. The Board of Education later erected the two brick classroom buildings that stand east of the other campus structures. Padgett and Freeman, Architects, guided the campus's 1991 renovation.¹⁹⁸

Historical Background

Hendersonville Graded School, chartered on February 20, 1901, began operating in 1903 and occupied what became known as Rosa Edwards School on March 15, 1912. The building initially housed all grades, but in 1919 increased enrollment necessitated the conversion of the two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboarded, Italianate-style Noterman residence to create an eight-classroom public high school at a cost of \$30,000.¹⁹⁹

At the close of the 1920-1921 school term, Hendersonville High School principal T. W. Valentine reported 152 students enrolled in eighth through eleventh grades, with daily attendance averaging 123 youth. Twelve pupils graduated that spring, completing their course of study under the direction of nine teachers. Nearby, a football field and baseball diamond had been graded, a grandstand constructed, and a \$6,000 gymnasium neared completion in June. Principal Helen Baker and ten other teachers instructed 334 high school pupils enrolled in 1925, when the graduating class numbered forty-four young men and women.²⁰⁰

In 1926, the institution occupied a three-story, brick, state-of-the-art building designed by Erle Stillwell and erected at a cost of approximately \$350,000. Principal A. W. Honeycutt and fifty teachers oversaw 420 high school and 712 elementary school pupils in 1929-1930. Fifty-eight youth

¹⁹⁷ See Hendersonville School gymnasium façade photo in *North Carolina WPA: Its Story*, 32.

¹⁹⁸ "Hendersonville High School," plaque in 1926 school.

¹⁹⁹ *The High School Journal*, December 1919, p. 253; Patton, *The Story of Henderson County*, 163-164; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels.

²⁰⁰ "Hendersonville High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1921, 1925.

graduated that spring. High school students utilized thirty-nine of forty-five classrooms. The home economics laboratory facilitated cooking and sewing instruction with kitchen cabinets, sinks, stoves, a refrigerator, a dining area, ten sewing machines, fabric cutting tables, fitting rooms, and mirrors. The typewriting classroom contained twenty-four desks with typewriters and the woodworking and drafting rooms accommodated the same number of students.²⁰¹

In 1934-1935, principal O. A. Meyer's faculty consisted of ten high school teachers and seventeen elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 350 students, forty-three of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 720 pupils. During the 1939-1940 academic term, principal L. K. Singley oversaw nine male and eight female teachers who instructed 487 high school pupils, eighty of whom successfully completed the course of study. Students utilized twenty classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including commercial, drama, glee, literary, and science clubs, as well as the publication of a newspaper called *Red and White* in reference to the institution's colors.²⁰²

The Works Progress Administration subsidized most of the \$35,000 construction cost of Hendersonville School's stone gymnasium, which contractors finished in August 1937. The building's indoor basketball court was then said to be the largest in western North Carolina. John Ward led the stone quarrying effort and project foreman Ulys M. Orr supervised the masonry execution.²⁰³

In May 1946, principal Henry M. Davis reported that high school enrollment the previous term encompassed 346 students instructed by himself, ten female teachers, and four male faculty members in twenty-one of the school's thirty classrooms. During 1949-1950, attendance typically comprised 336 of 371 enrolled pupils educated by twelve female teachers and six male faculty members in twenty-two classrooms.²⁰⁴



1926 school (left) and 1951 cafeteria, 1974 band room, and 1980s? classrooms

²⁰¹ "Hendersonville High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930.

²⁰² "Hendersonville High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935, 1940.

²⁰³ "Hendersonville is 'Little City' with 'Big City' Public Buildings," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 3, 1937; "Ribbon-Cutting Set for Gym Tomorrow," *The Times-News*, January 6, 1976, 1, 11; J. T. Fain, "Opening of Hendersonville High Gym is a Historical Event," *The Times-News*, January 6, 1976, 1, 11.

²⁰⁴ "Hendersonville High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950.

Asheville-based architects Six Associates designed the cafeteria and band room erected between the 1926 building and the stone gym in 1951.²⁰⁵ In 1954-1955, principal Stamey F. Brooks's eighteen-teacher faculty educated 404 high school students, fifty-four of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included installation of a water fountain in the lunch room, new lockers, and dressing room updates in the gym. During the 1959-1960 term, principal R. Hugh Lockaby and twenty-five faculty members oversaw 549 high school students, 144 of whom graduated. Building updates encompassed classroom painting, library expansion, fire escape and door panic-bar installation, roof replacement, and landscaping.²⁰⁶ Elementary and high school students shared the campus until the completion of Bruce Drysdale Elementary School in 1960.

Architects Jackson, Padgett, and Freeman designed the Modernist concrete and steel Hendersonville High School gymnasium dedicated on January 7, 1976. Bryant Construction Company of Brevard served as the general contractor for the two thousand-seat building completed at a cost of approximately \$623,000. Blue Ridge Technical Institute professor Frank Boyd's students executed the landscaping.²⁰⁷



Hendersonville School Gymnasiums, 1937 (left) and 1976, 1 Bearcat Boulevard, Hendersonville

²⁰⁵ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 93.

²⁰⁶ "Hendersonville High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

²⁰⁷ "Ribbon-Cutting Set for Gym Tomorrow," *The Times-News*, January 6, 1976, 1, 11.

**Hillandale Elementary School
1965, 1976
504 Preston Lane**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

Hendersonville architects William Henry O’Cain and William Ernest Brackett Jr., practicing as O’Cain and Brackett Associates, designed this one-story, flat-roofed, building in 1965 as an addition to the eight-classroom 1963 Hillandale Elementary School.²⁰⁸ Masons utilized oversized blonde brick to execute the structure, which features a slightly-taller central block. The 1965 building provided classrooms, a library, a cafeteria, and an auditorium/gymnasium. Concrete sidewalks and steps with metal-pipe railings sheltered by a flat metal-roofed breezeway lead to the primary entrance, which is inset near the east elevation’s north end. On the north elevation, a large, inset, open area includes a

²⁰⁸ Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County*, 85; George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1970), 94, 675; Ginny Thompson, HCGHS, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, October 1, 2014.

concrete handicapped-accessible ramp with metal-pipe railings. The south entrance is also inset. A hyphen with high, short windows and a flat-roofed porch supported by square aluminum posts on its east elevation connects the 1965 building to the south classroom wing. Completed in 1976, the structure also has oversized blonde brick walls, steel doors, and metal-frame, tinted-glass replacement transoms and windows.



1976 addition hyphen (above) and classroom wing (below)



Historical Background

The Henderson County Board of Education erected the elementary school complex to the north at 40 Preston Lane in 2009. Flat Rock Middle School stands to the northwest at 191 Preston Lane.

Tuxedo School
1930, 1952, 1956

1124 Old US 25 Highway
Tuxedo

North Carolina Study List,
1993

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Henderson County GIS



Description

Tuxedo School occupies a hilltop site bounded by US 25’s four-lane corridor to the northwest and the two-lane US 25 Highway alignment to the southeast. Stone retaining walls and steps covered with a flat corrugated-metal canopy supported by round steel posts ameliorate the grade change between the entrance drive and the school.

Architect Erle Stillwell’s design for the two-story brick Tuxedo School differs from his other Henderson County commissions as it features Tudor Revival-style elements such as two slightly projecting, one-story, façade entrance bays distinguished by tapered buttresses and pointed parapets capped with cast-stone. Basket-weave brick panels surmount the segmental-arched doorway leading to recessed double-leaf wood-paneled doors with multipane upper sections surmounted by four-pane transoms. The windows above the entrance have segmental-arched soldier-course lintels in contrast to the flat lintels elsewhere. Basket-weave brick panels top the two windows, extending into the cast-stone-capped parapet’s two taller pointed bays.

Masons executed the walls in common bond with three courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A soldier-course watertable encircles the building. Concrete steps with metal pipe railings provide access to each entrance. The Henderson County Board of Education replaced the original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows with tall, narrow, paired, aluminum-sash windows, most containing five horizontal panes.

A one-story, flat-roofed, 1952 cafeteria addition executed in common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers projects from the school's south elevation. Flat-roofed canopies shelter double-leaf steel doors and four-horizontal-pane transoms on the east and south elevations. Multipane steel-frame windows light the interior.

A one-story auditorium/gymnasium with stuccoed end walls that rise to two-story height extends from the school's west elevation. Large steel-frame windows with operable central sections illuminate the interior. Northeast of the school, the freestanding one-story, flat-roofed, Modernist, two-classroom building completed in 1956 also has common bond walls with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by round steel posts shelters the entrances. Multipane steel-frame windows, smaller on the façade (west elevation) than on the rear elevation, light the classrooms.

Historical Background

Architect Erle Stillwell designed the one-story, hip-roofed, four-classroom Tuxedo School placed into service on October 4, 1916. Enrollment grew to 206 students instructed by four teachers in 1921-1922. In fall 1927, the Board of Education deemed that Tuxedo School's upper grades would move to Flat Rock High School. A 1929 fire destroyed Tuxedo School, but it was soon rebuilt at a cost of \$17,224.²⁰⁹

During the 1939-1940 academic year, Tuxedo School principal Mary Bell, seven female teachers, and one male faculty member taught a daily average of 310 first- through seventh-grade students, although 383 had enrolled. Principal Dean A. Ward and eight female teachers oversaw 320 first- through seventh-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance numbered 297 youth. Eighth-grade students attended Flat Rock High School. Extracurricular activity options ranged from athletics to band and glee and 4-H clubs. In June 1950, principal Ward reported that first- through seventh-grade enrollment comprised 341 pupils educated by himself and eight full-time female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 272 students, some of whom participated in band and 4-H club.²¹⁰

Asheville-based architects Six Associates designed the one-story 1952 cafeteria addition at the building's south end and likely prepared plans for the free-standing classroom building erected in 1956. The public school ceased functioning in 1993, when the Henderson County and Hendersonville City school systems merged and consolidated campuses. The building subsequently housed Tuxedo

²⁰⁹ Erle G. Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels; Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 99; "A History of Flat Rock High School," undated document in the files of the HCGHS, Hendersonville.

²¹⁰ "Tuxedo School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950.

Extended Day School for special needs children until 2003. It has remained vacant since that time.²¹¹

**Valley Hill School
1922, 1929, 1952, 1960,
1965**

**175 South Carolina
Street
Hendersonville**



Description

This campus comprises a hip-roofed brick school completed in 1922 as well as a Modernist brick 1950 gymnasium and a 1952 cafeteria with a 1965 library and office addition. Masons executed the one-story 1922 structure in running bond with a soldier-course watertable and window and door lintels. A one-story, hip-roofed wing projects from the west elevation and a matching four-classroom addition

²¹¹ Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County*, 100. “Phil Alexander, “Empty schools may house mall, alternative program,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 18, 1994, p. 3B; Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 100.

extended the school to the north in 1929. Bracketed hip-roofed canopies surmount double-leaf wood-paneled doors on the primary façade (east elevation), as well as the north and south elevations. Brick and concrete steps lead to each entrance. Plywood panels cover wide window openings that originally contained grouped, double-hung, six-over-six wood-sash windows.

Northwest of the school, the one-story, flat-roofed, brick 1950 gymnasium is executed in common bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. Large multipane metal-frame windows illuminate the interior. A square brick chimney rises at the southwest corner.

The one-story 1952 cafeteria east of the gymnasium matches in terms of brick bond, but the original steel windows have been replaced and a low-gable roof added on top of the flat roof. A flat-roofed canopy shelters the west double-leaf steel door and four-horizontal-pane transom on the south elevation. The brick 1965 addition, which created an ell at the cafeteria's east end, contained offices and a library.²¹²

Historical Background

In 1869, Arnold Ficker donated to the school district a tract of land upon which residents erected the area's earliest documented educational building, which was named Ficker School in his honor. The building remained in used until 1908, when Mrs. Morris subsidized the construction of a five-room, frame graded school. Enrollment grew to 200 students instructed by five teachers in 1921-1922.²¹³ That year, the Henderson County Board of Education engaged contractors to erect a one-story, brick, ten-classroom school at a cost of approximately \$15,000. A four-classroom addition extended the school to the north in fall 1929. Valley Hill School principal Julia Trimble Redden and nine teachers oversaw fifty-seven high school and 168 elementary school pupils in 1929-1930. High school students utilized four classrooms. Nine youth graduated that spring, when the campus became an accredited high school. In fall 1933, the Board of Education deemed that Valley Hill School's upper grades would move to Flat Rock High School.²¹⁴

During the 1939-1940 academic year, Redden and eight female teachers instructed an average of 280 of 302 enrolled first- through seventh-grade students. Redden retired in 1945 after a forty-three year tenure as the school's principal. Clara C. Babb assumed the institution's leadership in 1945 and, along with seven female teachers, taught 296 first- through seventh-grade students in 1946. Daily attendance averaged 257 youth. Eighth grade students attended Flat Rock High School. Extracurricular activity options at Valley Hill School included athletics and citizenship and 4-H clubs. Facility improvements ranged from library updates to constructing a lunch room to be placed into service in fall 1946. In May 1950, principal Babb reported that first- through seventh-grade enrollment comprised 348 pupils educated by nine full-time female teachers and a part-time female music instructor. Daily attendance averaged 291 students, some of whom participated in 4-H and science club.²¹⁵

²¹² Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County*, 101.

²¹³ Erle G. Stillwell, "School Map of Henderson County, N. C.," 1921-1922; Henderson County Education History Initiative, "Henderson County School History," exhibit panels.

²¹⁴ "Valley Hill High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930; "Valley Hill Becomes an Accredited High School," *Hendersonville Times*, May 1, 1930; "A History of Flat Rock High School," undated document in the files of the HCGHS, Hendersonville.

²¹⁵ "Valley Hill School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950; Division of School Planning, *School Survey Report: Henderson County*, 101.

Asheville-based architects Six Associates designed the 1950 gymnasium and 1952 cafeteria erected at the campus's north end as part of a system-wide school improvement campaign.²¹⁶ Enrollment remained stable through the 1960s. Principal Clara Babb's eleven-teacher faculty instructed 331 first-through third-grade students in February 1965, at which time Babb was Henderson County's only female principal.²¹⁷ Valley Hill School ceased operating in June 1983.²¹⁸

**1950 gymnasium (right)
and 1952 cafeteria (below)**

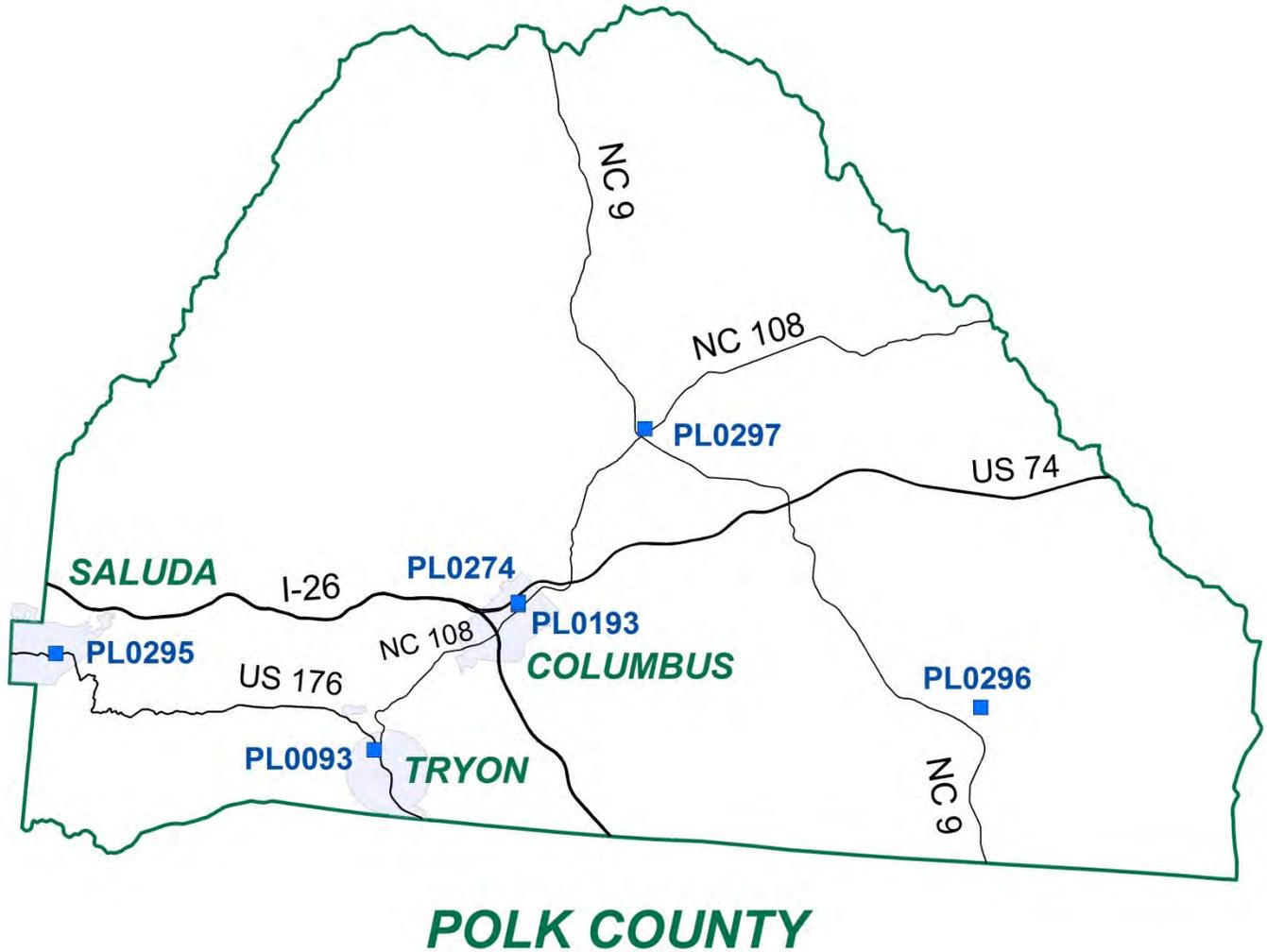


²¹⁶ Mitchell, *Buildings as History*, 100; "Hendersonville, Henderson County Spend More than \$1,000,000 annually on School Systems," *Asheville Citizen*, March 26, 1953.

²¹⁷ Connie Claris, "Only Woman School Principal in the County," *Western Carolina*, February 25, 1965, p. 2.

²¹⁸ Ginny Thompson, HCGHS, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, October 1, 2014.

V. Surveyed Polk County Schools



Map illustrating the relative locations of surveyed schools

created by Michael T. Southern, Senior Architectural Historian and GIS Coordinator,
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, October 2014

Polk County Historical Background and Education Context

Little documentation survives regarding nineteenth-century educational opportunities for Polk County youth. As usual in rural communities, residents initially subsidized small subscription schools. After the county's 1855 formation, tax revenue allowed for the construction of several log schools. These and similar rudimentary buildings sufficed until the early 1910s, when the Polk County Board of Education erected a series of one-story, weatherboarded, hip-roofed schools with gabled entrance porticos.²¹⁹

Polk County's student population grew slowly through the twentieth century's first decades. In 1900, 1,320 white students enrolled in county schools, but only 826 regularly attended classes. African American enrollment totaled 372, with daily attendance averaging 175 youth. Numbers increased slightly in 1910, with 1,392 white pupils and 344 black students on school rosters. The legislature's 1919 passage of compulsory attendance legislation boosted enrollment to 2,281 white children and 330 African American youth in 1920.²²⁰

Polk County school superintendent E. W. S. Cobb announced in August 1922 that a central consolidated school would operate in each township that year. In most cases, the Board of Education provided bus transportation. All but two campuses featured new brick structures that contained auditoriums intended to function as community centers in addition to hosting student events.²²¹

Modest frame schools served most of Polk County's African American students through the twentieth century's first decades. In order to construct new buildings—most of which were one-story and weatherboarded—in the 1920s, school administrators solicited public donations as well as matching grants from the Rosenwald Fund. Five Polk County schools received Rosenwald subsidies: Coxe (two classrooms, 1924), Pea Ridge (two classrooms, 1921; built under Tuskegee program), Rosenwald in the Green Creek community (two classrooms, 1922), Tryon (five classrooms, 1923), and Union Grove (two classrooms, 1924). All have been demolished.²²² The Polk County Board of Education erected other African American schools including Saluda School, St. Paul School near Columbus, Stony Knoll School in the Mill Spring vicinity, and Ponderville and Zion Grove Schools, close to Coxe Store.

Student registration increased slightly by 1930, when 2,390 white and 418 African American pupils signed up to attend twenty white and seven African American schools. Enrollment remained stable throughout the decade. The Polk County Board of Education operated six white campuses—Green Creek, Green River, New Hope, Mill Spring, Stearns, and Sunnyview. Schools in the communities of Lynn, Mt. Lebanon, Saluda, and Tryon also served white youth. African American students attended six county-maintained schools—Coxe, Melvin Hill, Pea Ridge, Rosenwald, Stony Knoll, and Union Grove—as well as campuses in Saluda and Tryon. In 1935, county school administrators enumerated

²¹⁹ Robin S. Lattimore and Leslie M. Bush, *Remembering Green Creek, North Carolina: The Heritage of a Rural Community* (Rutherfordton: Hilltop Publications, 2004), 9, 32-33; Polk County Historical Association, Inc., *Polk County, North Carolina, History* (Spartanburg, S. C.: The Reprint Company, 2006 edition), 121, 123.

²²⁰ "Polk County," NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, 1935, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

²²¹ E. W. S. Cobb, "One Consolidated Central School In Each Township," *Raleigh News and Observer*, August 3, 1922.

²²² "Polk County Schools," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2014); "North Carolina Rosenwald Schools," <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolsnc.html> (accessed August 2014).

2,204 white elementary school and 570 high school students and 414 African American elementary and ninety-seven high school youth. City schools served an additional 709 white elementary school and 219 high school pupils and 158 African American elementary and eighty-two high school students. Twenty-four buses transported white students to Green Creek, Mill Spring, Saluda, Stearns, and Sunnyview Schools.²²³

The economic challenges that ensued from the Great Depression resulted in limited school improvement funding during the early 1930s. However, the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state's first New Deal program that created jobs for unemployed citizens, subsidized Polk County school projects from 1932 to 1935 including school, gymnasium, and athletic field construction and maintenance, heating system installation, and grounds improvements.²²⁴ The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) followed, engaging citizens in work endeavors ranging from public health and manufacturing initiatives to cultural activities. The program facilitated Polk County educational and athletic building construction as well as the operation of school lunch rooms through the early 1940s.

The Polk County Board of Education undertook a system-wide school improvement campaign in the early 1950s. Contractors completed Cobb School, an African American campus for all grades, near Green Creek in 1951 at a cost of \$137,000. In 1953, sixty-seven white teacher and seven African American educators staffed schools in Columbus, Green Creek, Mill Spring, and Saluda. The white and African American campuses in Tryon, subsidized by an additional tax, operated independently.²²⁵

In 1970, three high schools—Landrum, Polk Central, and Tryon—and five elementary schools—Green Creek, Landrum, Mill Spring, Stearns, and Tryon—served students. In 1981, the Polk County Board of Education operated six campuses: Green Creek, Mill Spring, Polk Central, Saluda, Stearns, and Sunnyview.²²⁶

Tryon's African American School

Principals' reports are available for only a few of Polk County's African American schools. In order to provide a representative example for comparative purposes, information regarding Tryon's public school for African American youth follows although the school has been demolished.

In May 1936, principal L. R. Wells reported that three female teachers educated Tryon's African American elementary school students. Forty-six youth attended high school classes taught by Wells and his wife Helen J. Wells in two of the building's five classrooms. After-school opportunities included football and basketball teams; drama, glee, literary, and science clubs; and Hi-Y. Nine students graduated that spring.²²⁷

Wells and four teachers taught an average of 140 African American students enrolled in first- through seventh grades in 1939-1940. After June 1940 fire destroyed the school, classes met in building formerly occupied by an Episcopal school for the 1940-1941 academic term. During that year, four

²²³ Ibid.; "Polk County," *Asheville Citizen*, December 11, 1932.

²²⁴ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512.

²²⁵ "Polk Gains in School Plants," *Asheville Citizen*, November 23, 1953.

²²⁶ Division of School Planning, *Polk County School Survey: A Revision* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1981), 10.

²²⁷ "Tryon Colored High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1936.

female teachers oversaw the elementary grades. Principal T. C. Tillman and Helen J. Wells instructed forty-eight high school pupils, two of whom successfully completed the course of study. In 1945-1946, daily attendance numbered 104 of 126 enrolled students under the supervision of principal J. A. Tillman and six female teachers. In 1950, Tryon Colored School enrolled 191 first- through eighth-grade students in five classrooms led by principal W. H. Green and four female teachers. High school attendance typically comprised thirty-six of thirty-eight enrolled pupils educated by Green, one male teacher, and one female instructor in two of the school's seven classrooms.²²⁸

The campus name changed to Edmund Embury in the early 1950s. Six teachers instructed elementary and high school students in 1953.²²⁹ During 1954-1955, principal E. A. Simmons, one female teacher, and one male faculty member taught thirty-six high school students, five of whom graduated. Facility improvements included sanding and finishing hardwood floors and installing tile floors in the restrooms. In the term ending in spring 1960, principal R. L. Webster and two teachers oversaw thirty-one high school students, five of whom graduated. Building updates included painting and installing new chairs in one classroom.²³⁰

²²⁸ "Tryon Colored School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1950; "Tryon Colored High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1941, 1946, 1950.

²²⁹ "Polk Gains in School Plants," *Asheville Citizen*, November 23, 1953.

²³⁰ "Edmund Embury School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

**Columbus High School -
Stearns School
1917, 1926**

**125 East Mills Street
and
and**

**Stearns School Gymnasium
1936, 1940**

**105 North Peak Street
Columbus**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Polk County GIS



Description

In 1926, builders more than doubled the size of the two-story, brick, 1917 Columbus High School, creating a sixteen-classroom edifice with an expansive Classical Revival-style façade dominated by a central, pedimented, full-height entrance portico supported by robust Tuscan columns and pilasters. At the main (east) entrance, a segmental-arched door opening frames a recessed entrance vestibule containing a double-leaf door comprising two vertical panels below six glazed panes in each door and

an arched six-pane transom. Beadboard sheathes the entrance vestibule ceiling.

Masons executed the 1926 classroom addition and the hip-roofed rear auditorium in five-to-one-common bond to match the original brick. The Henderson County Board of Education commissioned masons to enclose the upper portions of the large, round-arched auditorium window openings and to decrease the window opening size in the main block, all with five-to-one-common bond brick. The original tall, multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows have been replaced with similar synthetic windows. The replacement metal-frame, double-leaf glass door on the north elevation is set in a round-arched surround beneath an enclosed transom.



Stearns School Gymnasium, 1936, 1940, 105 North Peak Street

A flat-roofed canopy supported by round steel posts extends from the school's north entrance to the two-story, hip-roofed gymnasium and cafeteria erected in 1936, which was initially a weatherboarded structure sheathed with running-bond brick veneer in 1940. The gymnasium/cafeteria originally had exposed rafter ends and single and paired six-over-six wood-sash windows. The stone foundation and steps are original.²³¹ A hip-roofed porch supported by square brick posts spanned by a brick kneewall capped with concrete extends across the northeast elevation. The windows and doors have been replaced and vinyl siding clads the soffits.

New Deal program funds also facilitated the construction of most of the stone walls and benches featuring raised mortar joints throughout campus. A one-story, hip-roofed, brick, 1950s shop building with a gabled frame rear (northeast) addition stands southwest of the school and gymnasium.

Historical Background

A one-room subscription school served Columbus youth until 1891, when Ohio native Frank M. Stearns funded the construction of a new building for first- through sixth-grade pupils. The school, initially called Columbus Institute, occupied several sites as it grew. The entity incorporated as Central Industrial Institute in 1898 and erected additional classrooms, an auditorium, and a dormitory in 1900. Stearns, the Methodist Episcopal Conference, and local residents subsidized the campus's operation until around 1906, when Polk County assumed oversight of what then became a public school with nine grades. Principal E. W. S. Cobb headed the institution beginning in 1910. That year, the addition of tenth and eleventh grades resulted in the campus becoming Columbus High School.

²³¹ "Gymnasium at Columbus, Polk County," photograph in North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Collection, NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Image 81, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Students occupied a two-story brick school in 1917. After Frank Stearns died in 1919, administrators renamed the campus in his memory.²³²

The 1917 school, erected at a cost of approximately \$8,500, included a library, offices, and seven classrooms, four of which housed high school grades. At the close of the 1920-1921 school term, Stearns School principal W. D. Loy reported fifty students enrolled in eighth through eleventh grades. Eleven pupils graduated that spring, completing their course of study under the direction of the principal and two other teachers. Eleven students resided on campus. In 1925, principal J. W. McIntosh and three other teachers instructed sixty-two eighth- through eleventh-grade high school pupils, twelve of whom graduated that year. The remainder served 212 enrolled elementary school students. Teachers lived on campus in dormitories that could accommodate a total of thirty pupils who received room and board at a \$3.00 weekly charge. Athletic teams included baseball, basketball, and track. In 1929-1930, principal W. P. Whitesides and twelve teachers oversaw seventy-nine high school and 321 elementary school pupils. Twenty-four youth graduated that spring. In 1926, contractors renovated and expanded the 1917 school at a cost of around \$45,000. The facility encompassed offices, an auditorium, a library, and sixteen classrooms, five of which were utilized for high school grades. Two home economics laboratories provided equipment for cooking and sewing instruction. Grounds improvements included removing two “old” buildings from the site and creating a tennis court.²³³



During the 1933-1934 academic year, principal J. M. Andrews and eight female teachers instructed an average of 309 first- through seventh-grade students. The building also housed high school students, who occupied five of the fourteen classrooms. The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the \$9,342.00 construction cost of the gymnasium and cafeteria completed in 1936 and contributed \$282.20 toward the landscaping of school grounds, which ostensibly involved the construction of the stone retaining walls throughout the campus. Average daily attendance grew to 332 by spring 1936, by which time one additional male teacher had joined the elementary school staff. In 1934-1935, Andrews’s faculty consisted of four high school teachers other than himself and ten elementary school instructors. High

²³² Vadah M. Tallant, “Central Industrial Institute and Stearns School,” in Polk County Historical Association, Inc., *Polk County, North Carolina, History* (Spartanburg, S. C.: The Reprint Company, 2006 edition), 36.

²³³ “Stearns School,” “Principal’s Annual High School Reports,” NCDPI, DIS, 1921, 1925, 1930.

school enrollment comprised 165 students, nineteen of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 422 pupils.²³⁴

In 1940 principal H. P. Hawfield and ten teachers (eight women and two men) oversaw ten elementary-grade classrooms with 354 enrolled students, only 277 of whom attended regularly. Hawfield and four other teachers instructed 143 high school pupils, twenty-three of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students participated in extracurricular activities including student council and 4-H as well as the publication of a newspaper called *Voice of Stearns*. Campus improvements that year included brick-veneering the gymnasium and the construction of two restrooms and stone retaining walls throughout the grounds.²³⁵

In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools. That year, principal Vada E. McMurry, seven female teachers, and one male faculty member taught an average of 247 of the 304 pupils enrolled in Stearns School's elementary grades. The student body also included forty-nine high school pupils instructed by McMurry, one female teacher, and one male faculty member in three of the school's twelve classrooms.²³⁶ Beginning in fall 1947, the Board of Education assigned all Columbus Township high school students to either Mill Spring or Tryon Schools. Stearns School retained first through eighth grades.

In June 1950, principal Sidney M. Gosnell reported that enrollment comprised 303 pupils educated by himself and seven female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 257 students, some of whom participated in athletics and 4-H. Campus improvements ranged from hardwood floor refinishing to restroom and water fountain installation in first and second-grade classrooms, lunch room renovation and equipment upgrade, velour stage curtain and backdrop fireproofing, general maintenance, and landscaping. Furnishing acquisitions included 140 chair-desks, science laboratory equipment, and library tables, chairs, and shelves.²³⁷

The Polk County Board of Education consolidated high school students from the Green Creek, Mill Spring, Sunny View, and Stearns campuses at the newly-completed Polk Central High School in 1960. Stearns School then served first- through eighth-grade pupils.

The building now houses Polk County Schools' administrative offices. The Polk County Recreation Department maintains the gymnasium for community use and occupies offices on the lower level. The school parcel function as a park containing a playground, picnic area, benches, gazebo, and a paved walking trail.

²³⁴ "Stearns School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935; "Stearns School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934; Division of School Planning, *Polk County School Survey: A Revision*, 44.

²³⁵ "Stearns School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; "Stearns School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512.

²³⁶ Stearns School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946; Stearns School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," , NCDPI, DIS, 1946.

²³⁷ "Stearns School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1950. Stearns School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950.

**Green Creek School
1936, 1946, 1955, 1971**

**25 Shields Drive
Green Creek**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Polk County GIS



Green Creek School, 1936 gymnasium

Description

The Polk County Board of Education demolished the 1924 Green Creek School in the 1990s, but Green Creek Baptist Church utilizes the 1936 gymnasium, 1946 agriculture building, 1955 classroom wing, and 1971 cafeteria as a community center and maintains the baseball diamond and athletic fields.

The austere, two-story, 1936 gymnasium erected with New Deal program funding features a gable-on-hip roof and walls executed in running bond with five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. A gabled entrance porch with round-arched door openings shelters the east entrance. Replacement raised-panel doors have been installed throughout the building. A shed-roofed metal canopy spans the distance between the porch and the flat corrugated-metal breezeway that covers the sidewalks between the buildings. The double, multipane, wood-sash windows have been replaced with one-over-one synthetic sash windows.

Green Creek Baptist Church remodeled the building's entrance vestibule and added two bathrooms. The gymnasium interior is completely intact, retaining flush-board wall sheathing, hardwood floors, wood bleachers, and a wood balcony that spans the east elevation. Raised-horizontal-panel doors provide access to two small dressing rooms from the balcony's south elevation.

The 1971 cafeteria stands east of the gymnasium. Executed in running bond brick, with tall, rectangular, multipane steel-frame windows, the building initially had a flat roof but is now protected by a front-gable roof with vinyl siding covering the gable ends, soffits, and cornice. A one-story, flat-roofed hyphen enclosed with large single-pane rectangular windows and vinyl-sided frame walls connects the cafeteria to a Modernist, one-story, brick, flat-roofed, six-classroom, 1955 wing to the east. Deep eaves supported by brick walls shelter expansive steel-frame, multipane window bays above brick kneewalls. Two window units on the east elevation have been partially enclosed. A tall, square, brick smokestack rises from the south elevation.



Green Creek School, 1955 classroom wing

A one-story, five-to-one common bond brick, front-gable-roofed, 1930s classroom building stands south of the gymnasium, on the south side of the 1924 school site. The windows have been covered with T-111 siding and a garage door installed on the west elevation. A one-story, gable-on-hip-roofed, concrete block, 1946 agriculture building with exposed rafter ends, multipane steel frame windows and a wood-paneled double-leaf door on the east elevations stands at the complex's south end.

Historical Background

The Green Creek community was known as “Green’s Creek” until the early 1930s, but to avoid confusion in this document, “Green Creek” is used throughout the narrative.

The Polk County Board of Education erected a one-story, weatherboarded, gable-roofed, four-classroom school to serve residents of Green Creek and the surrounding area in 1915. Due to the rural location, the school system constructed a two-story, six-bedroom teacherage in the early 1920s to provide housing for instructors.²³⁸

At the close of the 1920-1921 school term, principal Walter P. Hughes reported twenty-four students enrolled in eighth through tenth grades, with daily attendance averaging fifteen youth. One young woman graduated that spring and one male student lived on campus. The one-story brick school completed in 1924 at a cost of approximately \$35,000 included offices, an auditorium, a library, and ten classrooms, four of which housed high school grades. The remainder served a daily average of 126 of 241 enrolled elementary school students educated by six female teachers in 1925. That year, principal Edgar T. Hines and three other teachers instructed seventy-five eighth- through eleventh-grade high school pupils, twelve of whom graduated. Athletic teams included baseball and basketball. In 1929-1930, principal W. K. McLean and nine teachers oversaw eighty-eight high school and 187 elementary school pupils. Five youth graduated that spring. High school students utilized four classrooms. During the 1933-1934 academic year, eleven female and three male teachers instructed an average of 472 first- through seventh-grade students enrolled at Green Creek School. The complex also accommodated high school students, who occupied five of sixteen classrooms. The facility included an auditorium, library, and offices. In 1934-1935, principal W. J. Nesbitt’s faculty consisted of four high school teachers other than himself and eleven elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 145 students, twenty-one of whom graduated, while the elementary school’s roster included 461 pupils. Average daily attendance dropped to 410 pupils by spring 1936, but classroom distribution remained the same.²³⁹

The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the construction of the Green Creek School gymnasium, completed at a cost of \$6,386.92 in 1936, and contributed \$390.80 toward the landscaping of school grounds.²⁴⁰ During the 1939-1940 academic term, twelve female and one male teacher oversaw two sections of each elementary grade with the exception of seventh. Elementary school enrollment numbered 502, but daily attendance averaged 445 students. Principal A. A. Atkins and five other teachers instructed 168 high school pupils, sixteen of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students utilized six of eighteen classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including home economics, drama, glee, literary, and Beta clubs, as well as the publication of a newspaper called *Enklings*.²⁴¹

²³⁸ Lattimore and Bush, *Remembering Green Creek*, 35; Margie Horne, “Old Green Creek School,” in Polk County Historical Association, Inc., *Polk County, North Carolina, History*, 50-51.

²³⁹ “Green Creek High School,” “Principal’s Annual High School Reports,” NCDPI, DIS, 1921, 1925, 1930, 1935; “Green Creek School,” “Principal’s Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools,” NCDPI, DIS, 1934.

²⁴⁰ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512; “Gymnasium at Green Creek School, Polk County,” photograph in North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Collection, NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Image 130, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

²⁴¹ “Green Creek High School,” “Principal’s Annual High School Reports,” NCDPI, DIS, 1940; “Green Creek School,” “Principal’s Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools,” NCDPI, DIS, 1936, 1940.

In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools. That year, principal R. A. Wilson and twelve women taught an average of 382 of the 476 pupils enrolled in Green Creek School's elementary grades. The student body also comprised 74 high school pupils instructed by Wilson and three female teachers in four of the school's eighteen classrooms. Facility improvements included the construction of an agriculture building and new playground equipment installation. In June 1950, principal E. J. McKinney reported that first- through eighth-grade enrollment encompassed 481 pupils educated by twelve female teachers and one male faculty member. Daily attendance averaged 420 students. High school attendance typically comprised 108 of 120 enrolled pupils educated by McKinney, two female teachers, and two male faculty members in four classrooms. Facility improvements included renovating and painting fourteen classrooms, installing electric lights in thirteen rooms, erecting a flag pole, and landscaping the grounds.²⁴²

In 1954-1955, principal Harold C. Yeager and five teachers instructed 122 high school students, 23 of whom finished their course of study. The campus grew with the addition of a six-classroom wing. Other improvements ranged from the installation of venetian blinds, soap dispensers, and three clocks, to concrete sidewalk completion. During the 1959-1960 term, Yeager and five faculty members oversaw 103 high school students, 15 of whom graduated. Facility updates encompassed high school and gymnasium roof repair, grading and landscaping, and the installation of two large security lights.²⁴³

The Polk County Board of Education consolidated high school students from the Green Creek, Mill Spring, Sunny View, and Stearns campuses at the newly-completed Polk Central High School in 1960. Facilities including the African American Cobb School closed during integration and its pupils began attending Green Creek School in 1967. Students benefited from the completion of a spacious cafeteria in 1971. Further reorganization in 1974 transferred seventh and eighth-grade youth from Green Creek to Polk Central. Green Creek operated until spring 1992, after which Polk Central served the area's first- through eighth-grade pupils. Green Creek Baptist Church acquired the property in 1997 and has operated it as a community center since that time.²⁴⁴

²⁴² "Green Creek School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950; "Green Creek High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950, 1955; Division of School Planning, *Polk County School Survey: A Revision*, 37.

²⁴³ "Green Creek School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960; Division of School Planning, *Polk County School Survey: A Revision*, 37.

²⁴⁴ Lattimore and Bush, *Remembering Green Creek*, 37; Division of School Planning, *Polk County School Survey: A Revision*, 37; Polk County Deed Book 239, p. 1164.

**Mill Spring School
1923, 1940**

**156 School Road
Mill Spring**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Polk County GIS



Description

Mill Spring School occupies a hilltop site bounded by School Road to the northwest and the two-lane State Highway 108 alignment to the southeast. Stone retaining walls and steps ameliorate the grade change between the road, school, and parking lots. The Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District owns the almost six-acre tract surrounding the school, while Polk County retains ownership of 7.17 acres containing athletic fields to the east.

Mason executed the austere two-story Mill Spring School's original 1923 south section, 1940 north wing, and 1940 auditorium in five-to-one common bond. Stepped-parapet firewalls delineate the

building phases. Decorative elements include a corbelled hood above the round-arched doorway leading to the recessed entrance on the west elevation. Concrete steps with metal pipe railings and a matching handicapped-accessible ramp provide access to three single-leaf doors, each comprising two horizontal panels below nine glazed panes and eight-pane transoms. Beadboard sheathes the entrance vestibule ceiling.

On the north elevation, a gabled wood canopy supported by round steel posts extends from the school to the street above a wide sidewalk. A one-story hip-roofed entrance vestibule projects from the south elevation. To the east, a corrugated-metal shed canopy supported by round steel posts covers a concrete block loading dock outside three roll-up garage doors on the auditorium wing's lower level. A brick chimney rises on the 1923 wing's east elevation.

Soldier-course lintels top the first-story window openings. Windows with segmental-arched surrounds illuminate the stair halls at the building's north and south ends, while a large round-arched window near the east elevation's north end lights the stair well. Round-arched surrounds distinguish the large rectangular auditorium windows, which are surmounted by stuccoed panels ornamented with central brick medallions. The steel-frame windows with operable central sections in the 1940 additions are original. The Henderson County Board of Education replaced most of the original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows in the 1923 section during the 1940 construction.

A one-story, hip-roofed, running-bond brick, 1950s workshop stands east of the school. Multipane steel-frame windows light the interior. A small matching utility room is northwest of the workshop.

Historical Background

Edisto, South Carolina, educator O. L. Baynard erected and operated Baynard Academy in Mill Spring around 1890. The private institution served local youth for a short time.²⁴⁵

The Polk County Board of Education subsidized the approximately \$16,000-construction cost of the two-story brick Mill Spring School completed in 1923. The building encompassed offices, an auditorium, and eight classrooms, only one of which housed high school students in 1929-1930. That year, principal G. C. Searife and five teachers oversaw fifteen eighth and ninth-grade students and 230 elementary school pupils. N. J. Nesbitt served as principal beginning fall 1930.²⁴⁶

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration contributed \$342.20 toward the landscaping of school grounds in the early 1930s.²⁴⁷ During the 1933-1934 academic year, principal Nesbitt and six female teachers instructed an average of 233 first- through seventh-grade students. High school students occupied three of the ten classrooms. All students shared the auditorium, library, and two restrooms. Elementary school enrollment grew to 334 in 1940, when the faculty comprised principal W. H. McDonald and eight female teachers. McDonald and his wife instructed sixty-one eighth and ninth-grade pupils. Youth enjoyed extracurricular activities such as bible, glee, hobby, science, and 4-H clubs.²⁴⁸

²⁴⁵ Pauline Walker Bell, "Mill Spring," in Polk County Historical Association, Inc., *Polk County, North Carolina, History*, 59.

²⁴⁶ "Mill Spring High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930.

²⁴⁷ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512.

²⁴⁸ "Mill Spring High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1935, 1940; "Mill Spring School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1940

After a January 1940 fire destroyed the building's north wing, Works Progress Administration funds subsidized the school's repair and expansion. That year, contractors remodeled the surviving 1923 classrooms, replaced two restrooms, and added eight classrooms and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 546 people. Other campus improvements constituted the construction of a gymnasium and stone retaining walls throughout the grounds. The Works Progress Administration also facilitated the lunch room's operation.²⁴⁹

In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools. Principal J. W. Gantt and nine women then taught an average of 264 of the 350 pupils enrolled in Mill Spring School's elementary grades. The student body also included fifty-seven high school pupils instructed by Gantt and two female teachers in three of the school's twelve classrooms. In June 1950, principal Stanly L. Walkowiz reported that first- through eighth-grade enrollment encompassed 359 pupils educated by nine female teachers and one male faculty member. Daily attendance averaged 302 students. High school attendance typically comprised 125 of 139 enrolled pupils educated by Walkowiz, four female teachers, and three male faculty members in eight classrooms. Some students participated in athletics, the school newspaper, 4-H, glee club, and a bible study group. Campus improvements included exterior painting, landscaping, drainage and sewer system repair, and the acquisition of three acres to allow for the construction of an addition and a parking lot.²⁵⁰

In 1954-1955, principal Walkowiz and eight teachers instructed 203 high school students, thirty-three of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included interior painting, remodeling of second-floor classrooms in order to move all high school grades upstairs, and installation of a water fountain in the lunch room. During the 1959-1960 term, Walkowiz and twelve faculty members oversaw 259 high school students, thirty-one of whom graduated. Campus updates encompassed classroom and hall painting, auditorium curtain fabrication, window shade acquisition, gutter and downspout installation, landscaping, and the addition of three exterior security lights.²⁵¹

The Polk County Board of Education consolidated high school students from the Green Creek, Mill Spring, Sunny View, and Stearns campuses at the newly-completed Polk Central High School in 1960. Mill Spring School then served first- through eighth-grade pupils. The campus integrated in 1969 and functioned as an elementary school from 1972 through spring 1993.²⁵² The Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District acquired the property in December 2009 and utilizes it as the Mill Spring Agricultural Center, which encompasses offices for small businesses, community meeting spaces, classrooms, and the Mill Spring Farm Store, which promotes locally-grown food.

²⁴⁹ "Mill Spring High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; "Mill Spring School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940.

²⁵⁰ "Mill Spring School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950; "Mill Spring High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950, 1955.

²⁵¹ "Mill Spring School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

²⁵² "Mill Spring School: A History," timeline in exhibit displayed in the school's central hall in 2014.

Saluda School
1924, 1936, 1938, 1976

214 Main Street
Saluda

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Polk County GIS



Saluda School, 1924, 1936

Description

Saluda School occupies a hilltop site bounded by Seminary Street to the northwest and Main Street to the southeast. The campus comprises five buildings erected beginning in 1924. Concrete steps with metal pipe railings and matching handicapped-accessible ramps provide access to the buildings. Flat

metal-roofed breezeways supported by metal posts cover the sidewalks. Stone and concrete retaining walls and steps ameliorate the grade change between the road, school, athletic fields, and parking lots.

Masons expanded and stone-veneered the two-story, brick, 1924 school in 1936, creating a distinctive hip-roofed building sheathed in random-course granite with redbrick window and door surrounds. A pointed brick parapet capped with terra cotta coping rises above the pedimented, full-height entrance portico, which is supported by slender square posts on brick plinth bases. The replacement double-leaf steel door on the east elevation is recessed. At the north entrance, a round-arched, corbelled surround frames a leaded-glass fanlight and a replacement double-leaf steel door. The Polk County Board of Education replaced all the original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows with synthetic, double-hung, multipane windows.



The two-story, running-bond brick, 1936 gymnasium originally featured a clipped-gable roof with exposed rafter ends and a double-leaf gable-end door sheltered by a flat-roofed bracketed canopy. Six-over-six wood sash windows, paired on the south elevation above-ground basement wall, illuminated the interior. The basement contained four classrooms. The windows and doors have been replaced and vinyl siding clads the soffits.

A large, U-shaped, 1976 classroom building clad in textured, ribbed, precast concrete panels is northeast of the gymnasium, while a two-story classroom building sheathed with small, square, rough-face concrete blocks and weatherboards stands on the gymnasium's southeast side.

Historical Background

The American Missionary Association subsidized the work of educator Emily C. Prudden, a Connecticut native, as she established the school that became Jones Seminary in All Healing Springs, Gaston County; the nearby Lincoln Academy; and Skyland Institute in Blowing Rock, Watauga County. Prudden then orchestrated the construction of Saluda Seminary's first building in the summer of 1891, replacing a log school that had served Saluda youth during the nineteenth century. According to local tradition, two African American builders from the northeastern United States led the team of

craftsmen who erected the three-story, weatherboarded, side-gable-roofed school. The edifice featured tall, double-hung, multipane windows; a full-height, two-tier, central portico with a Palladian window piercing its gable; and a daylight basement. The institution's inaugural enrollment numbered about fifty young women in October 1891, but tripled to 150 pupils within a month. The school soon admitted male students and the building's third floor served as the boys' dormitory. A local contractor's crew completed Ryder Hall, the female dormitory, in 1909.²⁵³

Emily Prudden died in 1917 after founding eight western North Carolina campuses for white girls and seven schools for young African American women. All eventually admitted male pupils. Saluda Seminary continued to grow, expanding with another classroom building in 1919 and accommodating approximately fifty boarding and thirty day students in spring 1921. However, that April, Principal F. M. Hollister stated that funding constraints, coupled with Saluda's rapid growth and the proximity of other public and private schools, presented myriad challenges. The following month, the institution announced plans to cease operations.²⁵⁴ The campus then became a public school.

In 1925, principal W. G. Sawyer and two other teachers instructed fifty-three eighth through eleventh-grade high school pupils, seven of whom graduated that year. The two-story brick school completed in 1924 at a cost of approximately \$34,000 included offices, an auditorium, a library, and twelve classrooms, three of which housed high school grades. The remainder served a daily average of 144 of 240 enrolled elementary school students educated by six female teachers. Athletic teams included baseball and basketball. In 1929-1930, principal L. A. Gossett and nine teachers oversaw sixty-seven high school and 176 elementary school pupils. Four youth graduated that spring. High school students utilized three classrooms. In 1934-1935, principal M. Herbert Randolph's faculty consisted of three high school teachers other than himself and seven elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised one hundred students, eighteen of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 282 pupils. Randolph noted that the campus was in great need of additional classroom space.²⁵⁵

Masons expanded and stone-veneered the 1924 school in 1936, adding six classrooms, an auditorium, and a library. The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the construction of the two-story brick gymnasium at a cost of \$6,726.38 in 1938 and contributed \$637.40 toward the landscaping of school grounds.²⁵⁶

During the 1939-1940 term, principal J. G. Michael and three other teachers instructed 92 high school pupils, sixteen of whom successfully completed the course of study. The faculty also included eight elementary school instructors. High school students utilized four classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including literary club and 4-H. In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools. That year, principal W.

²⁵³ *The Missionary*, November 1891; Phoebe Pollitt, "Emily Prudden and Her Schools," University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Ph.D. dissertation, 1994, 75-78; Chuck Ross, "Saluda's Seminary Drew Students From Three States At Turn of Century," undated clipping from unidentified newspaper, p. 12.

²⁵⁴ F. M. Hollister, "The Land of the Sky," *The American Missionary*, April 1921, pp. 31-33; "Change and Progress," *The American Missionary*, July 1921, pp. 157-158; "The Highlanders," *The American Missionary*, October 1921, p. S10.

²⁵⁵ "Saluda High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1925, 1930, 1935.

²⁵⁶ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512; "Saluda Gymnasium; C.W.A. Project No. 41501," photographs in North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Collection, NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Images 82-87, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh; Division of School Planning, *Polk County School Survey: A Revision*, 42.

E. Sawyer and eight women taught an average of 260 of the 282 pupils enrolled in Saluda School's elementary grades. The campus also accommodated sixty-nine high school students taught by Sawyer, two female teachers, and one male faculty member in four of the school's eight classrooms.²⁵⁷

In June 1950, Sawyer reported that first through eighth-grade enrollment encompassed 288 pupils educated by eight female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 238 youth. High school attendance typically comprised fifty-nine of sixty-six enrolled pupils educated by Sawyer, two female teachers, and one male faculty member in four classrooms. Some students participated in athletics, 4-H, Junior Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and music club. Children enjoyed new playground equipment installed that year.²⁵⁸

In 1954-1955, principal Sawyer and three teachers instructed sixty-nine high school students, eleven of whom graduated. Facility improvements included installation of additional library shelves, fluorescent lighting in the high school, and gymnasium updates. During the 1959-1960 term, principal Henry M. Davis and five faculty members oversaw 105 high school students, twenty of whom graduated. Campus updates encompassed replacing the elementary school and cafeteria roofs and converting the principal's cottage into a Home Economics building.²⁵⁹

**Classroom and
administration building**



²⁵⁷ "Saluda High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; "Saluda School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946.

²⁵⁸ "Saluda High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955; "Saluda School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1950.

²⁵⁹ "Saluda School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

**Tryon School
1923, 1953, 1950s, 1960s**

**100 School Place
Tryon**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Polk County GIS



Tryon School, 1923

Description

Tryon School stands on a hill north of Tryon's commercial district bounded by School Place to the south and Cherry Street to the east. The campus comprises a two-story, brick, Classical Revival-style 1923 building with a series of brick additions erected through the 1960s as well as a freestanding

1950s gymnasium and a large gabled early-twenty-first-century classroom building. Concrete steps with metal pipe railings and matching handicapped-accessible ramps provide access to the buildings. Flat metal-roofed breezeways supported by metal posts cover most sidewalks on the complex's west side. Brick, stone, and concrete retaining walls and steps with metal pipe railings ameliorate the grade change between the roads, school, athletic fields, and parking lots.

The front-gable-roofed 1923 school, executed in running bond, faces east at the complex's center. A monumental pedimented tetrastyle portico supported by robust fluted columns dominates its façade, framing three bays of double-leaf doors set in flat-pediment surrounds beneath four-section paneled spandrels, paired double-hung windows, and tall transoms with geometrically-patterned mullions. Light fixtures with opaque globes hang from the coffered ceiling. The double-leaf doors and double-hung windows are replacements.

A two-story, brick, flat-roofed 1960s classroom wing connects the front-gable block to the 1927 auditorium. Brick pilasters rise from a parged kneewall to support a corbelled brick cornice below a projecting metal cornice. Metal coping caps the parapet. Replacement aluminum-frame windows solid panels fill the window openings. Other modifications include the 1960s installation of concrete steps leading to a concrete landing with a metal pipe railing that extends the wing's full width and provides exterior access to the second-story classrooms.



Tryon School, 1927 auditorium

The 1927 auditorium, also executed in running bond, features brick pilasters with cast-stone capitals flanking three bays, each of which originally contained a large window above a double-leaf door and a tall transom. The windows and transoms have been enclosed and the doors replaced. A cast-stone cornice encircles the building and metal coping caps the stepped parapet.

The two-story, brick, Modernist, 1953 addition that originally housed high school students features deep eaves supported by brick walls that shelter expansive steel-frame, multipane window bays above brick kneewalls. The first-story window sills are canted. Stuccoed spandrels separate the first and

second-story windows. On the east elevation, a narrow brick wall supports the concrete-aggregate steps that lead to a concrete landing with a metal pipe railing that extends the building's full width and provides exterior access to the second-story classrooms. Round steel posts support exposed steel roof trusses and beams.



Tryon School, 1960s classroom wing

Two curved, one-story, 1960s classroom and administration buildings extend from the 1953 building to a third matching wing. All three wings are executed in five-to-one-common bond and have aluminum-frame replacement windows. The south wing's flat roof projects to create a curved canopy supported by square posts at the edge of the sidewalk leading from the administrative offices to classrooms. The other formed-concrete canopies are straight. The east and north 1960s classroom buildings have low-pitched gable roofs. Deep eaves shelter large banks of windows. The east building's east elevation features a distinctive window configuration whereby canted panels separate each tall rectangular window bay.

The two-story, brick, almost-flat-roofed 1950s gymnasium stands at the campus's northwest corner, adjacent to a paved parking lot. A tall, square, brick smokestack rises on from the east elevation. The one-story, flat-roofed east wing contains a recessed entrance with two replacement double-leaf doors set in an aluminum-frame glass curtain wall. All of the doors and windows are replacements. The gymnasium's clerestory windows have been mostly enclosed.

A large, one-story, front-gable-roofed, early-twenty-first-century classroom building executed in running bond with stucco panels in the gable ends stands south of the 1950s gymnasium. Aluminum-frame windows and doors illuminate the interior. Athletic fields and a gravel parking lot are to the south.

Historical Background

The Polk County Board of Education erected a modest frame school to serve Tryon youth in 1885 and replaced it in 1906 with a two-story, brick, Classical Revival-style edifice that remains in use as

Tryon's Town Hall at 301 N. Trade Street.²⁶⁰ At the close of the 1920-1921 school term, Tryon School reported twenty-three students enrolled in eighth through tenth grades under the direction of two teachers, with daily attendance averaging fifteen youth. Enrollment grew steadily, necessitating the 1923 completion of a two-story, brick, Classical Revival-style school at a cost of approximately \$65,000. The building included a library, offices, and twelve classrooms. In 1925, principal W. A. Schilletter and two female teachers instructed sixty-one high school pupils enrolled in eighth through eleventh grades, seven of whom graduated that year. Three classrooms housed high school grades and the remainder served a daily average of 245 of 384 enrolled elementary school students. Athletic teams included baseball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and track. In 1929-1930, Schilletter and fourteen teachers oversaw ninety-two high school and 381 elementary school pupils. Twelve youth graduated that spring. High school students utilized five classrooms.²⁶¹

The federal Civil Works and Emergency Relief Administrations and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration subsidized the construction of the Tryon School gymnasium at a cost of \$6,283.75 in the early 1930s and contributed \$406.95 toward the landscaping of school grounds.²⁶² During the 1933-1934 academic year, Schilletter and eight female teachers instructed an average of 283 white first- through seventh-grade students, although 358 had enrolled. The building also housed high school students, who occupied five of the seventeen classrooms. The facility then included an auditorium, gymnasium, library, offices, and eight restrooms. In 1934-1935, Schilletter's faculty consisted of three high school teachers other than himself and eight elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 120 students, twenty-four of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 339 pupils. Average daily attendance numbered 286 students in spring 1936 and grew to 348 in 1940, when nine women taught the elementary grades. Schilletter and five other teachers instructed 151 high school pupils, sixteen of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students utilized seven of eighteen classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including drama, glee, and literary clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the publication of a newspaper called *Tryon Daily Bulletin*.²⁶³

In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools. That year, principal Thelma Mills and twelve female teachers taught an average of 377 of the 457 pupils enrolled in Tryon School's elementary grades. The student body also included eighty high school pupils instructed by principal Leslie K. Singley and five female teachers in five of the school's sixteen classrooms. In May 1950, principal F. M. Blankenship reported that first through eighth-grade enrollment encompassed 450 pupils educated by fourteen full-time female teachers and a part-time female music instructor. Daily attendance averaged 387 students, some of whom participated in Boy Scouts, Cubs, Girl Scouts, and Brownies. High school attendance typically comprised 140 of 175 enrolled pupils educated by Blankenship, five female teachers, and one male faculty member in six of twenty classrooms. Facility improvements included the installation of new restrooms, roofs, and a furnace stoker.²⁶⁴

²⁶⁰ "Tryon Public Schools," in Polk County Historical Association, Inc., *Polk County, North Carolina, History*, 87.

²⁶¹ "Tryon High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1921, 1925, 1930, 1935.

²⁶² The Polk County Board of Education demolished the 1936 gymnasium around 2006. Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 512; "Gymnasium at Tryon, Polk County," photograph in North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Collection, NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 141, Folder 10, Image 134-135, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

²⁶³ "Tryon High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; Tryon Graded School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1936, 1940.

²⁶⁴ "Tryon Graded School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950; "Tryon High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950.

In 1953, contractors completed a Modernist \$125,000-building to house the high school and landscaped the site.²⁶⁵ In 1954-1955, principal Brank Proffit and eight teachers oversaw 209 high school students, thirty-six of whom completed their course of study. During the 1959-1960 term, principal W. S. Hamilton and eleven faculty members oversaw 263 high school students, forty-six of whom graduated. The entire campus was renovated, repaired, and landscaped that year.²⁶⁶

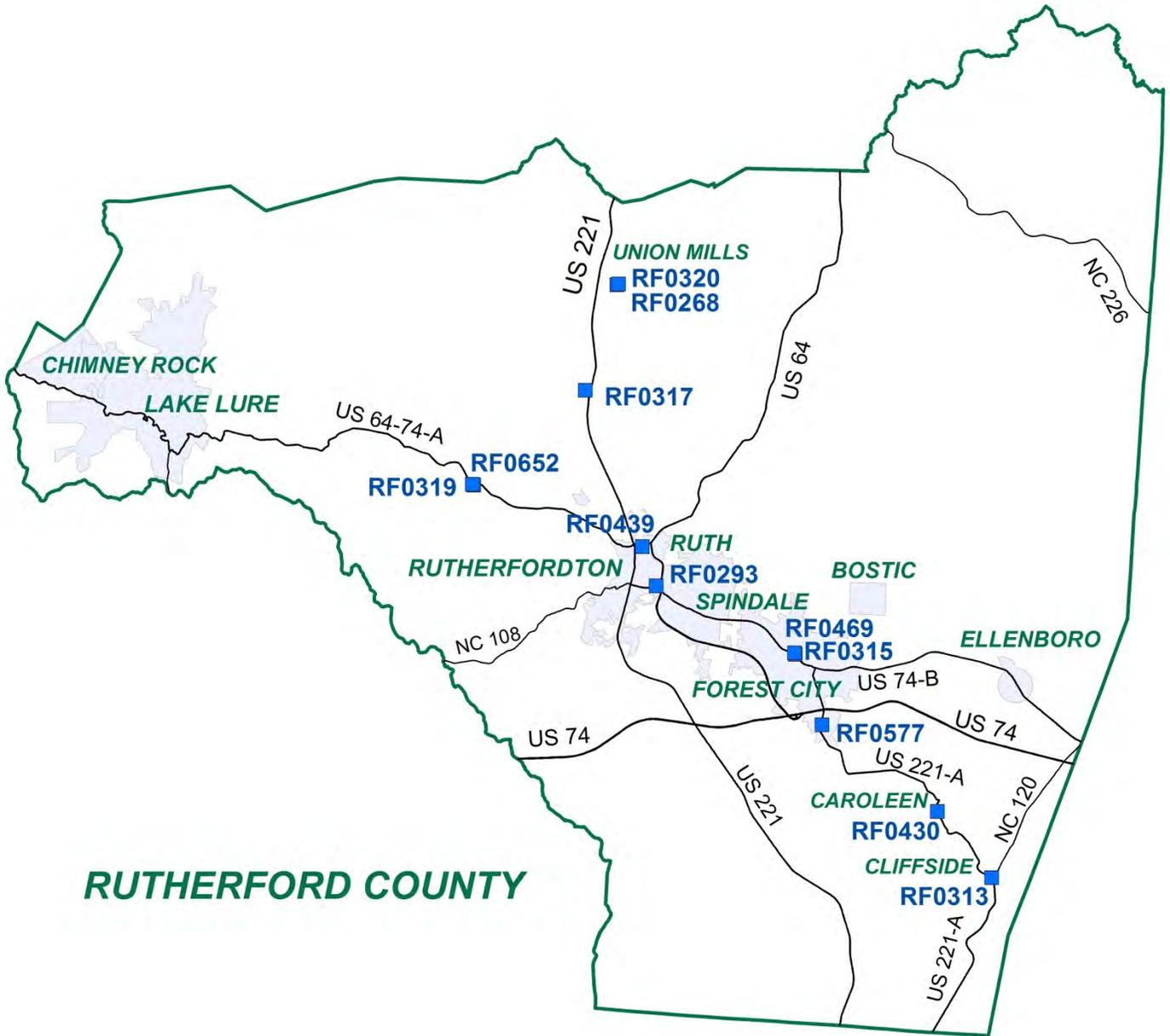


Tryon School, 1953 classrooms (right) and 1960s administration building (left)

²⁶⁵ “Polk Gains in School Plants,” *Asheville Citizen*, November 23, 1953.

²⁶⁶ “Tryon High School,” “Principal’s Annual High School Reports,” NCDPI, DIS, 1955, 1960.

VI. Surveyed Rutherford County Schools



Map illustrating the relative locations of surveyed schools

created by Michael T. Southern, Senior Architectural Historian and GIS Coordinator,
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, October 2014

Rutherford County Historical Background and Education Context

Few educational opportunities were available to the children of Rutherford County residents before the Civil War. The state legislature designated the county's public school districts in 1842, but school terms were short and facilities primitive. Most schools closed during the early years of Reconstruction, and private academies such as Rutherfordton, Oak Hill, Round Hill, Burnt Chimney, and Westminster were far too expensive for the average family. State legislators defeated a provision to supplement additional funding for a countywide school system in an 1873 referendum, but passed an act establishing the Rutherford County Board of Education in 1877. That entity's first recorded meeting occurred in 1879, at which time the board appointed committeemen for 106 school districts, eighty-one white and twenty-five black. Funding for school construction remained meager until 1905, when the board appropriated money for building improvements, small libraries, and higher teacher salaries from the State Literary Fund.²⁶⁷

Rutherford County's student population grew slowly through the twentieth century's first decades. In 1900, 3,920 white students enrolled in county schools, but only 2,330 regularly attended classes. African American enrollment totaled 858, with daily attendance averaging 551 youth. Numbers increased in 1910, with 5,521 white pupils and 1,039 black students on school rosters.²⁶⁸

As in most parts of rural North Carolina, modest frame schools operated by one or two teachers served small Rutherford County communities with few students through the 1910s. W. R. Hill became the county school superintendent in July 1915, assisted by rural school supervisor Clara Taylor. During the 1918-1919 academic year, 6,035 of the county's 9,813 children enrolled in school, but only 3,800 attended classes regularly. However, enrollment increased following North Carolina's 1919 adoption of stronger compulsory school attendance legislation. That year, the Rutherford County Board of Education orchestrated a school improvement campaign funded by tax levies and school bonds that allowed for the construction of eight one- or two-room schools as well as larger buildings including a four-room school in Sunshine, a \$6,000 four-room structure in Bostic, a five-room building in Alexander, a \$7,500 seven-room school in Spindale, a \$50,000 facility in Forest City, and an eleven-room edifice in Henrietta. Only two brick schools stood in the county in 1919, serving students in its largest towns—Forest City and Rutherfordton—but by 1920 improvements in the county road system made widespread consolidation on larger campuses a possibility. Rutherford County school rosters then encompassed 5,582 white children and 858 African American youth. In 1922, 240 white teachers instructed nine thousand white children at eight consolidated schools throughout Rutherford County. Sixteen school buses transported students to classes.²⁶⁹

Modest frame schools served most of Rutherford County's African American students through the twentieth century's first decades. In order to construct new schools—most of which were one-story and weatherboarded—in the 1920s, administrators solicited public donations as well as subsidies from the Rosenwald Fund. Rutherford County contained three schools erected with Rosenwald funding: Bostic (one classroom, 1929), Forest City (four classrooms, 1927), and New Hope (three classrooms,

²⁶⁷ William B. Bynum, ed., *The Heritage of Rutherford County, Volume I* (Forest City: Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County, Inc., 1984), 61-62.

²⁶⁸ "Rutherford County," NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, 1935, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

²⁶⁹ "Bright Prospects for Rutherford," *The Sun*, September 1919; *The News*, Rutherfordton, February 14, 1929; "Progress of the Schools," *The Courier*, Forest City, November 23, 1922; Clarence W. Griffin, *Public Officials of Rutherford County, N. C., 1779-1934* (Forest City: The Forest City Courier, 1934), 33.

1921; built under Tuskegee program). All have been demolished.²⁷⁰

After analyzing student distribution, the Rutherford County Board of Education determined in 1923 that eleven high schools—Cliffside, Cool Springs (Forest City and Bostic), Ellenboro, Harris, Hollis, Lake Lure (also encompassed the Chimney Rock area), Mt. Vernon, Rutherfordton-Ruth (which became Rutherfordton-Spindale Central), Sunshine, Tri-High (Avondale, Caroleen, and Henrietta), and Union Mills—were needed to accommodate area youth. On January 17, 1924, *The Sun* reported on the educational building construction sweeping Rutherford County: “Many new schoolhouses were completed last year, while others are under consideration. The attendance in all our schools is the best in the history of the county. Practically all schools in the county are crowded.” The article detailed plans for the consolidation of township schools and urged readers to support local school bond issues. Special school bond elections were held in each school district; a notice for the Henrietta-Caroleen School District election appeared in *The Sun* on May 15, 1924. The majority of the community’s voters supported the proposed \$150,000 school bond to erect a new high school between Henrietta and Caroleen, enlarge an existing school in Henrietta for use as an elementary school, and build a new elementary school in Caroleen. Previously, Henrietta Mills had subsidized the cost of school buildings and teacher salaries in conjunction with the Rutherford County Board of Education in these communities. The school system received bids for all three construction projects August 1924, and work soon commenced.²⁷¹

On October 8, 1925, *The Courier* reported that “the consolidation program which is probably more than seventy-five percent complete has made it possible for a large majority of Rutherford County children to attend splendidly equipped modern school buildings where there is every facility for their proper instruction.” Enrollment increased dramatically in response to the new campuses. In 1925, 9,413 white youth, including 1,066 high school students, attended Rutherford County’s public schools for terms averaging eight to nine months. The following year, seventy-five percent of the county’s 12,787 school-age children attended classes. Six high schools in the county received accreditation: Central (Rutherfordton-Spindale-Ruth), Cliffside, Cool Springs, Ellenboro, Henrietta-Caroleen, and Mt. Vernon. In 1928, the number of school districts had been reduced to seventy-nine—fifty white and twenty-nine African American—as a result of the statewide school consolidation effort and Rutherford County road improvement. Total school enrollment numbered 11,210 pupils, instructed by 287 white educators and forty-six black teachers under the oversight of superintendent Clyde A. Erwin. The county-wide school improvement campaign continued with a \$30,000 building on the Ruth Elementary School campus in 1928. Also that year, contractors Shytle and Barnes erected Sunshine School, which featured five large classrooms, several small classrooms, offices, a library, and an auditorium at a cost of \$17,580. In 1929, twenty-four brick schools built since 1918 accommodated most of the county’s students.²⁷²

²⁷⁰ “Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford County Schools,” Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2014); “North Carolina Rosenwald Schools,” <http://www.historysouth.org/schoolsnc.html> (accessed August 2014).

²⁷¹ “Educational Wave Sweeping County,” *The Sun*, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, January 17, 1924; “Notice of Special School Bond Election,” *The Sun*, May 15, 1924; “School Contracts Let,” *The Sun*, October 2, 1924; Clarence W. Griffin, “Rutherford County Schools,” In *Essays on North Carolina History* (Forest City: The Forest City Courier, 1951), 206.

²⁷² “Public Schools Open Oct. 19,” *The Courier*, October 8, 1925; “The Public Schools of Rutherford County,” *The Courier*, July 1, 1926; “Seventy Per Cent of Rutherford Children Attend 8 Mos. Term,” *The News*, October 14, 1926; “Rutherford County Making Great Educational Gains,” *Rutherford County News*, August 23, 1928; “Ten Years of Educational Progress in Rutherford Co.,” *The News*, February 14, 1929.

Registration increased dramatically in conjunction with the new facilities. In 1930, 9,985 white students and 1,615 African American students signed up to attend Rutherford County schools. The Rutherford County Board of Education operated thirty white campuses and twenty-nine African American schools. Enrollment remained strong throughout the decade. In 1935, administrators enumerated 7,842 white elementary school and 1,947 high school students and 1,789 African American elementary and 126 high school youth. City schools served an additional 709 white elementary school and 219 high school pupils and 158 African American elementary and eighty-two high school students. Seventy-two buses transported white students to eleven consolidated schools.²⁷³ A donation from William Abraham Hunt's estate subsidized the Board of Education's 1932 construction of Golden Valley Elementary School, which served students who had formerly attended Fairview, First Broad, and Golden Valley Schools.²⁷⁴

The economic challenges that ensued from the Great Depression resulted in limited school improvement funding during the early 1930s. However, the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state's first New Deal program that created jobs for unemployed citizens, subsidized Rutherford County school projects from 1932 to 1935 including school, gymnasium, and athletic field construction and maintenance, heating system installation, and grounds improvements.²⁷⁵ The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) followed, engaging citizens in work endeavors ranging from public health and manufacturing initiatives to cultural activities. The program facilitated Rutherford County educational and athletic building construction as well as the operation of school lunch rooms through the early 1940s.

Only two schools in Forest City and Rutherfordton enrolled African American youth in all twelve grades during the 1950-1951 academic year. At that time, Rutherford County's sole rural campus that accommodated twelve grades was in Union Mills. Principal Lillie M. Meacham and three female teachers instructed an average of 68 school pupils in the lower eight grades during 1948-1949, and high school enrollment was negligible. The Board of Education placed two new African American campuses—Grahamtown Elementary School in Forest City and Carver High School in Spindale—into service in fall 1951. African American students who had formerly attended small elementary schools in Caroleen, Cliffside, Ellenboro, Harris, Henrietta, and Spindale then transferred to either Grahamtown or Rutherfordton. Contractors completed the eighteen-room Grahamtown Elementary School at a cost of \$264,000. The eleven-classroom Carver High School, completed for just over \$221,000 plus \$18,000 in furnishings and equipment, included a library, cafeteria, gymnasium, and a 450-seat auditorium. The campus became Rutherford County's only high school for African American students in the ninth through twelfth grades and also accommodated some Polk County youth. Principal J. C. Duncan supervised twelve teachers. After the new schools opened, three teachers remained at Union Mills School and fourteen operated the Rutherfordton campus, both of which housed only elementary grades.²⁷⁶

Henrietta Mills Company provided electric power for the three schools in the Henrietta-Caroleen area and maintained ownership of the campus property until 1953, when the company deeded the parcels to

²⁷³ "Rutherford County," NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning, County Building Reports, 1935, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

²⁷⁴ Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, *Rutherford County 1979*, 476.

²⁷⁵ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 517-518.

²⁷⁶ "Union Mills Colored School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1949; "County Spends \$520,000 on Two Colored Schools," *The News*, Rutherfordton, August 30, 1951.

the Rutherford County Board of Education. By that time the Henrietta-Caroleen High School was known as the Henrietta-Caroleen-Avondale High School, or Tri-High.²⁷⁷

The county school system further consolidated upon Chase High School's 1960 completion. "Chase" is an acronym for all of the communities served by the new school: "C" for Caroleen and Cliffside, "H" for Henrietta and Harris, "A" for Avondale, "S" for Shiloh, and "E" for everyone else.²⁷⁸ Tri-High became Tri-Community Elementary School and eventually was utilized as Chase Middle School. In 1999 a new middle school replaced the old campus and Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, a public charter school, took over the deed. Approximately 320 students attended the academy in 2003, the same size student body of the 1939-40 school year.²⁷⁹

²⁷⁷ "Henrietta-Caroleen-Avondale," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940, 2, 7; Rutherford County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

²⁷⁸ Bynum, ed., *The Heritage of Rutherford County, Volume I*, 38.

²⁷⁹ "Henrietta-Caroleen-Avondale," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," 1940, 2.

**Alexander School
1924, 1963, 2005**

**120 School Drive
Forest City**

**Contributing Building
Alexander Manufacturing
Company Mill Village
Historic District
National Register 2008**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Description

The Alexander Manufacturing Company Mill Village Historic District, which lies southeast of downtown Forest City, encompasses roughly sixty-five acres and 102 primary resources, including the textile mill complex, worker housing, Alexander School, and Alexander Baptist Church. Alexander School is the mill village's only extant community building. The two-story, five-bay, Classical Revival-style edifice features projecting end bays and cast-stone window and door sills and lintels in

striking contrast to the red brick exterior. A central pointed parapet and a matching recessed brick panel surmount the cast-stone cornice that encircles the building. A projecting one-story bay with a stepped parapet and a segmental-arched lintel delineates the main entrance. Replacement metal sash with four horizontal panes fill the original tall window openings on the façade and rear elevations. Most window openings on the east and west elevation have been enclosed with brick. A steel stair on the east elevation provides exterior access to the second floor; a two-story brick addition houses a stairwell on the building's west side. Rectangular panels with raised-brick borders ornamented with square cast-stone corner blocks and tall central windows filled with glass block embellish the projecting bays. A tall, square, brick chimney rises on the east elevation.

Original interior features include plaster walls, plain window and door trim, blackboards, pressed-metal ceilings, and hardwood floors. The collapse of the main level's flooring system resulted in the building's abandonment; it is currently being used only for storage. The owner, Element Church, is exploring restoration options. One plan proposed by tenant The Master's Academy, a private Christian school, would refurbish the second floor classrooms; convert the first floor classrooms to a kitchen, cafeteria, library/media center, conference room, workroom, and offices; and add a fitness center, athletics room, and coach offices to the basement.

Flat-roofed, open breezeways connect the school to the 1963 gym/auditorium and classroom wing, which were renovated in 2005 for The Master's Academy. The one-story brick classroom wing has a low-pitched gable roof that extends to shelter a walkway on the north elevation. Updates include the installation of a new 5-V crimp metal roof, replacement windows and doors, and interior improvements. The one-story brick gym/auditorium received a new vinyl floor, acoustical tile ceiling, and stage. Small storage rooms on the building's west side now serve as offices. A gabled 2005 addition to the gym's rear (south) elevation provides additional classroom space, a computer lab, restrooms, and a kitchen.

Historical Background

Jacob F. Alexander, a prominent businessman and civic leader, established Alexander Manufacturing Company in 1917 to produce cotton twine, yarns, and cloth. The company subsequently became one of Rutherford County's largest and most productive textile manufacturing operations. Charlotte landscape architect Earle Sumner Draper laid out the mill village plan in June 1918, delineating eighty house lots, a village square and bandstand, baseball fields, community gardens, a school, and a small park. He reserved three large lots facing South Broadway Street for the mill superintendent and "office men." The construction of the Alexander Manufacturing Company mill and the first phase of worker housing began in 1918. While the mill village's northeastern quadrant and the main mill location were executed almost exactly as specified in Draper's plan, most of the housing in the southeast quadrant was never built. Lot size west of the railroad tracks is smaller, allowing for greater housing density. Dwellings in both sections are similar, with eleven different Craftsman bungalow types appearing throughout the mill village. Draper had indicated that the school should be constructed opposite the mill office and west of the railroad between a playing field and community gardens, but when the school was constructed its location was shifted northwest so the building would face School Drive, with the playing field to the rear. Alexander Baptist Church, erected in 1929, occupied the site specified for community gardens.²⁸⁰

²⁸⁰ Draper also designed two other Rutherford County mill villages: Florence Mill, in downtown Forest City, and Spindale, five miles northwest of Forest City. The Florence Mill village is no longer extant, however, and little of the

In fall 1919, Alexander Manufacturing Company engaged teachers A. V. Nolan and Ellen Vernon to operate the first school that served the mill village's children. Housed in a modest building provided by the company, Alexander School's term lasted eight months. The school soon occupied two buildings and required additional staff. After contractors completed the two-story, brick, eight-classroom school in 1925, principal H. J. Cherry supervised five teachers. Alexander School activities frequently received coverage in Cherry's *Forest City Courier* column. On February 12, 1925, for example, Cherry reported that students were working on a program to commemorate the birthdays "of three great Americans, Washington, Lincoln and Longfellow." The community used Alexander School's auditorium for entertainment and fundraising events such as the performance of a "negro minstrel," which raised \$44.00 for Alexander Baptist Church. Alexander Manufacturing Company continued to invest in community improvements, as evidenced by the construction of two new mill village buildings in the summer of 1926: a parsonage for Alexander Baptist Church and a residence for Alexander School teachers. In April 1926, six teachers instructed 228 students enrolled in seven grades.²⁸¹

During the 1933-1934 academic year, principal Eugene Allison and five female teachers instructed a daily average of 182 first- through seventh-grade students. Attendance grew to 258 pupils on average each day by spring 1936. Two additional female teachers had joined the staff by that time. In 1940, principal Leland S. McDonald and seven female teachers supervised a daily average of 249 youth in eight classrooms. Extracurricular activities included rhythm band and glee club. In 1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools, but in Cool Springs Township eighth-grade classes remained at high schools. That year, principal Garrett Anglin, six female teachers, and one male faculty member taught an average of 219 of the 274 pupils enrolled in Alexander School's seven grades. In 1948-1949, daily attendance averaged 256 students in eight grades and the faculty had grown by one female teacher.²⁸² Shelby architects and engineers V. W. Breeze and Associates designed the Alexander School classroom addition and auditorium completed before classes began in fall 1951 at a cost of \$85,000 of state and \$15,000 of county funds.²⁸³ The campus operated until fall 1993, after which students attended the newly completed Forrest W. Hunt Elementary School.²⁸⁴

Draper plan survives at Spindale. Earle S. Draper, "Alexander Manufacturing Company Plan," 1918, Rutherford County Photo Files, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill; Thomas W. Hanchett, "Earle Sumner Draper: City Planner of the New South," in *Early Twentieth-Century Suburbs in North Carolina: Essays on History, Architecture, and Planning*, ed. Catherine W. Bishir and Lawrence S. Earley (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1985), 79; Frank R. Burgraff and Charles E. Aguar, "Earle Sumner Draper," in *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, ed. Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Carson (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 100-103; Clarence W. Griffin, *History of Rutherford County, 1937-1951* (Asheville: The Inland Press, 1952), 29.

²⁸¹ H. J. Cherry, "Alexander School News," *The Courier*, February 12, 1925; "Cool Springs Township Schools a Model Unit," *The News*, April 15, 1926; "Model Town is Growing Fast—All the News of Interest," *The Courier*, May 6, 1926; Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, *Rutherford County 1979: A People's Bicentennial History* (Rutherfordton, N. C.: Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, 1979), 419-420.

²⁸² "Alexander School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1946, 1949; "Alexander Elementary School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

²⁸³ V. W. Breeze and Associates, "Additions and Alterations to Alexander Mills School," May 9, 1950, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.; "County Spends \$520,000 on Two Colored Schools," *The News*, Rutherfordton, August 30, 1951.

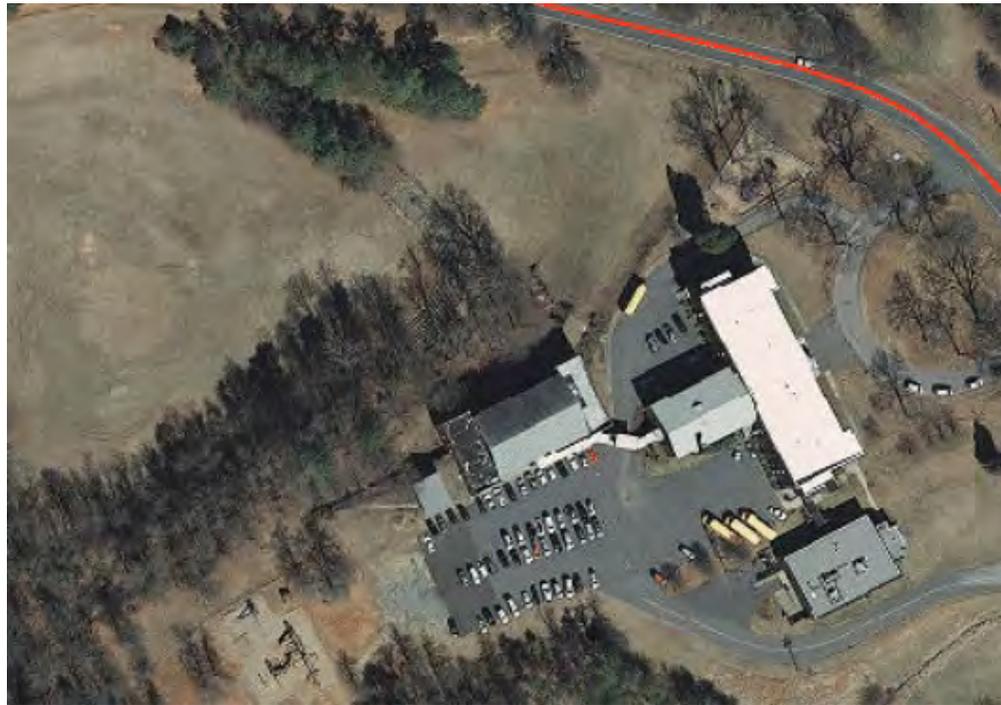
²⁸⁴ Sybil Houser, executive assistant, Rutherford County Schools, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 3, 2014.

Cliffside School
1921, 1941, 1951, 1998

4016 US Highway 221
Cliffside

National Register 1998

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Description

Charlotte architect Louis Humbert Asbury designed Cliffside School, a two-story-on-basement, variegated-brick, Classical Revival-style edifice with slightly projecting end bays.²⁸⁵ The school occupies a commanding hilltop site in what was the Cliffside mill village. A monumental, pedimented, tetrastyle portico supported by robust Ionic columns and pilasters dominates the façade, which faces northeast. The portico's frieze bears the institution's name and an Indiana limestone panel inset in its

²⁸⁵ "Ionic Cap [sic], public school, Cliffside, N. C.," Louis H. Asbury papers, 1906-1975, MS0145, J. Murrey Atkins Library Special Collections, UNC Charlotte.

gable delineates that construction began in 1920. A crosssetted, flat-pediment, molded limestone surround frames the replacement double-leaf steel front door and a two-part eighteen-pane transom. A pair of second-story windows surmounts the entrance and vinyl siding covers the portico ceiling. Concrete steps with metal railings provide access to the front door and the two side stair towers' rear entrances, while concrete steps with solid brick railings capped with cast-stone lead to the east stair tower entrances.

Masons executed the walls in running bond with soldier-course lintels spanning the first-story window openings. A tall limestone watertable surmounts the basement windows and a molded limestone band and a matching cornice encircle the building above the second-story windows. Square panels with soldier-course borders and rectangular, limestone, central plaques embellish the projecting end bays. The parapet, originally capped in cast-stone but now covered with metal coping, rises to a point above the portico and is stepped above the end bays. The Rutherford County Board of Education replaced the original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows with aluminum-sash one-over-one windows in 1988.²⁸⁶

A gable-roofed, one-story-on-basement auditorium extends from the school's west elevation, creating a T-shaped plan. Brick buttresses flank tall window openings that have been filled with double-hung, aluminum-frame, one-over-one replacement windows below rectangular transoms and soldier-course lintels. Concrete steps with solid brick railings capped with cast-stone lead to three auditorium entrances, one on each elevation. Straight-slope metal hoods shelter replacement steel doors and multipane transoms at each entrance. A tall, square, brick smokestack rises on the south elevation.



Cliffside School Vocational Building and Gymnasium, 1941

A flat, corrugated-metal-roofed, open breezeway spans the space between the auditorium and the one-story-on-basement, variegated brick, 1941 vocational building and gymnasium to the west. R. E. Carpenter prepared plans for the edifice in 1939 and the Works Progress Administration facilitated its construction southwest of the school. The tri-partite plan comprises a central gable-roofed gymnasium with slightly-projecting, flat-roofed, flanking wings. Plywood panels enclose the building's window openings beneath soldier-course lintels. Brick buttresses with cast-stone caps flank the gymnasium bays and a simple molded cast-stone surround ornaments the central entrance. The end wings feature

²⁸⁶ Holland and Hamrick Architects, "Window Replacement for Cliffside High School," March 31, 1988, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.;

molded cast-stone cornices and terra-cotta-capped cast-stone coping. Bracketed hip-roofed hoods shelter the wing's east entrances and two hip-roofed porches supported by square posts provide access from the west (rear) elevation. The front-gable-roofed, concrete-block, 1951 garage west of the vocational building and gymnasium has a single-leaf, horizontal wood-paneled door and a roll-up garage door on its south elevation. German siding sheathes the gable ends.

The site retains significant early-twentieth-century landscape components. Charlotte landscape architect Earl Sumner Draper delineated the front lawn's planting plan as well as the circular drive and sidewalk locations northeast of the school in February 1932. In 1940-1941, the Works Progress Administration guided the execution of athletic fields; stone entrance posts, retaining walls, steps, bleachers; and a wood-shingle-roofed picnic shelter with a stone grill and chimney. The picnic shelter was demolished in the early 1970s, but the other features are intact.²⁸⁷

In 1998, the Rutherford County Board of Education finished constructing a freestanding classroom and administration building south of the 1921 school. The one-story brick building features a projecting entrance porch capped with a pointed parapet.

Historical Background

Historians credit Raleigh Rutherford Haynes and his partner, Simpson B. Tanner, with initiating Rutherford County's modern textile industry at about the same time the first railroad lines arrived. R. R. Haynes, born in 1851 in the small southeastern Rutherford County farming community of Ferry, spent two years in Union County, South Carolina, learning about cotton cultivation. Upon his return to Ferry, Raleigh and four partners opened a sawmill, cotton gin, and general store. Raleigh married Amanda Loretta Carpenter of Ferry in 1874 and they had eight children, most of whom later worked in their father's businesses. Charles H. Haynes, one of the couple's sons, opened Haynes Plant No. 2 in Avondale in 1917, and financed the construction of Rutherford County's first modern school building, an impressive brick Classical Revival-style edifice, at Cliffside in 1921.²⁸⁸

The two-story-on-basement Cliffside School, completed at an approximate cost of \$275,000, included offices, an auditorium, a library, and twenty-five classrooms, seven of which housed high school grades. The remainder served a daily average of 617 of 790 enrolled elementary school students educated by thirteen female teachers and one male instructor. Cliffside School students traveled approximately one-half mile to utilize the gymnasium, home economics room, and lecture hall at the 1922 R. R. Haynes Memorial Building. Athletic teams included baseball, basketball, and tennis. Two teacherages accommodated faculty members, one with a "cooperative" boarding plan and the other at a monthly rate of \$24. High school principal Clyde A. Erwin also served as the school's superintendent, managing first through eleventh grades. In 1925, Erwin, five female teachers, and one male faculty member instructed 125 eighth- through eleventh-grade high school pupils, eleven of whom graduated that year. In 1929-1930, principal C. A. Denson and twenty-two teachers oversaw 154 high school and 606 elementary school pupils. Twenty-two youth graduated that spring. High school students utilized

²⁸⁷ Davyd Foard Hood, "Cliffside Public School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1997.

²⁸⁸ Earlier attempts at establishing cotton mills in Rutherford County were short-lived, failing due to a lack of capital and equipment. Haynes, *Raleigh Rutherford Haynes*, 3, 5, 7-9, 21; Griffin, *The History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties*, 596; Kimberly I. Merkel, *The Historic Architecture of Rutherford County* (Forest City: Rutherford County Arts Council, Inc., 1983), 20-21.

eight classrooms.²⁸⁹

In the early 1930s, the federal Civil Works Administration contributed \$1,303.65 toward improving Cliffside School's buildings and grounds. During the 1933-1934 academic year, principal Barron P. Caldwell and fourteen teachers instructed 518 first- through seventh-grade students. The building also housed 207 high school students. The student body shared two libraries, the cafeteria, and the gymnasium. In 1934-1935, principal R. L. Leary's faculty consisted of seven high school teachers other than himself and thirteen elementary school instructors. High school enrollment comprised 168 students, thirty of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 414 pupils. High school students utilized nine classrooms and published a newspaper called *Purple Cloud*. Emergency Relief Administration funds facilitated the lunch room's operation. In 1936, twelve women taught an average of 441 elementary school pupils daily. High school students occupied ten classrooms.²⁹⁰

In 1940, principal Harley C. Beatty and fourteen female teachers oversaw two sections of each elementary grade containing a total of 535 enrolled students, only 476 of whom attended regularly. Beatty and six other teachers instructed 181 high school pupils, thirty-one of whom successfully completed the course of study. High school students utilized eight of twenty-four classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including agricultural, commercial, drama, French, glee, health, literary, music, public speaking, recreation, safety, and Beta clubs, as well as the publication of a newspaper called *High News*. Improvements on the four-acre campus that year involved grounds beautification. In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools. That year, Beatty and thirteen female teachers taught an average of 397 of the 484 pupils enrolled in Cliffside School's eight elementary grades. The student body also included 133 high school pupils instructed by Beatty, three male faculty members, and three female teachers in twelve of the school's thirty-two classrooms. In July 1948, Shelby architects and engineers V. W. Breeze and Associates planned the installation of restrooms in the place of original cloak rooms on each floor. In 1948-1949, daily elementary school attendance averaged 340 students in eight grades and the faculty had decreased by one teacher.²⁹¹

During the 1949-1950 term, high school attendance typically comprised 129 of 151 enrolled pupils educated by principal Beatty, five female teachers, and two male faculty members in twelve of thirty-two classrooms. In 1954-1955, Beatty and six teachers oversaw 133 high school students, twenty-four of whom matriculated. Cliffside School's last senior class graduated in spring 1959. Beatty and seven instructors taught 156 high school youth through early spring 1960, when the students moved to the new Chase High School. Cliffside School then housed first through eighth grades. Beatty remained Cliffside School's principal until June 1969. Phillip Paul White then assumed the position, which he retained until his 2005 retirement.²⁹² The Rutherford County Board of Education added kindergarten to its curriculum in the 1970s and transferred sixth through eighth-grade students to Chase Middle School in 1995. Cliffside Elementary School currently serves kindergarten through fifth-grade pupils.

²⁸⁹ "Cliffside News," *The Courier*, July 6, 1922; "Cliffside High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1925, 1930.

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 1935; "Cliffside School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1936; Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 517.

²⁹¹ V. W. Breeze and Associates, "Alterations to Cliffside High School," July 23, 1948, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.; "Cliffside School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1949; "Cliffside High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946.

²⁹² "Cliffside High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955, 1960; Phillip White, former Cliffside School principal, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, October 2014.

**Cool Springs High School
1925
382 West Main Street**

and

**Cool Springs Gymnasium
1958
121 Memorial Drive
Forest City**

**Cool Springs High School
National Register-listed
individually in 1999**

**Both buildings contribute to
the West Main Street Historic
District, listed in 2006**

2010 aerial view courtesy of



Description

Cool Springs High School is located within the West Main Street Historic District, an intact concentration of historic properties two blocks west of downtown Forest City. The largely linear district contains twenty-two primary resources located on approximately twenty-seven acres on both sides of West Main Street from just east of Wingo Street to Gettys Street on the west: the 1867 Cool Springs Cemetery, fifteen early to mid-twentieth century residences, the 1924-1925 Cool Springs High School (NR 1999), the 1940 First Presbyterian Church, the 1950 Harrill Marker on the Cool Springs High School front lawn, the 1958 Cool Springs Gymnasium, a 1964 Crown service station, and a 1965 medical office building.

Charlotte architect Louis Humbert Asbury designed the imposing, two-story-on-basement, Classical Revival-style Cool Springs High School. H. A. Kistler completed its construction prior to the commencement of classes in September 1925.²⁹³ A monumental, full-height, flat-roofed portico supported by paired Tuscan columns and pilaster dominates the seven-part façade. Masons executed the walls in running bond with slightly recessed window bays. A tall limestone water-table surmounts the basement windows and a molded limestone band and a two-tier metal cornice encircle the building above the second-story windows. Square panels with soldier-course borders and square stone corner blocks embellish the projecting end bays. The flat parapet, originally capped in cast-stone but now covered with metal coping, has been reconstructed. The Rutherford County Board of Education replaced the original multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows with vinyl six-over-six sash windows. The façade entrance's double-leaf doors and fanlight, and other exterior metal-frame doors, sidelights, and transoms are also replacements. Concrete steps with solid brick railings capped with cast-stone and supplementary metal pipe railings provide access to the front and side entrances. The side doors are recessed in small vestibules.

A gable-roofed, two-story auditorium extends from the school's west elevation, creating a T-shaped plan. Brick buttresses flank tall, round-arched window openings that have been painted or filled with replacement windows below keystoned soldier-course lintels. Concrete steps with solid brick railings capped with cast-stone lead to the auditorium's entrances on both side elevations, where flat-roofed metal canopies shelter replacement steel doors. A one-story, hip-roofed, brick addition projects from the north elevation. A square brick smokestack with a pyramidal metal cap rises from the auditorium's southwest corner.



Cool Springs Gymnasium, 1958

The one-story, orange brick, Modernist building designed by Chivous Gilmer Harrill has three distinct parts: a gymnasium with a bowstring truss roof and original hardwood floor, a flat-roofed front lobby with a ticket booth and restrooms, and a flat-roofed rear wing containing locker rooms. A concrete cornice and aluminum coping contribute to the building's streamlined appearance. Skylights illuminate the gymnasium, while casement windows line the east and west elevations of the locker rooms. Recessed entrances on the north, south, and east elevations provide access to the building.

²⁹³ Davyd Foard Hood, "Cool Springs High School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1999.

Historical Background

Forest City's burgeoning population made the construction of a consolidated high school a priority only two years after the completion of a school for all grades in 1922. The Rutherford County Board of Education erected Cool Springs High School to serve students from five Cool Springs Township graded schools: Alexander Mills, Bostic, Forest City, Mt. Pleasant, and Pleasant Grove. By 1926, high school students benefited from a curriculum that included academic courses as well as home economics, agriculture, and business classes such as stenography and typing. Membership organizations ranged from debating, drama, and writing clubs to chapters of Hi-Y and Young Tar Heel Farmer. In 1929-1930, principal Charles C. Erwin and thirteen teachers oversaw 362 high school pupils. Fifty-one youth graduated that spring. Students occupied eighteen of the building's twenty-six classrooms.²⁹⁴

In the early 1930s, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration contributed \$581.00 toward the landscaping of school grounds. Principal Erwin's faculty consisted of twelve teachers other than himself in 1934-1935. High school enrollment then comprised 384 students, sixty of whom graduated. Students joined football, baseball, and basketball teams and published a newspaper called *Cool Springs Bubbles*. During the 1939-1940 academic term, Erwin, twelve female and three male teachers instructed 472 high school pupils, seventy-six of whom successfully completed the course of study. Students utilized eighteen of twenty-six classrooms and participated in extracurricular activities including Hi-Y and drama, glee, and journalism clubs. In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools, but in Cool Springs Township eighth-grade classes remained at high schools. That year, principal E. V. Seitz and four female teachers taught a daily average of 119 of the 136 pupils enrolled in Cool Springs High School's eighth grade. The student body also included 273 high school pupils instructed by Seitz, three male faculty members, and ten female teachers.²⁹⁵

During the 1949-1950 term, attendance typically comprised 308 of 357 enrolled pupils educated by Seitz, ten female teachers, and three male faculty members in twenty-six classrooms. Attendance grew steadily through the 1950s. In 1954-1955, Seitz and fifteen teachers oversaw 398 high school students, seventy of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included installing tile floors and plaster walls in the boys' restroom, adding lockers to the boys' shower room, landscaping, and building a steel fence around a portion of the athletic field. During the 1959-1960 term, Seitz and seventeen instructors educated 476 students, ninety of whom graduated.²⁹⁶

Cool Springs High School students began attending East Rutherford High School upon its fall 1962 opening. The Cool Springs campus then functioned as a middle school until 1998.²⁹⁷ The Rutherford County school system executed the building's renovation, completed in December 2000, to serve as administrative offices. The Town of Forest City utilizes the gymnasium as a public recreation center.

²⁹⁴ "Cool Springs Township Schools a Model Unit," *The News*, April 15, 1926; "Cool Springs Township Unique School System Proves Successful," *The News*, Rutherfordton, March 7, 1929; "Cool Springs High School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1930.

²⁹⁵ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 518; "Cool Springs Elementary School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940; "Cool Springs High School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1935, 1940, 1946.

²⁹⁶ "Cool Springs High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955, 1960.

²⁹⁷ Phillip White, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 2014.

**Gilkey Elementary
School, 1923, 1946, 1953**

**217 Gilkey School Road
Gilkey**

**North Carolina Study
List 2012**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Description

The two-story, brick Gilkey Elementary School features a hip roof with deep eaves sheltering tall, double-hung, nine-over-nine-sash wood windows. Masons executed the walls in six-to-one common bond with a soldier course watertable. On the north and south elevations, slightly recessed brick panels separate the first and second-story windows. Two large, recessed, segmental-arched panels flank the matching central doorways on the façade (east) and rear (west) elevations. A one-story, shed-

roofed bay extends from the rear elevation. Brick steps with a solid brick railing provide access to the rear entrance, which overlooks athletic fields. A fieldstone retaining wall, erected in 1939 as part of a county-wide Works Progress Administration campus improvement campaign, extends north and south from the staircase's base. Laborers inscribed "1939" and "WPA" in raised mortar on two adjacent stones.

A shed-roofed canopy projects above the single-leaf entrance near the north elevation's west end. Flat, corrugated-metal-roofed, open breezeways supported by round steel posts cover the sidewalks leading to the entrance drive and the south parking lot. A wood handicapped-accessible ramp has recently been constructed at the front entrance.

Original interior features include plaster walls, plain window and door trim with mitered corners, operable transoms above raised-horizontal-panel doors, tall baseboards with molded upper edges, and hardwood floors. The staircases retain square balusters, molded handrails, and square newel posts with simple caps.



Gilkey School, 1953 heating plant, gymtorium, and classroom building

A brick heating plant, gymtorium, and classroom building designed by Shelby architects and engineers V. W. Breeze and Associates stands to the south.²⁹⁸ The gymtorium, located at the structure's east end, is the tallest section. The one-story, flat-roofed power plant extends from the gymtorium's southeast corner and a tall, square, brick chimney rises on the south elevation. A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by round steel posts covers the concrete stoop outside the double-leaf steel door on its east elevation. The longer canopy that extended across the gymtorium's north elevation above the sidewalk adjacent to a double-leaf steel entrance has been removed, while a later shed-roofed canopy on the classroom wing's north elevation is intact. Replacement two-over-two horizontal-sash windows illuminate the interior.

²⁹⁸ V. W. Breeze and Associates, "Additions and Alterations to Gilkey School," June 23, 1952, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

Historical Background

The Rutherford County Board of Education constructed a weatherboarded one-room school in Gilkey in 1904 and expanded the building to comprise two classrooms in 1906 and three classrooms in 1908. High school-age students boarded at Round Hill Academy in Union Mills. The two-story, brick, eight-classroom Gilkey School, placed into service in January 1923 as part of the county-wide school consolidation movement, initially housed all grades, but upper-level students began attending Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School upon its fall 1925 opening.²⁹⁹

In 1929-1930, principal Hugh M. Raper oversaw elementary school youth as well as thirty-eight eighth and ninth-grade pupils. During the 1933-1934 academic year, the principal and six female teachers instructed an average of 250 first- through seventh-grade students, although 352 had enrolled. Coal stoves heated the eight-classroom brick building, which included an auditorium, lunch room, and offices. Due to the fact that a well and pump provided the site's only water, basins were provided for hand washing and toilets were located in privies. In the early 1930s, the federal Civil Works Administration built a septic tank and graded Gilkey School's grounds at a cost of \$1,148.69. In 1935-1936, daily attendance averaged 217 students and the faculty size remained the same.³⁰⁰

In 1940, principal Lowell Glover and six female teachers oversaw 348 enrolled students, only 268 of whom attended regularly. Campus improvements included grounds beautification. In 1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools, but in most Rutherford County townships eighth-grade classes remained at high schools. That year, principal R. Eugene Koone, six female teachers, and one male faculty member taught a daily average of 211 of the 287 pupils enrolled in Gilkey School's seven grades. In 1948-1949, daily attendance averaged 242 students in eight grades and the faculty had increased by female teacher under the direction of principal John H. McIntosh.³⁰¹

The Board of Education renovated the building in 1946, adding first-floor restrooms and reconfiguring the large second-story auditorium to create four classrooms for a total of six classrooms at that level. As the auditorium had served as a primary gathering place for local residents, administrators erected a one-story frame building to accommodate civic and Gilkey School events in 1952. Known as the Gilkey Community Club House, the structure still stands north of the school. On the 1923 school's south side, the Board of Education commissioned the construction of a classroom building, gymnasium, and heating plant completed in 1953. Principals Bob Morris, Clyde C. Sorrels, Curtis Price, Hugh Raper, James Dunlap, Hugh Hardin, Lowell Glover, Eugene Koone, John McIntosh, Adam Haynes, and Fred M. Arrowood headed Gilkey School between 1923 and its 1999 closing.³⁰²

²⁹⁹ "History of Gilkey Elementary School," unpublished late 1970s document on school bulletin board.

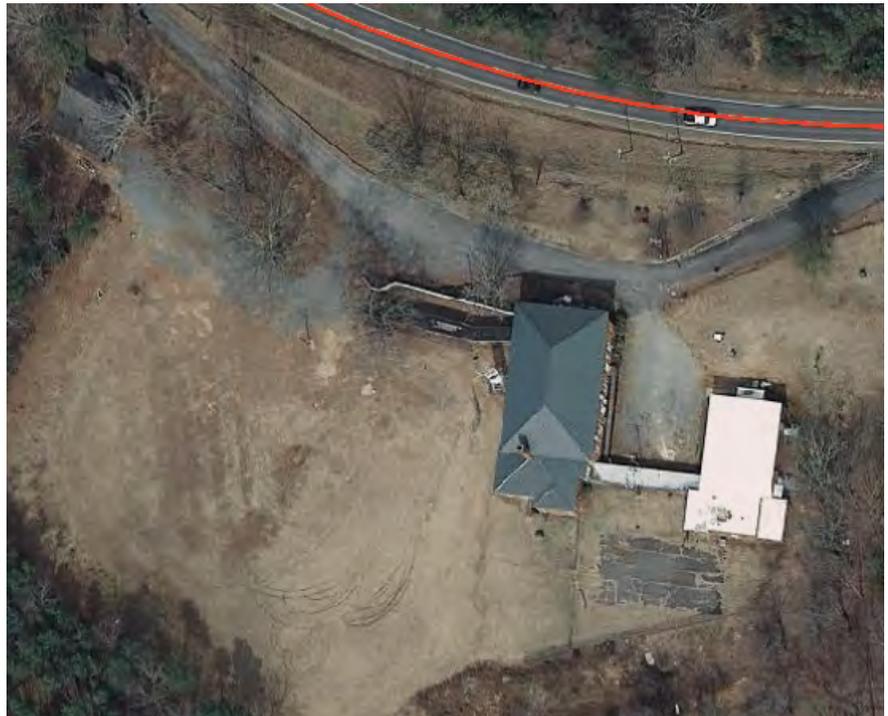
³⁰⁰ "Gilkey High School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1930, 1934, 1936.

³⁰¹ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 517; "Gilkey Elementary School," Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools, State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940; "Gilkey School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1949.

³⁰² "History of Gilkey Elementary School," unpublished late 1970s document on school bulletin board in 2014; Sybil Houser, executive assistant, Rutherford County Schools, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 3, 2014.

**Green Hill School
1921, 1950s
2501 US Highway 64/74A,
Green Hill**

2010 aerial view courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Description

Green Hill School was the prototype for Gilkey School, completed two years later, which had the same form and plan. The hip roof extends to cover deep eaves above tall, double-hung, nine-over-nine, wood-sash windows. Masons executed the walls in six-to-one common bond with a soldier course watertable. On the east and west elevations, slightly recessed brick panels separate the first and second-story windows. Two large, recessed, segmental-arched panels flank the matching central

doorways on the façade (north) and rear (south) elevations. Concrete steps with solid brick railings capped in concrete provide access to the primary entrance. Concrete retaining walls ameliorate the grade change between the façade planting beds and the driveway. A one-story, hip-roofed cafeteria addition extends from the rear elevation.

A steel water tower stands on the building's west side. A wood handicapped-accessible ramp has recently been constructed at the east entrance. Flat, metal-roofed, open breezeways supported by round steel posts cover the sidewalks leading to the 1952 gymnasium to the south, as well as the parking area to the west. Shelby architects and engineers V. W. Breeze and Associates designed the one-story, almost-flat-roofed gymnasium, which has a gymnasium at its north end and a tripartite rear section containing a central auditorium and two shorter flanking locker and storage room wings.³⁰³

The one-story, side-gable-roofed, Rustic Revival-style log building erected west of the school in 1941 retains an original gabled portico with stripped log posts, a double-leaf paneled front door, and stone steps with a metal pipe railing. Double-hung, six-over-six, wood-sash windows with wood-frame screens, tripled on the façade, light the interior. A flat-shouldered stone chimney with a decorative pointed-stone band cresting its stack rises on the west elevation. The building rests on a stone foundation. A one-story shed-roofed wing with a pair of double-hung, three-over three, wood-sash board-and-batten-sided additions extends from the south elevation.



Green Hill Community Building, 1941, 2501 US Highway 64/74A, Green Hill

Historical Background

Area youth attended Irvin and Portrum Schools before Green Hill School's 1921 completion.³⁰⁴ In 1929-1930, principal Charles Lackey oversaw fourteen eighth- and ninth-grade pupils. In the early 1930s, the federal Civil Works Administration built a septic tank and graded Green Hill School's

³⁰³ V. W. Breeze and Associates, "Additions and Alterations to Green Hill School," February 16, 1952, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

³⁰⁴ Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, *Rutherford County 1979*, 502.

grounds at a cost of \$1,074.14.³⁰⁵

During the 1939-1940 academic term, principal M. C. Hoyle, four female teachers, and one male faculty member led five classrooms containing a daily average of 178 first- through seventh-grade students, although 234 had enrolled. In 1940-1941, the National Youth Administration, by then a program operated by the Federal Security Agency, subsidized the construction of the log building that stands west of the school. The campus also included a playground and privies. Site improvements involved grading two hundred feet of banks adjacent to the highway and planting grass. In 1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools, but in most Rutherford County townships eighth-grade classes remained at high schools. That year, the principal, four female teachers, and one male faculty member taught a daily average of 175 of the 224 pupils enrolled in Green Hill School's seven grades. In 1948-1949, daily attendance averaged 219 students in eight grades and the faculty had increased by one male and one female teacher under the supervision of principal W. C. Lynch.³⁰⁶



1952 gymtorium (gymnasium and auditorium)

The Rutherford County Board of Education operated the campus through spring 1999. That fall, students began attending Pinnacle Elementary School. American Legion Post 74 assumed the property's oversight in 2014. The organization plans to use the school, auditorium, and log community center to host meetings and events. Long-range plans include the construction of a Veterans Memorial and park on the site.³⁰⁷

³⁰⁵ "Green Hill High School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1930; Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 517.

³⁰⁶ Green Hill community center plaque; "Green Hill School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940; "Green Hill School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946, 1949.

³⁰⁷ Matthew Clark, "Legion finds home in Green Hill," *Daily Courier*, August 12, 2014; Sybil Houser, executive assistant, Rutherford County Schools, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 3, 2014.

**Henrietta-Caroleen
High School -
Henrietta-Caroleen-
Avondale High
School –
Tri-High
1925, 1935, 1952,
1955, 1966, 1967**

2527 Highway 221A

**National Register
2005**

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Setting

The former Henrietta-Caroleen High School is located between the mill villages of Henrietta and Caroleen in Avondale, a southeastern Rutherford County community. The school, which sits high on a hill facing west towards Highway 221A, is situated in the southwestern corner of a 48-acre tax parcel, but only the five acres surrounding the school buildings are included the within the National Register boundary. In 2008, Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy erected a one-story classroom building southeast of the original school complex on an adjacent lot.

The surrounding area contains a mix of industrial, religious and residential buildings. A Cone Mills plant and the remains of the Caroleen Mill Village border the northeastern edge of the school parcel. A second Cone Mills plant—the former Avondale Mills #2—fronts the school property to the southeast. The 1924 Avondale United Methodist Church is across Highway 221A on a hill southwest

of the school and a variety of early to mid-twentieth century residences line the highway. The Caroleen-Henrietta Cemetery occupies four acres at the school property's southeastern corner. The Second Broad River meanders to the north and west of Highway 221A as it flows southward into South Carolina.

Description

The two-story-on-basement, Classical Revival-style Henrietta-Caroleen High School features a seven-part façade dominated by a monumental, full-height, pedimented portico supported by fluted Corinthian columns. A glazed oculus pierces the pediment's center. Fluted pilasters balance the entrance bay, which includes sidelights and a fanlight at the recessed double-leaf front door, which is surmounted by a flat-roofed hood with a metal balustrade. Brick and concrete steps with steel pipe railings lead to the front entrance.

Masons laid the red brick walls in running bond with flat arches and cast-stone keys and sills embellishing large symmetrically-arranged window openings. A cast-stone water table provides a break in the composition of each elevation at the top of the foundation wall. A cast-stone belt course encircles the building above the second-floor windows and a few feet below the projecting, denticulated, glazed terra cotta cornice. Cast-stone diamond medallions embellish the area between the cornice and the stepped-parapet roofline, which is capped with glazed terra cotta coping. Tall, rectangular, recessed brick panels with cast-stone corner blocks enliven the north and south elevations below pointed parapets. The tall, corbelled, brick chimney projecting from the flat roof served the abandoned boiler in the basement. The Rutherford County Board of Education replaced all of the original six-over-six wood sash windows throughout the building with one-over-one, two-over-two, or six-part metal sash in 1977.³⁰⁸ Modern single and double-leaf steel fire doors secure the side and rear entrances.

A one-story auditorium extends from the school's west elevation, creating a T-shaped plan. The masonry execution matches that of the two-story section, with the addition of brick buttresses flanking tall window openings that have been filled with double-hung, aluminum-frame, one-over-one replacement windows. Concrete steps with solid brick railings capped with cast-stone lead to the auditorium entrances, one on each side elevation.

The auditorium's parapeted rear wall demarcates the beginning of the 1935 brick gymnasium. The composition of the gymnasium's exterior elevations matches the school's original block. A hip-roofed, concrete block, 1952 addition on the north elevation contains student dressing rooms and an office.

On the interior, the main block's entrance vestibule, which is flanked by administrative offices and the teacher's lounge, intersects with a transverse hall leading to the auditorium, five classrooms, and restrooms on the first floor. Seven additional classrooms, a large library, and restrooms are located on the second floor. The furnace room, three classrooms, and a storage room occupy the basement. Prior to the cafeteria building's construction in 1955, one of the first-floor classrooms served as the cafeteria. Two sets of stairs, one at each end of the building, provide access to all three levels of the school. The auditorium projects from the building's east elevation.

³⁰⁸ Fixed Asset Inventory Record Forms, Tri-Community School, Rutherford County Board of Education, Forest City, North Carolina.

The school interior retains hardwood floors, plaster walls, and simple wood baseboards, chair rails, and door and window surrounds. The classrooms feature original blackboards, wood doors and six-light movable transoms. Dropped acoustical tile ceilings obscure the original ceiling material throughout the building. The auditorium contains original wood seating, an intact stage with beadboard wainscoting, a pressed tin ceiling, and original pendant light fixtures. The gymnasium features built-in seating along the western wall and exposed steel roof trusses. Contractors lined the stair halls with pressed brick and replaced the original wood stairs with steel stairs in the 1950s. A sewage plant located northeast of the school began serving the campus in 1967. The school system renovated all of the bathrooms in 1978.³⁰⁹



Henrietta-Caroleen High School, 1966 classroom annex (left) and 1955 cafeteria (right)

A corrugated metal canopy supported by steel posts connects the school to the cafeteria and classroom annex, which are located northeast of the original school building. The 1955 cafeteria is a one-story, flat-roofed, rectangular, red brick building accented with a cast-stone water table. A narrow cast-stone belt course encircles the building below the metal-frame windows and a wide cast-stone belt course encircles the building above the windows. Some of the original window openings have been enclosed with plywood siding. A 540-square foot storage room was added to the east elevation of the cafeteria in 1967.³¹⁰

The 1966 classroom annex, located north of the cafeteria, is a one-story, flat-roofed, rectangular, red brick building. Concrete block walls, vinyl floors, exposed concrete ceiling joists, and hollow-core doors characterize the interior, which is accessed through double-leaf glass doors on the north and south elevations.

A few evergreen trees and foundation plantings accent the facade. The Tri-Community Woman's Club planted maple trees along the southern edge of the school's entrance drive in memory of sixteen Tri-High School graduates who died in World War II. Four of the trees survive in addition to a flat bronze

³⁰⁹ Ibid.

³¹⁰ Ibid.

commemorative marker installed on a concrete base around 1950.

Historical Background

Henrietta-Caroleen High School opened in 1925 and served the local community until 1999, first as a high school, then as an elementary school, and finally as a middle school. The building currently houses the Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, a public charter school.

Leslie N. Boney, a Wilmington-based architect who designed approximately one thousand schools in fifty-one North Carolina counties, completed the plans for Henrietta-Caroleen High School in 1924. The Rutherford County Board of Education awarded the construction contract to Palmer-Spivey Construction Company of Charlotte in September 1924. On April 30, 1925, *The Courier* reported that “the extensive program of the Henrietta-Caroleen school district is nearing completion.” Articles in *The Sun* and *The Courier* in late July of 1925 mentioned the terracing of the high school grounds, which would be further improved with grass and shrubs in time for classes to begin.³¹¹

The new high school was desperately needed to ameliorate crowded conditions. In May 1925, Henrietta-Caroleen School principal J. B. Jones reported an enrollment of ninety-four eighth through eleventh-grade pupils, nine of whom graduated that year. Four of the fourteen classrooms in the two-story brick school built in 1920 housed high school grades, while the remainder served a daily average of 577 of 678 enrolled elementary school students.³¹²

The two-story, brick, sixteen-classroom Henrietta-Caroleen High School opened on September 8, 1925, under the direction of principal Heywood Thompson, whose faculty comprised four female teachers. J. B. Jones then served as superintendent of the Henrietta-Caroleen school system. Students from Caroleen, Henrietta, Oak Grove, Floyd’s Creek, and Ferry attended the \$75,000 high school. In 1929-1930, Henrietta-Caroleen School District superintendent A. C. Lovelace and twenty-two teachers oversaw 131 high school and 752 elementary school pupils. Lovelace and five teachers staffed Henrietta-Caroleen High School, which graduated sixteen youth that spring. Students played baseball, basketball, volleyball, and tennis. In the early 1930s, the federal Civil Works Administration contributed \$1,671.93 toward improving the Henrietta-Caroleen School District’s buildings and grounds.³¹³

Principal V. B. Cooper’s faculty consisted of five high school teachers other than himself and twenty-nine elementary school instructors in 1934-1935. High school enrollment then comprised 222 students, twenty of whom graduated, while the elementary school’s roster included 1,101 pupils. High school students occupied twelve of sixteen classrooms in the 1925 building. During the 1939-1940 academic term, principal Roland R. Morgan, six female, and three male teachers instructed 319 high school pupils, forty-one of whom successfully completed the course of study. Students participated in extracurricular activities including agriculture, drama, home economics, and Beta clubs, as well as the

³¹¹ “School Opens 1st Henrietta-Caroleen,” *The Sun*, August 28, 1924; “School Contracts Let,” *The Sun*, October 2, 1924; “Interesting News from Henrietta,” *The Sun*, December 4, 1924; “Henrietta-Caroleen Consolidated School is Now Nearing Completion,” *The Courier*, April 30, 1925; “Beautifying Grounds,” *The Sun*, July 23, 1925; “Work on Henrietta School Progressing,” *The Courier*, July 30, 1925; Leslie N. Boney Jr., “Leslie N. Boney Sr.,” *North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*, <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000529> (accessed October 2014).

³¹² “Henrietta-Caroleen High School,” “Principal’s Annual High School Reports,” NCDPI, DIS, 1925, 1930.

³¹³ *Ibid.*, 1925, 1930; “Henrietta-Caroleen Schools Open Soon,” *The Sun*, August 27, 1925; Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 517.

publication of a newspaper called *Tri High News*. Works Progress Administration funding subsidized the lunch room's operation. In 1945-1946, the student body included 145 high ninth through eleventh-grade pupils instructed by principal Forrest Hunt, two male faculty members, and six female teachers. Statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools, but in most Rutherford County townships eighth-grade classes remained at high schools. That year, Hunt and four teachers taught a daily average of seventy of the eighty-five pupils enrolled in Tri-High's eighth grade.³¹⁴

During the 1949-1950 term, attendance typically comprised 241 of 275 enrolled high school pupils educated by principal Hunt, six female teachers, and six male faculty members in twenty-two classrooms. In 1954-1955, Hunt and eleven teachers educated 274 students, fifty-one of whom graduated. Facility improvements included interior painting, adding dressing rooms with showers to the gymnasium, and constructing a cafeteria.³¹⁵

The Henrietta-Caroleen school system retained some ties to the Henrietta Mills Company.³¹⁶ Henrietta Mills provided electric power for all three schools, and maintained ownership of the property containing the new school buildings until 1953, when the company deeded the parcels to the Rutherford County Board of Education. By that time the Henrietta-Caroleen High School was known as the Henrietta-Caroleen-Avondale High School, or Tri-High.³¹⁷

The county school system further consolidated upon Chase High School's 1960 completion near Forest City. "Chase" is an acronym for all of the communities served by the new school: "C" for Caroleen and Cliffside, "H" for Henrietta and Harris, "A" for Avondale, "S" for Shiloh, and "E" for everyone else.³¹⁸ Tri-High became Tri-Community Elementary School and eventually was utilized as Chase Middle School. In 1999 a new middle school replaced the old campus and Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, a public charter school, took over the deed. Approximately 320 pupils attended the academy in 2003, the same size student body of the 1939-40 school year. By 2013, kindergarten through twelfth-grade enrollment grew to 1,280 youth.³¹⁹

³¹⁴ Henrietta-Caroleen-Avondale," "Tri-High School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1935, 1940, 1946; "Tri-High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950, 1955.

³¹⁵ "Tri-High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955.

³¹⁶ Bynum, *The Heritage of Rutherford County, Volume I*, 38.

³¹⁷ "Henrietta-Caroleen-Avondale," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940, 2, 7; Rutherford County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

³¹⁸ Bynum, ed., *The Heritage of Rutherford County, Volume I*, 38.

³¹⁹ "Henrietta-Caroleen-Avondale," Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools, 1940, 2; Heather Fearnbach, "Henrietta-Caroleen High School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2005; Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, "2013-2014 School Profile," September 2013.

**Round Hill Academy -
Alexander Schools, Inc. -
Union Mills
Consolidated School**

**6494 and 6495
Hudlow Road
Union Mills**

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Union Mills Consolidated School, 1925, 6495 Hudlow Road

Due to the large number of buildings on this campus, only the primary educational buildings are included in the following overview.

Description

The oldest building in the complex that has served as Round Hill Academy, Alexander Schools, Inc., and Union Mills Consolidated School is the one-story, hip-roofed, brick structure that stands on Hudlow Road's north side. Erected by the Rutherford County Board of Education to serve as Union Mills Consolidated School in 1925, the building has been significantly enlarged and extensively remodeled by United World Mission, Inc. A short gabled wing topped with a stepped shaped parapet projects from the south elevation.



Alexander Schools, Inc. - Union Mills Consolidated School, 1947, 6495 Hudlow Road

On Hudlow Road's opposite side, a two-story brick school designed by Shelby architect and engineer V. W. Breeze and completed in 1947 stands on the site of the Round Hill Academy's 1909 administration and classroom building destroyed by fire in 1944. Executed in five-to-one common bond on a formed-concrete foundation, the austere edifice is oriented so that the rectangular classroom wing is at the rear while the auditorium extends north toward the road. The auditorium's projecting entrance block features classical elements such as a cast-stone watertable, belt course, cornice, and plaque at the flat parapet's center. Three round-arched doorways ornamented with cast-stone keystones distinguish the recessed entrance porch, where single-and-double-leaf wood doors with raised-wood-panel lower sections and multipane glazed upper section lead to the interior. Two tall, narrow, translucent glass block windows flank the entrance. On the four-bay-wide auditorium walls, which are inset behind the entrance block, brick corbelling surmounts the tall windows, all of which have been enclosed with plywood.

Many original tall, nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood-sash windows are intact throughout the classroom wing. However, in some cases, windows have been replaced with double-hung, one-over-one, synthetic sash below square transoms. Concrete steps and a concrete-block handicapped-accessible ramp with metal railings lead to the classroom wing's north entrance, which is sheltered by a flat-roofed canopy. Adjacent to the west basement entrance, which is recessed few steps below grade, concrete-block steps with metal-pipe railings rise to a landing and turn to continue in a second run to the first-floor entrance. The double-leaf wood doors feature raised-wood-panel lower sections, nine-pane glazed upper sections, and six-pane transoms.

A one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, stone vocational building stands south of the school. Erected to house the home economics and business departments in 1939, ostensibly as a National Youth Administration project, the building features exposed rafter ends, four German-sided gabled dormers piercing each roof slope, and stone end chimneys. The windows and doors are replacements. Stone steps with a modern wood railing lead to the first floor's rear entrance and straight run of steel steps with steel railings provides access to the second floor from the north elevation. A one-story, concrete-block addition with an almost-flat roof projects from the rear elevation, but due to the sloping grade, it only obscures a portion of the basement's east elevation.



Union Mills School, Vocational Building, 1939

A one-story, side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded, 1945 agriculture building with large eight-over-eight sash windows is south of the home economics building. To its east, large steel-frame multipane windows illuminate a long, one-story, side-gable-roofed, 1950s concrete-block workshop and maintenance building. A roll-up garage door pierces the north elevation and a wide wood ramp leads to the attic door on the west elevation.

The one-story, red brick, Modernist gymnasium designed by Chivous Gilmer Harrill is almost identical to others he planned for the Rutherford County Board of Education around the same time. The building has three distinct parts: a gymnasium with a bowstring truss roof, a flat-roofed front lobby with a ticket booth and restrooms, and a flat-roofed rear wing containing locker rooms. A concrete cornice and aluminum coping contribute to the building's streamlined appearance. Bands of large steel-frame, multipane windows with operable central sections and cast-stone surrounds light the gymnasium. Recessed entrances on the lobby's north elevation and the locker room wing's east elevation provide interior access.

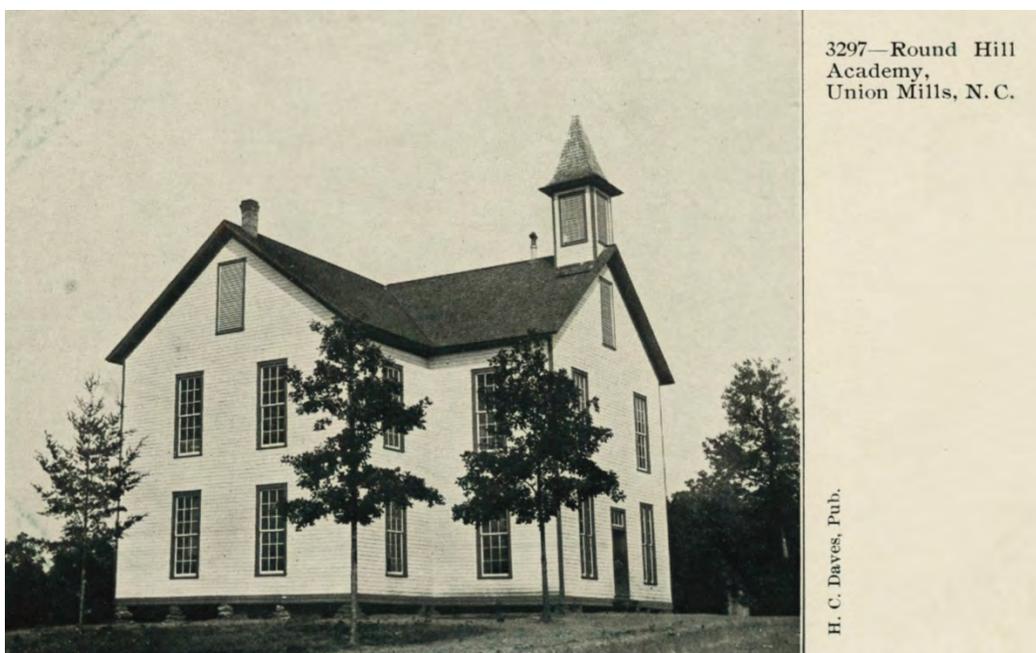


Union Mills School, John W. Vogler Gymnasium, 1957

Historical Background

Northern Rutherford County's development accelerated after a Southern Railway line provided sawmill operators with a means of transporting their product to regional markets. Area lumber purveyors soon consolidated as Union Mills Lumber Company. The associated community also adopted the name Union Mills, which became official when the post office opened in 1892. Beginning in October 1899, local day and boarding students had the opportunity to attend a private school, Round Hill Academy, established by the Round Hill Baptist congregation. Reverend D. J. Hunt, his wife Julia Livingston Hunt, and J. P. Nanney instructed a total of 122 students in attendance over the course of the initial two sessions. The academy's first building, a two-story, weatherboarded, T-plan structure illuminated by tall nine-over-nine sash windows, stood near the sanctuary. A pyramidal-roofed belltower surmounted the projecting front-gable wing. Funded by church members and local donors in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, the institution operated for only a year before the congregation donated the school to the Green River Association of the Baptist Church.³²⁰

Undated
postcard from
the
Durwood
Barbour
Collection of
North Carolina
Postcards,
North Carolina
Collection
Photographic
Archives,
Wilson
Library, UNC-
Chapel Hill



Enrollment grew to 171 pupils during the second year and administrators expanded the campus accordingly with the construction of two dormitories—the fourteen-room Young Ladies Home in 1900 and Justice Hall by 1907. Mr. Setzer, a local contractor, and his crew began erecting an impressive two-story, brick, hip-roofed, Classical Revival-style administration building in the summer of 1908. Completed the next year at a cost of approximately \$20,000, the edifice featured nine-over-nine sash windows, a pedimented tetrastyle portico, an octagonal belltower, and numerous corbelled interior chimney stacks. Enrollment remained strong, numbering 165 pupils in 1912-1913. In the summer of 1914, in order to better accommodate boarding students, contractor Cebon T. Shytle and his crew

³²⁰ Round Hill History Committee, "Round Hill Academy, Union Mills, North Carolina, 1899-1926," commemorative brochure, 1970, pp. 9-10, 16-17, 19-20, 22, 27-28, 32, 95; Nannie Newsome, "The History of Union Mills," in Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, *Rutherford County 1979*, 626, 629; Rutherford County School History Committee, "Round Hill Academy," Camp Creek Township: School Pictures and Brief Facts, <https://sites.google.com/a/rcsnc.org/education-in-rutherford-county/athletics/camp-creek> (accessed May 2014).

demolished the original frame school which then served as a boys' dormitory, to allow for the completion of a new frame boys' dormitory named J. D. Morris Hall. The carpenters salvaged as much building material from the 1899 school as possible for reuse in the 1914 dormitory. On October 20, 1916, a fire destroyed the girls dormitory, by then known as the Julia Livingston Home. It was not until 1920 that the institution garnered funds to erect the replacement three-story brick Liberty Memorial Dormitory at a cost of approximately \$26,480. It appears that contractors completed the building in the spring of 1921. Round Hill Academy principal Marvin L. Skaggs facilitated the creation of the institution's first permanent athletic field in the summer of 1922.³²¹

In 1925, principal N. R. Prickett and two other teachers instructed eighty-two eighth through eleventh-grade high school pupils, twenty of whom graduated that year. The administration building included offices, an auditorium, a library, and nine classrooms, six of which housed high school grades. The remainder served a daily average of 126 of 241 enrolled elementary school students educated by six female teachers. Teachers lived on campus in dormitories that could accommodate a total of one hundred pupils who received room and board at a \$2.72 weekly charge. Athletic teams included baseball, basketball, and tennis.³²²

Despite strong enrollment, Round Hill Academy had incurred outstanding bills totaling \$15,548 by 1925. Prominent Forest City businessman and civic leader J. F. Alexander, who established Alexander Manufacturing Company in 1917, satisfied the debt and donated an additional \$2,000 toward operating costs. Alexander's philanthropy continued following his December 1925 death, as the school received an annual \$10,000 bequest from his estate. The institution, renamed Alexander Schools, Incorporated, for Motherless Children, in its benefactor's memory, adopted a new mission in 1925, offering classes for all grades as well as industrial and nursing schools. In order to provide additional boys' housing, the school acquired a neighboring one-story, gable-roofed, weatherboarded residence and named it Gould Cottage, recognizing the monetary contributions of a New York philanthropist with that surname. The campus then encompassed four buildings.³²³

Also in 1925, the Rutherford County Board of Education replaced the weatherboarded, two-room, Union Mills public school with the one-story, brick, public school that stands on Hudlow Road's north side opposite what was then Alexander Schools, Inc.'s administration and classroom building. The public facility, called Union Mills Consolidated School, served white students who had formerly attended one-teacher schools in Camp Creek, Centennial, Double Springs, Thermal City, and Union Mills. African American students attended classes in a modest frame building constructed in 1908 that stood near the current site of Union Mills A. M. E. Zion Church.³²⁴

Alexander Schools, Inc., still subsidized by the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, experienced ongoing financial difficulties that resulted in the high school's closure in 1926 following the fall semester. However, increased high school-age boarding school enrollment allowed classes to resume in fall 1927. Local youth also paid to attend classes as day students. Donations from

³²¹ Ibid.

³²² "Round Hill Academy," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1925.

³²³ Ibid.

³²⁴ Union Mills Middle School PTO, "A History of Education in Union Mills, North Carolina," May 2, 1998, pp. 6 ; "Duke Endowment Has Given Rutherford County Big Sum," *Rutherfordton News*, August 14, 1930; Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, *Rutherford County 1979*, 444; Rutherford County School History Committee, "Union Mills Consolidated School," and "Union Mills School," Camp Creek Township: School Pictures and Brief Facts, <https://sites.google.com/a/rcsnc.org/education-in-rutherford-county/athletics/camp-creek> (accessed May 2014).

organizations and individuals continued to serve as an important funding source. The Duke Endowment allocated a total of \$4,039.02 to the school's operating fund between 1928 and 1929. Mr. Gould soon facilitated the acquisition of a second dwelling to serve as a boys' dormitory: the two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboarded, M. L. Buchanan residence.³²⁵

Principal W. E. Sweatt and eight teachers oversaw fifty-one high school and 156 elementary school pupils in 1929-1930, when twelve youth graduated. Campus dormitories had the capacity to house 110 boys and seventy-five girls, but only forty students boarded that year. Extracurricular activities included baseball, basketball, and tennis teams, as well as chapters of Boy Scouts, Girl Reserves, and commercial, drama, glee, Hi-Y, and science clubs.³²⁶ The institution erected a one-story, weatherboarded, frame gymnasium in 1931.

The following year, as part of the Rutherford County school system's ongoing consolidation, Alexander Schools, Inc., and the public Union Mills School merged into a county-operated campus known as Union Mills Consolidated School. During the 1933-1934 academic year, principal Sweatt and nine female teachers instructed an average of 256 first- through seventh-grade students, although 347 had enrolled. Stoves heated the nine-classroom brick building, which included a library, a lunch room, and an auditorium. Due to the fact that a well and pump provided water, the restrooms were located outside. In the early 1930s, the federal Civil Works Administration built a septic tank and graded the grounds at a cost of \$990.71. Sweatt's faculty consisted of four high school teachers other than himself and eight elementary school instructors in 1934-1935. High school enrollment then comprised 114 students, nineteen of whom graduated, while the elementary school's roster included 347 pupils. High school students occupied five of fourteen classrooms and published a newspaper called *The Alexandrian*. In 1936, principal Sweatt noted that because there was not room to accommodate all 365 students enrolled in the school, sections of first and section grade and the seventh grade class met nearby in a private building.³²⁷

A 1936 *Asheville Citizen-Times* article delineated the following buildings on campus: administration building, gymnasium, one girls' and three boys' dormitories, babies' cottage, dining hall, laundry room, and chicken house. The hexagonal log dining hall had a seating capacity of five hundred people and included a kitchen and dining room. Many of the 206 youth who lived on campus received subsidies to cover boarding costs, which amounted to \$165 per student annually. Residents tended chickens, hogs, cultivated the school's forty-acre farm, cleaned buildings, and washed laundry. Recreational activities included baseball, basketball, boxing, tennis, and volleyball.³²⁸

In 1939, the National Youth Administration, then a Works Progress Administration program, erected a stone vocational building south of the school to house the home economics and business departments. A frame agriculture building followed in 1945. During the 1939-1940 academic term, the

³²⁵ *Rutherford County News*, December 23, 1926; Nannie Newsome, "The History of Union Mills," 629; Rutherford County School History Committee, "Union Mills Consolidated School," and "Union Mills School."

³²⁶ "Alexander Schools, Inc.," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930; Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 517.

³²⁷ *Ibid.*, 1935; "Union Mills Consolidated School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1936.

³²⁸ Arval L. Alcock, "Alexander Schools Give Orphans Educational and Religious Training," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 17, 1936.



Agriculture Building, 1940s

campus's four primary buildings accommodated a daily average of three hundred elementary school students. Nine full-time female faculty members led first through seventh-grade classrooms with the assistance of one part-time female teacher. Principal Sweatt, five female, and three male teachers instructed 192 high school pupils, twenty-nine of whom successfully completed the course of study. Students participated in extracurricular activities including glee and English clubs. In 1945-1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools. That year, Sweatt and eleven female teachers taught an average of 322 of the 410 pupils enrolled in Union Mills Consolidated School's eight elementary grades. The student body also included 125 high school pupils instructed by Sweatt, two male faculty members, and five female teachers. Daily attendance averaged 348 students in eight grades in 1948-1949 and the faculty had increased by one male teacher under the supervision of principal Sweatt.³²⁹

A December 14, 1944, fire destroyed the classroom and administration building. A temporary structure housed the school until 1947, when contractors completed the new brick building designed by Shelby architect and engineer V. W. Breeze.³³⁰ At that time, the fifty-acre campus included fourteen buildings, all but four of which were frame. Liberty Memorial Dormitory burned in late December 1947, displacing eighty girls who were in residence. During the 1949-1950 term, high school attendance typically comprised 106 of 123 enrolled pupils educated by Sweatt, four female teachers, and five male faculty members in ten of twenty-two classrooms. The Duke Endowment continued to facilitate the campus's operation with annual donations including an approximately \$6,000 bequest in 1951. The campus suffered a tragedy that year when two students murdered long-time principal W. E. Sweatt on March 12, 1951. School trustees then appointed John W. Vogler to head the institution. Vogler soon oversaw facility improvements, as the gymnasium burned on February 1, 1952, and Buchanan dormitory burned in January 1954.³³¹ V. W. Breeze and Associates prepared plans for the

³²⁹ "Union Mills Consolidated School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940, "Union Mills Consolidated School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1940, 1946; Sybil Houser, executive assistant, Rutherford County Schools, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 3, 2014.

³³⁰ V. W. Breeze, "A Consolidated School for Rutherford County Board of Education and Alexander School, Inc.," August 22, 1945, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

³³¹ "Fire Causes Losses Totaling \$75,000 at Union Mills," *The Courier*, January 1, 1948; "Union Mills School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950; "Sweatt Murdered," *Rutherford County News*, March 15, 1951; "County Hospitals, Alexander Schools Receive Duke Funds," *Rutherford County News*, April 5, 1951; "Prof. John

replacement boys' dormitory.³³²

In 1954-1955, principal John W. Vogler and eight teachers instructed 121 students, nineteen of whom completed their course of study. Facility improvements included interior painting, restroom and lunch room updates, and the installation of one hundred new lockers. Architect and engineer Chivous Gilmer Harrill designed the Modernist gymnasium that bears Vogler's name. General contractor C. M. Morrison oversaw the building's construction in 1957. Over the course of the 1959-1960 term, Vogler and eight instructors educated 182 students, twenty-eight of whom graduated. Campus updates included bathroom and hall painting, new classroom furniture installation, and the construction of sidewalks, a patio, a fishpond, a swimming pool, and a miniature golf course.³³³



Dining Hall, 1961

Contractors completed a dining hall in 1961, a boys' dormitory in 1968, and a student center in 1974. The following year, the campus comprised thirty-seven acres and fourteen buildings. In 1976, decreased high school enrollment resulted in the Rutherford County Board of Education transferring eleventh and twelfth grades to Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High. Union Mills stopped accepting boarding students in 1977, when ninth and tenth grades moved to Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High.³³⁴

United World Mission, Inc. purchased 26.25 acres flanking Hudlow Road on September 21, 1988.³³⁵ The organization has renovated the thirteen-building campus to serve as the Center for Intercultural Training, utilizing the 1925 Union Mills Consolidated School as the administration building. The 1961 dining hall retains its original function, as do the dormitories, which house visiting students and faculty. The 1947 Union Mills School and the 1957 gymnasium served as an elementary and middle school until 2000, after which the property stood vacant until the school system donated the school, gymnasium, and 6.86 acres to Union Mills Learning Center, Inc., a non-profit community organization, on May 15, 2007.³³⁶ The entity is in the process of remodeling the school.

W. Vogler New Supt. of Alexander Schools," *Rutherford County News*, May 10, 1951; "Fire Destroys Gym at Union Mills School," *Rutherford County News*, February 1952; Nannie Newsome, "The History of Union Mills," 629; Rutherford County School History Committee, "Union Mills Consolidated School," and "Union Mills School."

³³² V. W. Breeze and Associates, Inc., "Boys Dormitory for Alexander School, Inc.," May 28, 1953, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

³³³ "Union Mills School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1955; "The John Vogler Gymnasium," building plaque, 1957.

³³⁴ Nannie Newsome, "The History of Union Mills," 629.

³³⁵ Rutherford County Deed Book 527, p. 539.

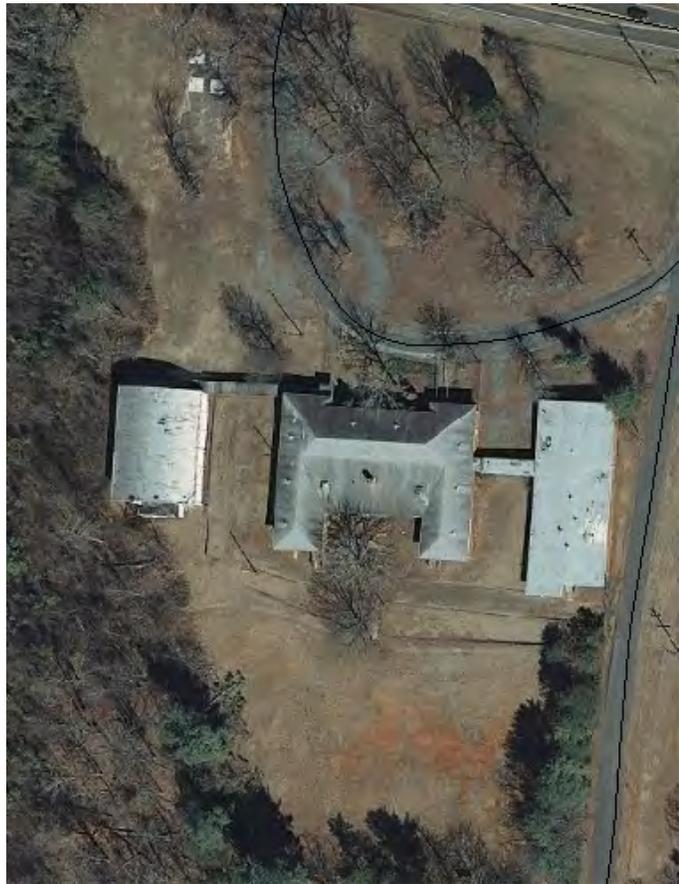
³³⁶ Rutherford County Deed Book 933, p. 171.

**Ruth Elementary School
1926, 1951, 1960**

**132 Ruth School Circle,
Rutherfordton**

DOE 2003

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Ruth Elementary School, 1926



Description

This campus comprises a Classical Revival-style, H-plan, brick school constructed in 1926, a Modernist brick cafeteria and four-classroom addition erected to the east in 1951, and a 1960 concrete-block gymnasium to the west. Masons executed the one-story-on-basement, hip-roofed school in running bond with a soldier-course watertable and door and window lintels embellished with cast-stone corner blocks. A soldier-course band encircles the building at the upper edges of the window openings, spanning each lintel. Deep eaves shelter the single four-over-four and triple six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows that illuminate the classrooms and offices. Large, round-arched, window units containing double-hung, six-over-six-sash central sections surrounded by multipane

sidelights, fanlights, and transoms light the auditorium. Small, gabled, louvered attic vents pierce the roof, two on the front roof slope and three on each wing.

On the façade's slightly projecting end bays, soldier courses frame square panels with cast-stone corner blocks. The bays contain inset corner entrance porches with square brick posts, beadboard ceilings, and concrete floors and steps with metal-pipe railings. On each wing's south elevation, soldier courses create two tall, rectangular panels with cast-stone corner blocks and matching door surrounds. Single and double-leaf steel doors with enclosed transoms provide access to the corridors from the four rear entrances. Concrete steps with solid brick railings capped with cast-stone and metal-pipe railings lead to each door.

The school interior retains hardwood floors, plaster walls, and simple wood baseboards, chair rails, and door and window surrounds. Three-pane operable transoms surmount raised-panel wood doors. Original blackboards, coat closets, storage cabinets, and shelves remain in many classrooms. The auditorium stage is intact and the room has a "paneled" ceiling created by applying flat, thin, wood molding strips to the plaster ceiling.



Ruth Elementary School, 1951 cafeteria and classroom annex

A flat-roofed breezeway supported by steel posts extends east from the 1926 school to the 1951 cafeteria and classroom annex. Masons executed the rectangular, one-story, almost-flat-roofed, brick building in running bond. The light beige color of the cast-stone window sills and the quoined pilasters separating the window bays provides stark contrast to the red brick walls. A plain flat cornice encircles the building below the deep eaves. Concrete block walls, vinyl composition tile floors, and raised-horizontal-panel wood doors with operable multipane transoms characterize the interior.

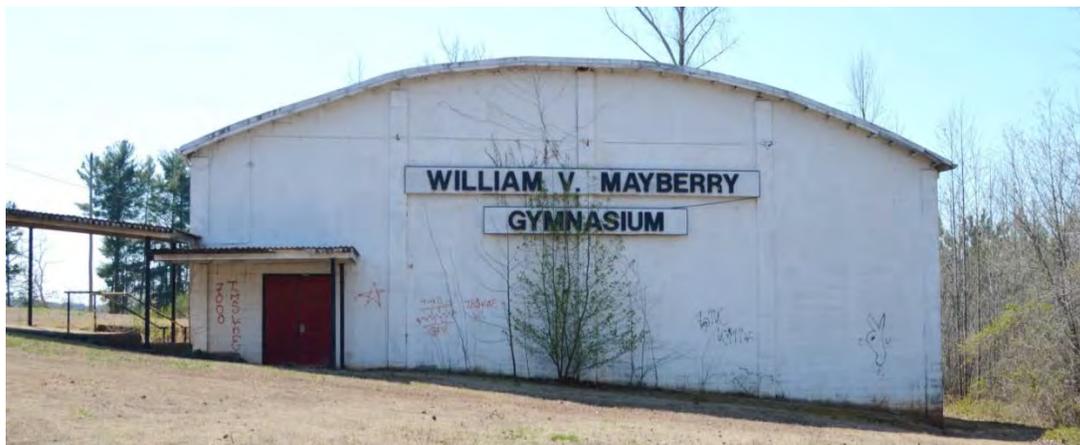
A flat, corrugated-metal canopy supported by steel posts connects the school to the gymnasium and shelters the building's front (north) entrance. Plain buttresses delineate each bay of the austere, windowless, concrete-block structure, which has a bowstring truss roof. The interior basketball court has a vinyl composition tile floor. A flat-roofed, one-story rear wing contains locker rooms. A square brick chimney rises on the south elevation.

A brick-lined well remains in the rear yard. Formed-concrete retaining walls create a terraced lawn between the school and the athletic fields at a lower grade to the south. Concrete steps with metal pipe railings lead to the fields.

Historical Background

Ruth School's enrollment numbered approximately 100 students in August 1926, when W. G. Deveny was principal. During the 1933-1934 academic year, Ruth School principal Paul H. Huss and seven female teachers instructed an average of 259 first- through seventh-grade students, although 355 had enrolled. Steam heated the eight-classroom brick building, which included an auditorium, library, and offices. Although the school utilized the city water system, toilets were located in privies. By 1936, indoor restrooms had been installed. At that time, daily attendance averaged 269 pupils and principal D. M. Bridges led the seven-member faculty. In May 1940, principal Worth T. Lewis reported an enrollment of 392 students during the school term that had just ended, with 295 youth attending classes on a regular basis. Seven female teachers and one male instructor headed eight classrooms. Extracurricular activity options ranged from athletics to glee club and a toy orchestra. In 1946, statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools, but in most Rutherford County townships eighth-grade classes remained at high schools. That year, principal B. F. Maree, eight female teachers, and one male faculty member taught a daily average of 268 of the 388 pupils enrolled in Ruth School's seven grades. The building then comprised nine classrooms. In 1948-1949, daily attendance averaged 297 students in eight grades and the faculty had decreased by one female teacher under the supervision of principal H. E. Green.³³⁷

The Rutherford County Board of Education expanded the campus over the next decade with the construction of the 1951 kitchen, cafeteria, and four-classroom annex designed by Shelby architect and engineer V. W. Breeze.³³⁸ Mayberry Gymnasium, erected in 1960, was named in honor of principal William V. Mayberry. Ruth Elementary School operated until its 2001 consolidation with Mt. Vernon Elementary Schools at a newly-constructed campus.³³⁹ Deferred maintenance has resulted in extensive water damage in the 1951 annex. Rutherford County is attempting to identify a new use for the property.



Ruth Elementary School, Mayberry Gymnasium, 1960

³³⁷ R. E. Price, "Three Rutherford County Towns Now Have Beautiful High School, Costing \$275,000;" "Ruth School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1946, 1949; "Ruth Elementary School," Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools, State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940.

³³⁸ V. W. Breeze, "Addition to Ruth Grade School," January 3, 1948, plans on file at Holland and Hamrick Architects, P. A., Shelby, N. C.

³³⁹ Sybil Houser, executive assistant, Rutherford County Schools, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 3, 2014.

**Rutherfordton-Spindale
High School - Central High
School**
1925, 1939, 1957, 1961, 1966

**545 Charlotte Road
Rutherfordton**

2010 aerial view
courtesy of
Rutherford County GIS



Rutherfordton-Spindale High School - Central High School, 1925

Description

Gastonia architect Hugh Edward White developed the preliminary plans for this monumental three-story building, which possesses an L-shaped footprint that is markedly different from the more traditional T-shaped plans of other consolidated-era Rutherford County schools. North Carolina Department of Education staff and Columbia University architects Strayer and Englebost refined the design.

The façade's focal point is the angled entrance pavilion, dominated by a classical limestone frontispiece featuring a round-arched, open tympanum framing a blind panel embellished with a central bull's eye medallion. Tuscan columns support an entablature comprising a paneled frieze and a

denticulated, molded cornice. Masons laid the brick walls in running bond with patterned brick and cast-stone accents. Above the first-story windows, a decorative band encompassing a course of headers and a course of stretchers on either side of alternating soldiers and headers flank square cast-stone tiles with diamond-shaped terra-cotta insets and cast-stone corner blocks. Header courses border the rectangular brick panels with cast-stone corner blocks that enliven the space between the second and third stories, where groups of three windows occupy slightly recessed panels. A cornice with a molded lower band, a frieze featuring cast-stone tiles with diamond-shaped terra-cotta insets framed by cast-stone corner blocks and header courses, and a projecting, stepped upper cornice encircles the building above the third-story windows. Glazed terra cotta coping caps the flat parapet. Three tall, rectangular brick panels with cast-stone corner blocks ornament the east and west elevations at the auditorium/gymnasium wing's north end.

The Rutherford County Board of Education replaced most of the original wood sash windows throughout the building with one-over-one synthetic sash, but enclosed a few window openings with translucent glass block and infilled and parged the tall, rectangular auditorium window openings. Concrete steps with steel pipe railings flanked by brick planters lead to the replacement aluminum-frame double-leaf glass door and transom. Contractors replaced the other exterior classroom wing doors in a similar fashion. Four single-leaf steel replacement doors provide access to the auditorium/gymnasium wing.



Rutherfordton-Spindale High School - Central High School, 1939 building

A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by steel posts connects the school to one-story, brick, hip-roofed, 1939 building to the east. Erected to serve as vocational classrooms, the building manifests Classical elements such as projecting hip-roofed end bays, rounded-arched doorways framing recessed entrances, and a hip-roofed rear entrance porch supported by square posts. Masons executed the walls in a distinctive common bond with three courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating headers and stretchers. Paired double-hung replacement windows illuminate the interior. Gabled, louvered vents provide attic ventilation.



Rutherfordton-Spindale High School - Central High School, Cafeteria, 1957

Three Modernist buildings erected in the 1950s and 1960s complete the campus's contingent of historic buildings. Flat-roofed metal canopies with steel posts shelter most of the campus sidewalks. Architect and engineer Chivous Gilmer Harrill designed the one-story, brick, flat-roofed cafeteria and kitchen erected by Graham Construction Company in 1957. Brick walls support the concrete canopy that shelters the two double-leaf steel doors and surrounding steel-framed curtain wall on the south elevation. A concrete cornice and matching window surrounds complete the Modernist composition.

Hickory architects Clemmer and Horton designed the three-story 1961 edifice west of the cafeteria and north of the 1939 vocational building that added fifteen classrooms and a gymnasium to the campus. Concrete pilasters and belt courses frame the red brick veneer bays of the flat-roofed, rectangular, steel-frame structure executed by Mooresville contractor Barger Construction Company. The tall cast-stone cornice extends past the building footprint on the east elevation to shelter a recessed entrance porch. At the east elevation's south end, brick benches with cast-stone seats project from the wall. On the north elevation, decorative metal railings secure the concrete steps of the two-story open stair tower. The lower stories of the north and south elevations are parged at the east end. On the south and west elevations, large metal-framed windows illuminate the classrooms. A tall, round, brick smokestack rises next to the south elevation.

A small, square, one-story, flat-roofed music classroom was constructed east of the 1925 school in 1962. The running bond red brick building has a recessed double-leaf steel door and transom on its east elevation and single-leaf steel doors sheltered by flat-roofed metal canopies on the north and west elevations.

Architect James R. Washburn prepared plans for the two-story building that A & G Construction erected west of the 1925 school in 1966 to provide four classrooms and a media center. A tall cast-stone cornice caps the flat-roofed, rectangular, red brick building and extends past the building footprint to shelter the sidewalk that runs along the east elevation. A decorative brick wall at the sidewalk's south end supports the overhang's exposed concrete structure. Double-leaf glass replacement doors and tall, narrow windows light the interior.

Beam Construction Company renovated the campus in 1993 per the specifications of Boney

Architects, Inc.³⁴⁰ The Rutherford County Board of Education erected an expansive one-story brick classroom building east of the other campus structures in 1998.

Historical Background

The Rutherford County Board of Education acquired a twenty-five acre tract equidistant from Ruth, Rutherfordton, and Spindale upon which to erect a high school to serve the three communities. Charlotte landscape architect Earle Sumner Draper and the Carolina Engineering Company determined the campus configuration, situating the school at the top of a hill. Native trees and shrubs such as dogwoods, azaleas, and mountain laurels ornamented wooded areas and landscaped areas throughout the campus. Valdesian Nurseries, based in nearby Bostic, supplied the evergreen and deciduous plants that surrounded the school. The setting complemented the Classical Revival design proposed by architect Hugh Edward White of the Gastonia firm of White, Streeter, and Chamberlain.³⁴¹

North Carolina Department of Education planners, in conjunction with Columbia University architects Strayer and Englebost, refined White's plans for the monumental three-story building. The Rutherford County Board of Education accepted Charlotte general contracting firm Palmer-Spivey Construction Company's \$127,450 bid to erect the school. The classrooms, laboratories, offices, library, cafeteria, gymnasium, and restrooms displayed the most-up-to-date amenities of the period. The eleven-hundred-seat auditorium included a stage, dressing rooms, movie production booth. School bonds funded the school's \$275,000 construction and furnishing cost.³⁴²

Rutherfordton-Spindale High School's enrollment numbered approximately 275 students under the supervision of principal L. E. Spikes in August 1926. Student athletes enjoyed a baseball and football fields, a running track, and tennis courts. In 1929-1930, principal F. W. Jarvis and eleven teachers oversaw 374 high school pupils in sixteen classrooms. Forty-two youth graduated that spring. In 1934-1935, principal C. A. Denson's faculty consisted of fifteen teachers other than himself. Enrollment comprised 486 students, fifty-four of whom graduated. Students occupied seventeen classrooms and joined a basketball team; drama, glee, and Young Tar Heel Farmer clubs; and published a newspaper called *Campus Clothes*.³⁴³

In the early 1930s, the federal Civil Works Administration contributed \$1,009.35 toward improving the grounds. An April 14, 1938, fire damaged the classroom wing's interior. Guided by Shelby architect V. W. Breeze and subsidized by a federal Public Works Administration grant, the Rutherford County Board of Education soon commissioned Shelby contractor C. C. Morrison to renovate the classroom wing and Bennettsville, S. C., contractor J. L. Powers to erect the adjacent vocational building. Both projects were completed in April 1939. During the 1939-1940 academic term, principal W. B. Robertson Jr. and thirteen female and five male teachers instructed 646 high school pupils, eighty-three of whom successfully completed the course of study. Students participated in extracurricular activities including debate, drama, glee, library, photography, and Future Farmers of America clubs. The

³⁴⁰ "R. S. Middle School," plaque on 1939 vocational building.

³⁴¹ R. E. Price, "Three Rutherford County Towns Now Have Beautiful High School, Costing \$275,000," *GDD*, August 29, 1926;

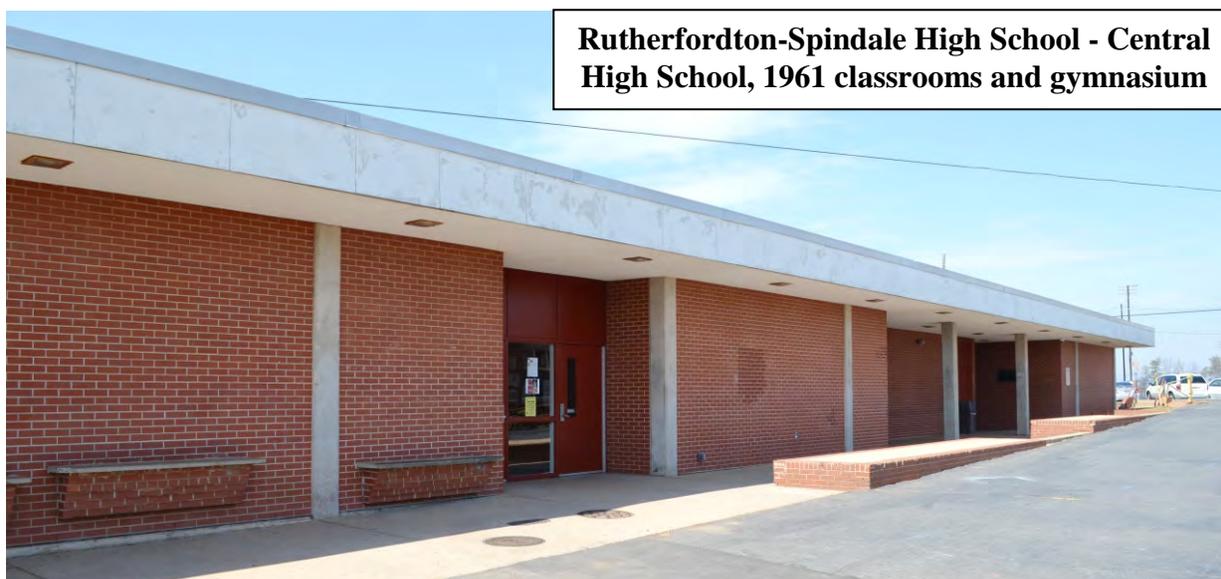
³⁴² *Ibid.*; "The Contract is Let for Consolidated High School Building," *The Sun*, November 13, 1924.

³⁴³ R. E. Price, "Three Rutherford County Towns Now Have Beautiful High School, Costing \$275,000"; "Rutherfordton-Spindale High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1930, 1935.

campus ball field was located east of the school and vocational building.³⁴⁴

In 1945-1946, the student body included 408 high school pupils instructed by principal Laxton Hamrick, four male faculty members, and eleven female teachers. Statewide school reorganization had resulted in the addition of eighth grade to elementary schools, but in most Rutherford County townships eighth-grade classes remained at high schools. That year, Hamrick and six female teachers taught a daily average of 163 of the 189 pupils enrolled in Central High School's eighth grade.³⁴⁵

During the 1949-1950 term, attendance typically comprised 503 of 595 enrolled pupils educated by principal B. F. Maree, fourteen female teachers, and six male faculty members in twenty-two classrooms. In 1954-1955, principal C. N. Womack and 31 teachers oversaw 829 high school students, 166 of whom graduated. Facility improvements included interior painting, electric water fountain installation, partitioning of the study hall to create a library reference room, and parking lot upgrades. Architect and engineer Chivous Gilmer Harrill designed the one-story, brick, flat-roofed cafeteria and kitchen erected by Graham Construction Company of Hendersonville in 1957. During 1959-1960, principal C. N. Womack and seventeen instructors educated 476 students, ninety of whom graduated. Campus updates included classroom painting, erecting a Quonset hut to serve as the auto mechanics department, and landscaping.³⁴⁶ Subsequent additions included a three-story building encompassing fifteen classrooms and a gymnasium in 1961, a music classroom in 1962, a two-story building containing four classrooms and a media center completed in 1967, and a one-story metal-sided shop classroom in 1971.³⁴⁷



³⁴⁴ Kirk, et. al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina*, 517; *The Rutherford County News*, September 8, 1938; "Rutherfordton-Spindale High School," "Operation of Plant and Sanitation Survey of North Carolina Public Schools," State School Commission and State Board of Health, Raleigh, 1940; "Rutherfordton-Spindale High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1940; Division of School Planning, *Rutherford County: A Special Report* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1985), 39-40; Davyd Foard Hood, "Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1992

³⁴⁵ "Central High School," "Principal's Annual Reports, Standard Elementary Schools," NCDPI, DIS, 1946; "Central High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1946, 1950, 1955.

³⁴⁶ "Rutherfordton-Spindale High School," "Principal's Annual High School Reports," NCDPI, DIS, 1950, 1955, 1960.

³⁴⁷ Division of School Planning, *Rutherford County: A Special Report*, 39-40.

VII. National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Guidelines

In order to achieve inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, schools are required to meet significance criteria and maintain character-defining features. An educational building must convey its original appearance and its evolution during a carefully-delineated period of significance through the seven qualities of historic integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Resources are typically at least fifty years old, but properties that are especially historically or architecturally important may qualify for consideration even if they have not yet reached fifty years of age.

Historic schools are often locally significant under Criterion A for Education as they manifest the development of an area's academic, vocational, and athletic instructional programs. Municipal and rural campuses also functioned as community centers, with auditoriums and gymnasiums hosting events for local residents as well as school programs. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction enacted academic standards intended to provide youth with universal access to high-quality educational opportunities. However, implementation varied in disparate locales due to budget constraints and unequal resource allocation. Conditions at many schools, particularly African American and rural campuses, remained substandard.

Institutional architecture reflects national trends. Educational buildings eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C for architecture may display distinctive forms, materials, or construction techniques, or they might be simply-executed but intact examples of once common but now rare building types. The survey sample includes modest buildings erected with minimal budgets as well as sophisticated classical, Art Deco, and Modernist edifices. Plan sources ranged from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to locally and nationally recognized architects. In all cases, a building's intended function dictated its design.

Early-twentieth-century schools are disappearing from the rural landscape at an alarming rate, making survivors increasingly important. Educational buildings that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C typically remain on original sites and retain massing, form, fenestration, and materials appropriate to the period of significance. Important original exterior and interior finishes include wall material, windows, doors, floors, and wall and ceiling sheathing. Original built-in bookcases, blackboards, and closets and intact features such as auditorium stage and seating configuration contribute to architectural and historical significance but their retention is not mandatory.

Campuses that have remained in use for educational purposes have evolved over time, receiving updates that are significant as they represent changing statewide school standards. For example, mid-twentieth-century educational construction is typically efficiently arranged, takes full advantage of natural light and air circulation, and facilitates connectivity between interior and exterior spaces. The often-austere, brick-veneered, flat-roofed classrooms and cafeterias provide large, well-ventilated, and amply lit instructional areas and separate, sanitary food service facilities.

In some cases, Boards of Education undertook county-wide renovation projects such as window replacement. As long as the original window opening size remains intact and a building otherwise displays a high degree of integrity, window replacement as part of a school system improvement campaign would not preclude National Register listing. However, historic windows should be preserved whenever possible.

It is highly unlikely, but not impossible, that public schools will meet National Register Criterion B. An individual associated with the school would have to attain exceptionally significant achievements and the educational building would have to be the only extant resource associated with an individual's productive career. It is also improbable that a school site might yield information about our past not otherwise accessible from other extant resources and written records, making it eligible for the National Register listing under Criterion D.

The following schools appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for education and Criterion C for architecture based on their exterior appearance. Interior access was only possible for a few surveyed schools, so interior integrity would need to be verified. Many educational complexes evolved over time. The historical and architectural significance of the entire complex should be evaluated. In a few cases, individual buildings are recommended as eligible rather than an entire campus. Properties marked with an asterisk are included in the National Register as contributing buildings in historic districts, but also appear to be individually eligible. Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School is individually listed in the National Register, but a boundary expansion to include the Modernist buildings erected between 1958 and 1967 is recommended.

National Register-Eligible Campuses

Cleveland County

- Cleveland County Training School # 2
- Davidson School
- Dixon School
- Dover School
- *Graham Elementary School, 701 West Oak Street
- Graham Elementary School, 1100 Blanton Street
- *Kings Mountain Graded School – Central High School
- Park Grace School
- *Shelby High School

Henderson County

- Balfour School
- East Flat Rock School
- Fletcher School
- *Hendersonville Graded School - Rosa Edwards School
- Hendersonville School
- Tuxedo School
- Valley Hill School

Polk County

- Columbus High School - Stearns School
- Green Creek School Gymnasium
- Mill Spring School
- Saluda School (1936 classroom building and gymnasium)
- Tryon School

Rutherford County

- *Alexander School
- Gilkey School
- Green Hill School and Community Building
- Round Hill Academy - Alexander Schools, Inc. - Union Mills School
- Ruth Elementary School
- **Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School (boundary expansion)

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Appendix A. Surveyed School List by County and Survey Site Number

SSN Property Name and Address

Cleveland County

CL0269	Bethlehem School, 1017 Bethlehem Road, Kings Mountain
CL0042	Boiling Springs Elementary/High School, 141 South Main Street, Boiling Springs
CL0462	Casar High School, 436 School House Road, Casar
CL0297	Compact School, 150 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain
CL01498	Davidson Elementary School, 533 West Parker Street, Kings Mountain
CL0235	Dixon School, 603 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain
CL0492	Dover School, 409 Polkville Road, Dover
CL0528	Graham Elementary School, 1928, 701 West Oak Street, Shelby
CL0617	Graham Elementary School, 1960s, 1100 Blanton Street, Shelby
CL1269	Kings Mountain School – Central High School, 105 Ridge Street, Kings Mountain
CL0132	Lattimore School, 101 Stockton Street, Lattimore
CL0685	Mooresboro School, 308 West Main Street, Mooresboro
CL0291	Park Grace School, 115 Park Grace Road, Kings Mountain
CL0656	Shelby High School, 400 West Marion Street, Shelby
CL0989	Shelby School - Cleveland County Training School # 2, 341 Hudson Street, Shelby

Henderson County

HN1363	Balfour School, 2529 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville
HN1402	Edneyville High School, 3971 Chimney Rock Road, Edneyville
HN0642	East Flat Rock School, 107 East Blue Ridge Road, East Flat Rock
HN0674	Flat Rock High School Classroom Building, 2700 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock
HN0675	Flat Rock High School Library/Cafeteria, 2702 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock
HN0676	Flat Rock High School Gymnasium, 2688 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock

- HN1362 Fletcher School, 17 Cane Creek Road, Fletcher
- HN0459 Hendersonville Graded School - Fourth Avenue School - Rosa Edwards School,
41 West Fourth Avenue, Hendersonville
- HN1366 Hendersonville High School and Gymnasium, 1 Bearcat Boulevard, Hendersonville
- HN0726 Hillandale Elementary School, 504 Preston Lane, East Flat Rock
- HN1064 Tuxedo Elementary School, 1124 Old US 25 Highway, Tuxedo
- HN1364 Valley Hill School, 175 South Carolina Street, Hendersonville

Polk County

- PL0193 Columbus High School - Stearns School, 125 East Mills Street, Columbus
- PL0296 Green Creek School, 25 Shields Drive, Green Creek
- PL0297 Mill Spring School, 156 School Road, Mill Spring
- PL0295 Saluda School, 214 Main Street, Saluda
- PL0274 Stearns School Gymnasium, 105 North Peak Street, Columbus
- PL0093 Tryon School, 1923, 100 School Place, Tryon

Rutherford County

- RF0577 Alexander School, 120 School Drive, Forest City
- RF0313 Cliffside School, 1921, 4016 US Highway 221, Cliffside
- RF0315 Cool Springs High School, 1924-1925, 382 West Main Street, Forest City
- RF0317 Gilkey Elementary School, 1923, 217 Gilkey School Road, Gilkey
- RF0319 Green Hill School, 1921, 2501 US Highway 64/74A, Green Hill
- RF0652 Green Hill Community Center, 1941, 2501 US Highway 64/74A, Green Hill
- RF0430 Henrietta-Caroleen High School, 1925, 2527 US Highway 221A
- RF0268 Round Hill Academy - Alexander Schools, Inc. - Union Mills School, 6495 Hudlow
Road, Union Mills
- RF0320 Union Mills School, 6494 Hudlow Road, Union Mills

RF0439 Ruth School, 1928, 132 Ruth School Circle, Rutherfordton

RF0293 Rutherfordton-Spindale Central High School, 1925, 545 Charlotte Road, Rutherfordton

Appendix B. Professional Qualifications

**HEATHER FEARNBACH
FEARNBACH HISTORY SERVICES, INC.**

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in History coursework, 2006-2007, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Master of Arts in History, emphasis in Public History, 1997, Middle Tennessee State University
- Graduate coursework in Anthropology, 1994-1995, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, 1993, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President and Architectural Historian, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., Winston-Salem, N.C.,
established May 2008

- Prepare National Register of Historic Places nominations, local designation reports, Section 106/4f reports, site management plans, historic structures reports, and historic furnishings plans
- Conduct comprehensive architectural surveys and historical research
- Provide historic rehabilitation tax credit consultation and application submittal services

Lecturer, Art and Design Department, Salem College, Winston-Salem, N.C., Spring 2003 to present;
Coordinator of the Certificate Program in Historic Preservation from its summer 2010 launch to present

- Teach “Introduction to Historic Preservation” (ARTD 206/PRSV 230) and “Preservation-Sensitive Sustainable Design” (PRSV 240) to undergraduate and continuing education students
- Recruit and advise certificate program students
- Arrange and supervise historic preservation internships

Lecturer, History and Interior Architecture Departments, University of North Carolina at Greensboro,
Spring 2008 to Fall 2012

- Taught HIS/IAR 628, “Identification and Evaluation of the Historic Built Environment” to graduate students

Architectural Historian, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., Winston-Salem, N.C., January 2003 to June
2008

- Operated regional office of Georgia-based consulting firm
- Wrote National Register nominations, local designation reports, and site management plans
- Prepared historic resource documentation as required by Section 106/4f and coordinated reviews with local, state, and federal agencies as needed
- Performed field surveys to identify, evaluate, research, and document historic resources located in the areas of potential effect for proposed projects
- Conducted comprehensive architectural surveys for the State Historic Preservation Offices in North Carolina and South Carolina

Architectural Historian, Historic Architecture Section, Project Development and Environmental Analysis
Branch, Department of Transportation, Raleigh, N.C., October 2000 to January 2003

- Performed architectural identification and analysis for project planning process
- Assessed project effects, devised and implemented mitigation as required by Section 106/4f
- Prepared relevant parts of environmental documents as required by NEPA
- Provided technical expertise for staff, Division personnel, and the general public
- Coordinated historic bridge relocation and reuse program
- Reviewed in-house staff documents and consultant documents

Restoration Specialist, Architecture Branch, Historic Sites Section, Division of Archives and History,
Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, N.C., January 1999 to October 2000

- Served as Head of the Architecture Branch
- Supervised Facility Architect I position and temporary position
- Managed restoration, renovation, and new construction projects at twenty-two state historic sites
- Monitored in-house job request system and prioritized projects
- Provided expertise, advice, and counsel on building code, design, historic architecture, ADA, and restoration issues to site managers, maintenance personnel, and the public
- Coordinated the development of the section's programming for individual projects
- Handled the section's review of plans and specifications and provided written comments
- Acted as liaison with the State Historic Preservation Office

Historic Site Manager II, Somerset Place State Historic Site, Creswell, N.C., April 1998 to January 1999

- Managed daily operations involving administration, interpretation, and personnel
- Supervised and reviewed research projects
- Prepared general research and planning reports
- Revised the interpretive script for the site
- Revamped the education program and began a packet for teachers
- Reissued Somerset Place Foundation, Inc. publications
- Updated web page for the Historic Albemarle Tour web site
- Conducted regular, specialized, and hands-on tours of Somerset Place, an antebellum plantation

Field Surveyor and Assistant Coordinator, The Center for Historic Preservation, Murfreesboro, T.N., August 1997 to May 1998

- Conducted grant-supported research and survey work to prepare one multiple property nomination including denominational histories and thirteen individual nominations of rural African American churches in Tennessee to the National Register of Historic Places
- Coordinated research and planning for the Civil War Heritage Area in Tennessee

Graduate Research Assistant, The Center for Historic Preservation, Murfreesboro, T.N., August 1996 to August 1997

- Museums: Developed an exhibit entitled "Murfreesboro: Settlement to Reconstruction" for Bradley Academy, an African American school converted into a local history museum
- Heritage Education: Drafted design proposal for a 1920s heritage classroom at Bradley Academy and assisted with grant writing and preliminary exhibit design for the new Children's Discovery House
- Heritage Tourism: Designed Civil War history wayside exhibits and an interpretive brochure for the Stones River and Lytle Creek Greenway in Murfreesboro, performed bibliographic research for the Civil War Heritage Area in Tennessee project, and created a brochure for the Leadership Rutherford Committee

Researcher, National Park Service - Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, M.S., May 1997 to September 1997

- Visited repositories in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi to accumulate information for a comprehensive bibliography on the modern motor road that is the Natchez Trace Parkway's major transportation corridor
- Evaluated project research and prepared a final report published in 1998

SUPPLEMENTARY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Board Member, Wachovia Historical Society, term appointment 2014-2016

Advisory Council, North Carolina Modernist Houses, 2014

Board Member, North Carolina Preservation Consortium, term appointment 2013-2016

Board Member, State Capitol Foundation, Raleigh, N.C., 2010-2012

Commission Member, Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, Raleigh, N.C., 2002-2003

- Served on the Certificate of Appropriateness and Research Committees

Board Member, Historic Stagville Foundation, Durham, N.C., 2001-2003

- Served on the Buildings Committee and assisted with special events

Consultant, Terracon, Duluth, G.A., 2001-2003

- Prepared communications tower review forms, conduct fieldwork, and provide additional documentation as requested for Section 106 compliance
- Presented proposed projects to the staff at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology

Board Member, Joel Lane House, Inc., 1999-2002

- Served as House Chairman (regularly inspected historic resources and scheduled repairs)
- Assisted with special event planning and execution
- Developed and implemented cyclical maintenance plan

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Willie Parker Peace History Book Award from the North Carolina Society of Historians, Inc., 2012

- For three reports: “Forsyth County’s Agricultural Heritage” and “The Bethania Freedmen’s Community,” prepared for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, and a western North Carolina historic store context compiled for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The North Carolina Society of Historians, Inc., established in 1941 to collect and preserve “North Carolina history, traditions, artifacts, genealogies, and folklore,” presents the Willie Parker Peace Award annually to “encourage the writing and publication of the history of a North Carolina county, institution, or individual.”

Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit from Preservation North Carolina, 2011

- In recognition of achievements as an architectural historian and a Salem College and UNC-Greensboro professor. Each year, Preservation North Carolina presents Carraway Awards to individuals and organizations that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to promoting historic preservation. The awards have been given since 1975 and are named for the late Dr. Gertrude Carraway, a leader in the successful effort to reconstruct the state’s colonial capitol, Tryon Palace, in New Bern.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEYS

- Forsyth County, North Carolina Phases I, II, III, and IV Architectural Survey (2006-2011)
- City of Concord Downtown Commercial Districts Survey Update, Cabarrus County (2008)
- City of Concord Residential Historic Districts Survey Update, Cabarrus County, North Carolina (2006)
- City of Lexington Architectural Survey (Historic Residential Neighborhoods and Erlanger Mill Village), Davidson County, North Carolina (2005)
- City of Thomasville Architectural Survey, Davidson County, North Carolina (2004)
- City of Rock Hill, South Carolina Architectural Survey for the City of Rock Hill and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (2004)
- City of Greenville, South Carolina Architectural Survey for the City of Greenville and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (2003)

HISTORIC CONTEXTS, STUDY LIST APPLICATIONS, AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATIONS

- Cora Manufacturing Company and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company National Register Nomination, Haw River, Alamance County (2014)
- Barker House National Register Nomination, Henderson vicinity, Vance County (2014)
- Old German Baptist Brethren Church National Register Nomination, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2014)
- James H. and Anne Willis House Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Greensboro, Guilford County (2014)
- Downtown Sylva Historic District National Register Nomination, Jackson County (2014)
- Albemarle Graded School Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Albemarle, Stanly

County (2013-2014)

- Acme-McCrary Hosiery Mills Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Asheboro, Randolph County (2013-2014)
- Waller House Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Dozier vicinity, Forsyth County (2012-2014)
- Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House National Register Nomination, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2013-2014)
- Lenoir Downtown Historic District Boundary Increase National Register Nomination, Caldwell County (2013)
- Hoots Milling Company Roller Mill Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Forsyth County (2013)
- *Forsyth County's Agricultural Heritage*, contextual report prepared for the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission (2012)
- *The Bethania Freedmen's Community: An Architectural and Historical Context of the Bethania-Rural Hall Road Study Area*, Forsyth County, North Carolina (2012)
- City Hospital - Gaston Memorial Hospital Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Gastonia, Gaston County (2011)
- Asheboro Hosiery Mills – Cranford Furniture Company Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Asheboro, Randolph County (2011)
- Chatham Manufacturing Company National Register Nomination, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2011)
- Washington Street Historic District National Register Nomination, High Point, Guilford County (2010)
- Farmington Historic District National Register Nomination, Farmington, Davie County (2010)
- Carolina Mill Study List Application, Carolina, Alamance County (2010)
- Booker T. Washington High School Study List Application, Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County (2009)
- Moore-Cordell House Study List Application, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2009)
- Stonecutter Mills Study List Application, Spindale, Rutherford County (2009)
- Beverly Hills Historic District National Register Nomination, Burlington, Alamance County (2009)
- Central City Historic District National Register Nomination Boundary Increase, Decrease, and Additional Documentation, Rocky Mount, Nash and Edgecombe Counties (2009)
- St. Stephen United Methodist Church National Register Nomination Draft, Lexington, Davidson County (2008)
- Blair Farm National Register Nomination, Boone, Watauga County (2008)
- Foust-Carpenter and Dean Dick Farms Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Whitsett vicinity, Guilford County (2007, 2008)
- Alexander Manufacturing Company Mill Village Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Forest City, Rutherford County (2005, 2008)
- Erlanger Mill Village Historic District Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Davidson County (2005, 2007)
- Lenoir Downtown Historic District National Register Nomination, Caldwell County (2006)
- Lexington Residential Historic District Study List Application and National Register Nomination, Davidson County (2005, 2006)
- West Main Street Historic District National Register Nomination, Forest City, Rutherford County (2005)
- Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion, Gastonia, Gaston County (2005)
- East Main Street Historic District National Register Nomination, Forest City, Rutherford County (2005)
- York-Chester Historic District National Register Nomination, Gaston County (2004)
- Turner and Amelia Smith House National Register Nomination, Wake County (2004)
- Kenworth Historic District National Register Nomination, Catawba County (2004)
- Main Street Historic District National Register Boundary Expansion, Forest City, Rutherford County (2004)
- Lewis-Thornburg Farm National Register Nomination, Randolph County (2003)
- Henrietta-Caroleen High School National Register Nomination, Rutherford County (2003)
- Everetts Christian Church National Register Nomination, Martin County (2003)
- First Christian Church National Register Nomination, Martin County (2003)

- Oak City Church National Register Nomination, Martin County (2003)
- West Raleigh National Register Nomination, Wake County, North Carolina (2003)
- Study List Applications: Randleman School, Randolph County; Linden School, Cumberland County; Cleveland School, Johnston County (2002)
- Peace House National Register Nomination, Granville County (2002)
- Ashland National Register Nomination, Bertie County (2002)
- Frank and Mary Smith House National Register Nomination, Wake County (2002)
- Winfall Historic District National Register Nomination, Perquimans County (2002)
- King Parker House National Register Nomination, Hertford County (2002)
- Study List Applications: Brentwood School, Guilford County; Powell-Horton House, Hertford County (2002)
- Porter Houses and Armstrong Kitchen National Register Nomination, Edgecombe County (2002)
- Hauser Farm (Horne Creek Farm State Historic Site) National Register Nomination, Surry County (2001)
- Garrett's Island House National Register Nomination, Washington County (2000)
- *CSS Neuse* National Register Nomination, Lenoir County (1999)
- St. Luke's A.M.E. Church National Register Nomination Draft, Halifax County (1999); church destroyed by Hurricane Floyd in September 1999

LOCAL DESIGNATION REPORTS AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Park Place Local Historic District Local Designation Report, Lexington, Davidson County (2013)
- YWCA Administration Building Local Landmark Designation Report, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2013)
- Downtown Concord Historic District Local Designation Report and Consultation, Cabarrus County (2008, 2010)
- Lexington Residential Historic District and Erlanger Mill Village Historic District Local Designation Reports and Draft Design Guidelines, Davidson County (2007-2008)
- Foust-Carpenter and Dean Dick Farms Local Historic District Designation Report, Whitsett vicinity, Guilford County (2007)
- Ludwick and Elizabeth Summers House Local Landmark Designation Report, Gibsonville vicinity, Guilford County (2007)
- James B. and Diana M. Dyer House, Local Landmark Designation Report, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2005)

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORTS AND RESTORATION PLANS

- Restoration plan preparation for the Robson House and consultation during its installation in the chronological North Carolina history exhibit at the Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina (2009-2010)
- Leigh Farm Historic Structures Report and Site Management Plan, Durham County (2006)
- Burnt Chimney CDBG Redevelopment Project Recordation Plan, Florence Mill Property, Forest City, Rutherford County (2006)
- Lewis-Thornburg Farm Site Management Plan, Randolph County (2003)
- Historic Structures Report on the Robson House, with Peter Sandbeck, prepared for the Museum of History, Raleigh, North Carolina (2002)

SECTION 106 REPORTS AND MITIGATION PROJECTS

- North Carolina Department of Transportation Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Historic Consolidated School Context, Cleveland, Henderson, Polk, and Rutherford Counties, Mitigation for the Construction of the Rutherfordton Bypass (R-2233B) in Rutherford County (2014)
- Ruth Elementary School photodocumentation for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Rutherfordton vicinity, Rutherford County (2014)
- Monteith House photodocumentation for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Rutherfordton vicinity, Rutherford County (2014)

- Old Wilson Historic District photodocumentation as mitigation for proposed redevelopment project, Wilson, Wilson County (2013)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Historic Architectural Resources Identification and Evaluation Addendum: I-40 Business/US 421 Improvements, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2013)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Replace Bridge No. 229 on SR 2264 over the Norfolk and Western Railroad, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2012)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Interpretative Panel Research and Design: Mitigation for the Removal of Bridge No.338 over the Yadkin River in Elkin, Surry County (2011-2012)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Historic Store Context, Burke, Caldwell, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford Counties, Mitigation for the Widening of Enola Road (SR 1922/1924) in Morganton, Burke County (2011-2012)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Intensive Evaluation, Watkins Farm, Cornwall, Granville County (2010)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Intensive Evaluation, Ramsey Farm, I-40/I-77 Interchange Improvements, Statesville, Iredell County (2009-2010)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Greensboro Northern and Eastern Loops, Guilford County (2006)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: US 52 Improvement Project, Forsyth County (2005)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: NC 109 Improvement Project, Forsyth and Davidson Counties (2005)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey: Correction of Differential Settling along US 158 (Elizabeth Street) from NC 34 (North Water Street) to US 17 Business in Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County (2005)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey: Correction of Differential Settling along US 17 Business/NC 37 from the Perquimans River Bridge to the NC 37 split, Hertford vicinity, Perquimans County (2005)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey: Improvements to NC 33 from US 264 in Greenville to US 64 in Tarboro, Pitt and Edgecombe Counties (2005)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Kerr Avenue Improvements, Wilmington, New Hanover County (2005)
- North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Salem Creek Connector, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2004)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- *Winston-Salem's Architectural Heritage*, to be published by the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission in May 2015.
- "Northup and O'Brien," biographical entry completed in 2010 for the *Dictionary of North Carolina Architects and Builders*, an online resource administered by North Carolina State University.
- "Denominational Histories," with Teresa Douglas, Rebecca Smith, and Carroll Van West, in *Powerful Artifacts: A Guide to Surveying and Documenting Rural African-American Churches in the South*, Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University, July 2000.
- *Paving the Way: A Bibliography of the Modern Natchez Trace Parkway* with Timothy Davis, Sara Amy Leach, and Ashley Vaughn, Natchez Trace Parkway, National Park Service, 1999.
- Index, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, Winter 1998.
- "Andrew Jackson Donelson," "Samuel Donelson," and "Stockly Donelson," *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Tennessee Historical Society, Nashville, 1998.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS FOR TAX CREDIT PROJECTS

- Cora Manufacturing Company and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Haw River, Alamance County (2014)
- Industrial Building, 812 Millis Street, Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, High Point, Guilford County (2014)
- Property owner assistance with the preparation of non-income producing tax credit applications for National Register-listed residences in Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2003-2014)
- Albemarle Graded School Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Albemarle, Stanly County (2014)
- Old German Baptist Brethren Church Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2014)
- Joseph L. and Margaret N. Graham House Non-income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2014)
- Florence Mill Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Forest City, Rutherford County (2014)
- Blanton Hotel Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Forest City, Rutherford County (2014)
- Barker House Non-income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Henderson vicinity, Vance County (2014)
- Pearl and James M. Crutchfield House Non-income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Greensboro, Guilford County (2014)
- Burtner Building Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Greensboro, Guilford County (2014)
- Hudson Cotton Mills Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Hudson, Caldwell County (2014)
- Waller House Non-income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Dozier vicinity, Forsyth County (2014)
- Hotel Hinton Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Edenton, Chowan County (2013-2014)
- Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House Non-income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2013-2014)
- Acme-McCrary Hosiery Mills Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Asheboro, Randolph County (2013-2014)
- Hoots Milling Company Roller Mill Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2013-2014)
- George H. Black House and Brickyard Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2013-2014)
- Cranford Industries Office Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Asheboro, Randolph County (2012-2013)
- Asheboro Hosiery Mills – Cranford Furniture Company Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Asheboro, Randolph County (2011-2013)
- Romina Theater, Horne Mercantile, Forest City Diner, Smiths Department Store, and Central Hotel Income-Producing Tax Credit Applications, Forest City, Rutherford County (2010-2013)
- O. P. Lutz Furniture Company – Lutz Hosiery Mill Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Part 1, Lenoir, Caldwell County (2012)
- Spencer’s, Inc. of Mt. Airy Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Part 1, Surry County (2012)
- W. L. Robison Building Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2011-2012)
- City Hospital - Gaston Memorial Hospital Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Part 1, Gastonia, Gaston County (2011)
- Chatham Manufacturing Company Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Part 1, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County (2011)
- Royster Building Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Shelby, Cleveland County (2010-2011)
- Church Street School Income-Producing Tax Credit Application, Parts 1 and 2, Thomasville, Davidson County (2009)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (CONFERENCES/ANNUAL MEETINGS/STUDY PROGRAMS)

- “Winston-Salem, North Carolina’s Mid-Twentieth-Century Architects,” Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Fayetteville, Arkansas, October 2014

- “Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update,” numerous presentations for entities including the Winston-Salem-Forsyth County Planning Board, Historic Resources Commission, City Council, and County Commissioners; the Forsyth County Genealogical Society, the State Historic Preservation Office’s National Register Advisory Committee in Raleigh, the Winston-Salem Colonial Dames Chapter, and the Old Salem, Lawndale, and Buena Vista Garden Clubs, 2007-2013
- “New Tools for Old Designs: Researching Historic Architecture Today,” at the Traditional Building Conference Series, “Building Well: Traditional Design, Materials, and Methods,” Graylyn International Conference Center, Winston-Salem, April 2012
- “Forsyth County’s Agricultural Heritage,” keynote address at the 2011 Farm City Banquet, held by the Forsyth County Agricultural Extension Service, Winston-Salem, November 2011 and Historic Preservation Month Lecture Series, Old Salem Visitor Center, May 2012
- “From Farm to Factory: Continuity and Change in the Bethania Freedmen’s Community,” Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Charleston, South Carolina, October 2011
- “Winston-Salem’s Mid-Twentieth-Century Architecture,” Reynolda House Museum of American Art, October 2011
- “From the Roaring Twenties to the Space Age: Winston-Salem, North Carolina’s Mid-Twentieth-Century Architecture,” Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 2010
- “Winston-Salem’s Mid-Twentieth-Century Architecture,” Historic Preservation Month Lecture Series, Old Salem Visitor Center, May 2010
- “Forsyth County’s Cultural Landscapes,” Historic Preservation Month Lecture Series, Old Salem Visitor Center, May 2009
- “Forsyth County’s Historic African American Resources,” Preserve Historic Forsyth Annual Meeting, March 2009
- “Set in Stone: The Work of Frank W. Murrell and Sons,” Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Greensboro, North Carolina, October 2008
- “From Frontier to Factory Revisited: Forsyth County’s Diverse Architectural Legacy,” opening lecture at the Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference, Winston-Salem, October 2008
- “Leave No Stone Unturned: An Attempt to Uncover the Work of Charleston’s African American Stonemasons,” Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute, Winston-Salem, 2008
- “Early North Carolina Architecture,” North Carolina Museums Council Annual Meeting, Hickory, March 2007
- “An Anglomaniac Mansion in Tobacco Town: Mayer, Murray and Phillip’s Dyer House of 1931,” Colonial Dames Meeting, Winston-Salem, January 2007; Historic Architecture Round Table, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 2005
- “Gastonia’s Architecture: Portrait of a New South Economy,” with Sarah W. David, Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference, Gastonia, North Carolina, October 2005
- “Aladdin Homes: Built in a Day,” Fall Institute 2004, Perspectives on American Decorative Arts, 1776-1920, Winterthur, Wilmington, Delaware
- “A Movable Beast: NCDOT’s Historic Truss Bridge Reuse and Relocation Program,” Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference, Statesville, 2001
- “The African American Community of Bethania,” Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute, Winston-Salem, July 1997

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute: Charleston, Winston-Salem, July 2008
- “Green Strategies for Historic Buildings,” presented by the National Preservation Institute in Greensboro, NC, April 2008
- The Historic New England Program in New England Studies, Boston, June 2006
- “Historic Landscapes: Planning, Management, and Cultural Landscape Reports,” presented by the National

Preservation Institute in Greensboro, NC, April 2005

- Winterthur Fall Institute 2004, Perspectives on American Decorative Arts, 1776-1920, Wilmington, DE
- “Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Program Improvement Training,” presented by the South Carolina Department of Transportation in Columbia, SC, March 2003
- “NEPA Environmental Cross-Cutters Course,” presented by National Environmental Protection Agency in Raleigh, NC, July 2002
- “Advanced Section 4(f) Workshop,” presented by the Federal Highways Administration in Raleigh, N.C., November 2002
- “Assessing Indirect and Cumulative Impacts of Transportation Projects in North Carolina,” presented by the Louis Berger Group, Inc. in Raleigh, N.C., December 2002
- “Introduction to Section 106,” presented by the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Raleigh, N.C., April 2002
- Restoration Field School, taught by Travis McDonald at Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest in Forest, Virginia, Summer 2000
- “History of North Carolina Architecture,” taught by Catherine Bishir at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., Spring 2000
- Victorian Society Summer School in Newport, Rhode Island, taught by Richard Guy Wilson, Summer 1999
- Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute: The Backcountry, in Winston-Salem, N.C., Summer 1997

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for State and Local History
Friends of MESDA and the Collections
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Council on Public History
North Carolina Museums Council
Preservation North Carolina
Southeastern Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians
Southern Garden History Society
Vernacular Architecture Forum