

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Burke COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Morganton South QUAD

Historic Resources of Morganton

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER on portions of the North Carolina School
for the Deaf campus

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Morganton

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Burke

023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

North Carolina School for the Deaf

STREET & NUMBER

North Carolina School for the Deaf

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28655

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Morganton

STATE
North Carolina 28655

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Suzanne Pickens Wylie

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Consultant

DATE

July 31, 1986

STREET & NUMBER

3301-T Park Road

TELEPHONE

(704) 527-1610

CITY OR TOWN

Charlotte

STATE

North Carolina 28209

7 DESCRIPTION

State of North Carolina

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District is located on a portion of the School for the Deaf campus. The district consists of approximately nineteen buildings and structures of which approximately fourteen, or seventy-four percent, are contributing. The contributing properties were constructed between ca. 1891 and ca. 1939 and show the growth and development of the school from its founding through the end of the 1930s. Included are the main building, classroom buildings, recreational facilities, the original infirmary, staff housing, and farm buildings. A large number of modern buildings have been constructed on the campus; however, this nomination includes only that portion of the complex that basically retains its original character.

The focal point of the district is Augustus Bauer's magnificent high-Victorian Main Building. The large E-shaped brick building with its commanding clock tower faces northeast and looks out on an expansive, tree-shaded central lawn. The building is situated at the top of Spa Hill, one of the highest rises in the Morganton area. The original building committee went to great trouble to secure this highly desirable site for the school on the principle that they were building "not for years but for centuries". A service building with simple but similar details is situated behind the Main Building.

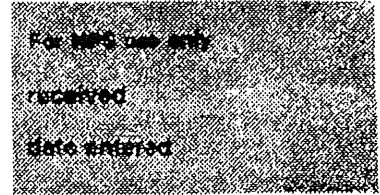
Enrollment grew rapidly from the very beginning creating the necessity for an additional classroom building as early as 1896. By 1899, West Hall was open just to the west of the main building on the site of the present Hoey Building. West Hall burned in 1938. Further expansion led to the construction of Goodwin Hall (ca. 1907-11), a combination of Colonial Revival and Romanesque elements, across the wide lawn from the main complex. Goodwin was used as the primary school and its location represents an attempt to separate the primary and secondary students.

Generally, this trend continued with secondary school facilities in the western portion of the campus around the main building and primary facilities in the eastern portion. General facilities, including the infirmary, chapel, and recreation building are located between the two complexes in a grove of trees at the foot of Spa Hill. Placement of the buildings is relatively random following the rolling terrain with most major buildings situated on small rises. Today, the secondary complex contains Hoey Hall (ca. 1939), the Old Gym (ca. 1924), Rondthaler Hall Vocational Building (ca. 1928), and Crutchfield Hall, a modern classroom building. The primary complex consists of Joiner Hall, Goodwin Hall, and a modern gym. A small farm complex is located southeast of the main building. A large gambrel-roofed barn sits on a prominent rise in the center of rolling pasture; two small storage buildings and a cottage are located at the foot of the rise. In general, modern buildings have been located behind the older buildings, thus in spite of their numbers, the boundaries of this district can be drawn to exclude them, yet encompass the visual historic character of the early campus.

(See continuation sheet)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

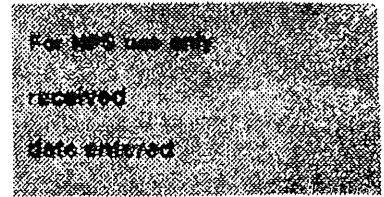


Continuation sheet NCSHDH: Description Item number 7 Page 1

Bauer's original high-Victorian design for Main Building has been simplified by the removal of the highly ornate wooden porch. There remains an interesting contrast, however, between the Main Building and the later historic buildings, most of which are influenced by the Romanesque and Colonial Revival styles. The vast lawn at the foot of Spa Hill remains intact despite the construction of a modern wading pool and scout hut.

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National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet NCSHDH: Inventory

Item number 7

Page 2

North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District

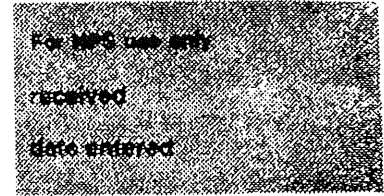
INVENTORY

Key: C - Contributing
N - Noncontributing

- C 1. Main Building: ca. 1891-1895; three-story, brick, monumental, high-Victorian building; five-story tower in the center of facade houses central entrance; E-shaped with three three-story wings on the rear; main portion has a center block and two wings; polygonal towers with bell-cast roofs frame the center block; gabled dormers; wings are hip-roofed; fenestration is usually arched; interior has been greatly remodeled; originally had wooden Victorian porches across the facade that have been removed; designed by Augustus Bauer. (NR)
- N 2. Crutchfield Hall: ca. 1960; one-story, flat-roofed, brick building.
- C 3. Hoey Hall (Upper School): ca. 1939; three-story, brick, hip-roofed building; highly eclectic ornamentation includes Art Deco, Romanesque, Gothic, and Classical elements; projecting entry pavillion; designed by Charles C. Benton.
- C 4. Old Gym: ca. 1924; two-story, brick, hip-roofed gymnasium; hip-roofed dormers; Colonial Revival influences; one-story wing on left elevation has a hip-roofed bay.
- C 5. Rondthaler Hall: ca. 1928; three-story, hip-roofed, brick building; banded industrial sash; segmentally-arched central entrance; hip-roofed dormers.
- C 6. Rusmisell House: ca. 1920; two-story, hip-roofed, frame residence; one-story hip-roofed porch on facade supported by tapered pillars on brick piers and plain balustrade.
- C 7. Laundry: ca. 1895; long, rectangular, hip-roofed, brick building; center section is one-story with a center gable; center section flanked by two-story; hip-roofed sections; fenestration is arched windows; details are similar to main building on a much more modest scale.
- C 8. Staff House: ca. 1910; one-story, L-shaped, gable-roofed, frame cottage; hip-roofed porch in the L supported by chamfered posts and a simple balustrade.
- C 9. Storage: ca. 1910; one-story, frame, gable-roofed storage building.
- C 10. Storage: ca. 1930; one-story, frame farm building now used for storage.
- C 11. Barn: ca. 1935; massive, gambrel-roofed, brick barn.

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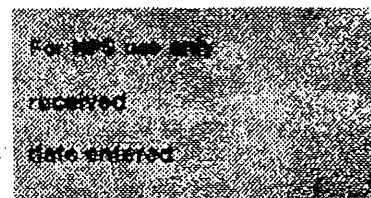


Continuation sheet NCSDDH: Inventory Item number 7 Page 3

- C 12. Superintendent's Residence: ca. 1902; two-and-one-half story, hip-roofed, brick Colonial Revival residence; two-story, monumental portico on facade supported by paired Tuscan columns; projecting center pavillion houses central entrance with sidelights flanked by Palladian windows; cantilevered balcony; boxed cornice with modillions; one-story porches on side elevations supported by Tuscan columns.
- N 13. Chapel for the Deaf: ca. 1980; modern brick chapel.
- C 14. Vocational Rehabilitation/Developmental Evaluation Center/Infirmary: ca. 1918; two-story, hip-roofed, brick Colonial Revival building; projecting center and end pavillions; segmental-arched entry; flat concrete lintels and sills; one-story modern, brick wings; designed by Charles Christian Hook as the hospital.
- C 15. Joiner Hall: ca. 1930; two-and-one-half-story, brick, hip-roofed buildings; projecting central pavillion with stepped parapet houses arched, recessed entry with multi-paned sidelights and fanlight; Colonial Revival influences.
- N 16. Joiner Hall Gym: ca. 1970; long, rectangular, brick gymnasium.
- C 17. Goodwin Hall: ca. 1907-11; three-story, brick building with two-story ell at rear; projecting hip-roofed end bays; projecting center bay has a central gabled dormer, arched pavillion with rock-faced voussoirs; boxed cornice; central dormer has large segmentally-arched light over a tripartite window and balustraded balcony.
- N 18. Wading Pool.
- N 19. Scout Cabin: ca. 1960; modern ranch-style building.

Resources Count

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Buildings	14	4	18
Structures		1	1
	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>19</u>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet NCSDDH: Significance Item number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District is located on a portion of the North Carolina School for the Deaf campus, south of the Central Business District off Fleming Drive. The properties included were constructed between ca. 1891 and ca. 1939 range from the massive Main Building (NR) to classroom buildings, to staff housing. A large number of modern buildings have been constructed on the campus; however, these are generally located behind the historic buildings preserving the character of the early campus arranged around the expansive lawn. Of the nineteen properties in the district, fourteen or seventy-four percent are contributing. The district is significant in the Social/Humanitarian history of the state as the state-supported school for education of the deaf and for the school's reliance upon progressive theories of education. Dr. Edward McKee Goodwin, a native North Carolinian and nationally known educator of the deaf, spearheaded the campaign to establish a school for deaf children separate from educational facilities for the blind. In the 1890s, this represented a progressive departure from the standard practices for special education. The school was a great success and was nationally known and emulated for its modern campus and progressive teaching methods. The campus itself includes several buildings of architectural significance, the most notable of which is Augustus Bauer's high-Victorian Main Building (NR). In spite of the fact that the original wood porches have been removed from the facade, the building remains the centerpiece of the campus and a very fine example of Victorian institutional architecture. Later buildings reflect the influence of the Colonial Revival style favored for institutional buildings. The most notable of those is Goodwin Hall, mixture of Colonial Revival and Romanesque elements. Also architecturally interesting is Hoey Hall. Constructed in 1939 and designed by Charles Benton, Hoey Hall is an eclectic combination of Art Deco, Romanesque, Gothic, and Classical elements that replaced West Hall (ca. 1899) which burned in 1938.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District is significant in the Social/Humanitarian history of the state for its association with progressive education of the deaf. The school was the first separate institution for the deaf in the state and was nationally known for its modern campus and progressive teaching methods. The district is also significant in Education for its progressive methods of teaching the deaf.
- B. The North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District is significant for its association with Dr. John McKee Goodwin, a native North Carolinian and nationally known educator of the deaf. Goodwin led the drive to establish a separate school for deaf children and was the first superintendent of the North Carolina School. Dr. Goodwin served the school from 1891 until 1937 and was largely responsible for the excellent reputation the school enjoyed during his administration and retains even today. The school campus is undoubtedly the historic resource most associated with his productive life. Dr. Goodwin's national stature in his field is evident

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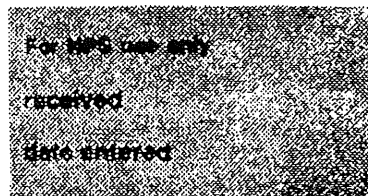
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1a

from the numerous testimonials printed at the time of his death in 1937 and reprinted in the history of the institution written in 1945 by Otis A. Betts [The North Carolina School for the Deaf At Morganton, 1894-1944, Morganton: N.C. School for the Deaf, 1945]. Josephus Daniels, editor of The Raleigh News and Observer and former U.S. Secretary of the Navy, said that the School for the Deaf at Morganton is truly the "lengthened shadow" of Edward McKee Goodwin. Among the testimonials are statements by the president of Wake Forest College, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1932, and by the president of Gallaudet College, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1935. Other testimonials are by the presidents of such national associations as the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf and the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf. The latter organization elected Dr. Godwin honorary president of the association just before his death--a position held by no one else in the history of the association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet NCS/DHD: Significance Item number 8 Page 2

G. The North Carolina School for the Deaf is significant in architecture for several of its individual buildings including the high-Victorian Main Building designed by Augustus Bauer, the Colonial Revival and Romanesque Goodwin Hall, and Hoey Hall, an eclectic building that replaced an earlier upper school. The district as a whole is also significant as a good collection of educational buildings retaining their original relationship to each other and to the natural setting.

CRITERIA EXCEPTION

G. Although Hoey Hall was constructed in 1939 and does not meet the fifty-year age criteria for listing on the National Register, the period of significance for the district should be extended to 1939 to include it. The building was constructed to replace the Upper School which burned in 1938. It was designed by a prominent North Carolina architect, Charles Benton of Wilson, N.C. and it is very similar to the other historic buildings on the School for the Deaf campus in scale, materials, and ornamentation. In addition, the building is architecturally interesting on its own, with its eclectic design incorporating Colonial Revival and Romanesque features similar to Goodwin Hall, but with touches of Art Deco as well. It is likely that Hoey Hall, like the Saunders Building and several other buildings at nearby state-owned Broughton Hospital, was financed in part for the Works Progress Administration. This was the last major building constructed on the campus until the 1960s, when a major new building phase began. Therefore 1939 is the logical cutoff for the period of significance.

See continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Cover Form, Section 9.

Also:

Betts, Otis A. The North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton, 1894-1944.
 Morganton, NC: NC School for the Deaf, 1945.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 68 acres

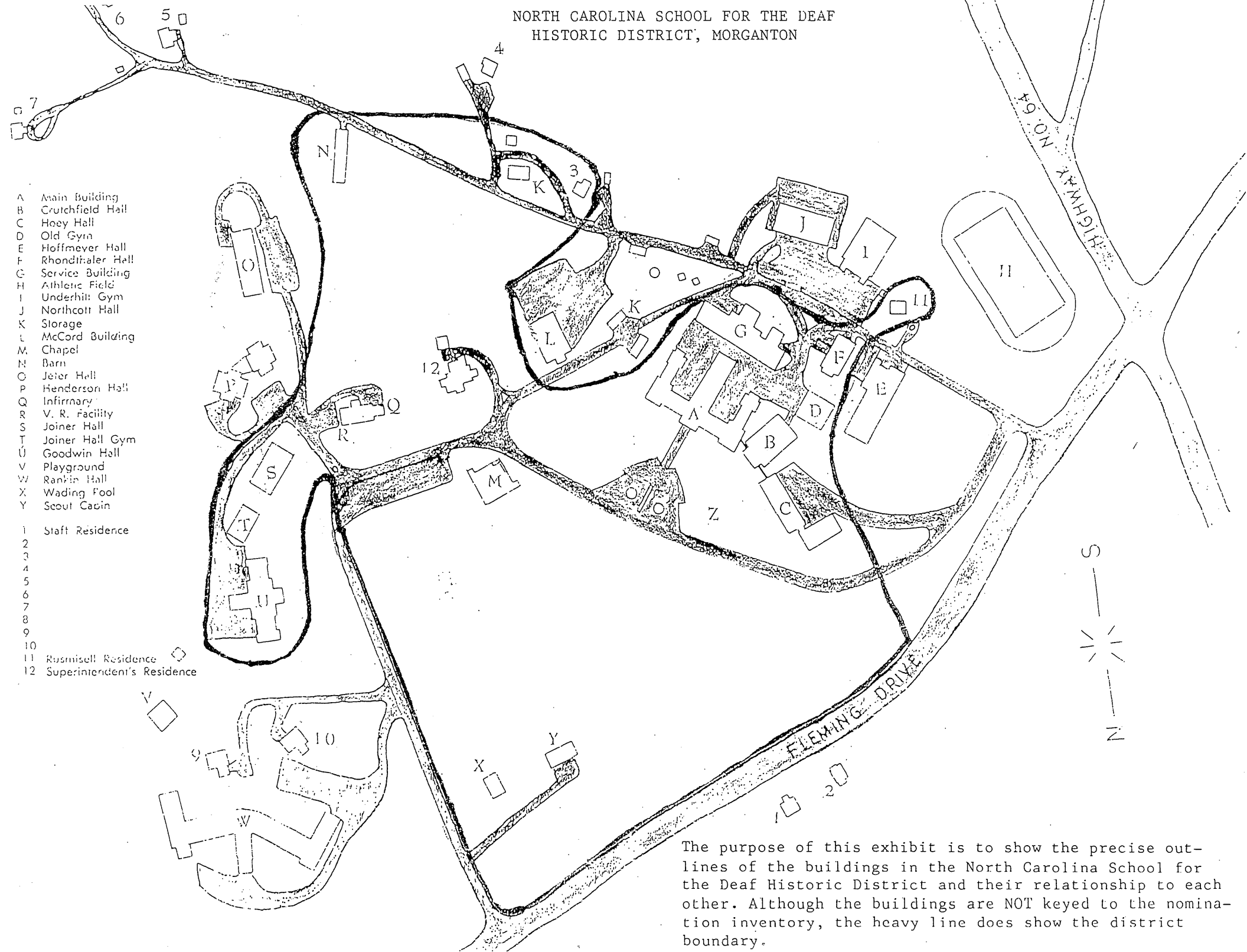
UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	43,801,810	3,95,4400	B	1,7	43,816,0	3,95,3610
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	43,740,0	3,95,3650	D	1,7	43,739,0	3,95,4320
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District" drawn on a scale of 400 feet to the inch. The boundary includes the largest concentration of historically and architecturally significant properties on the school campus and excludes concentrations of modern school buildings.

NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
HISTORIC DISTRICT, MORGANTON



- A Main Building
 - B Crutchfield Hall
 - C Heey Hall
 - D Old Gym
 - E Hoffmeyer Hall
 - F Rhondihaler Hall
 - G Service Building
 - H Athletic Field
 - I Underhill Gym
 - J Northcott Hall
 - K Storage
 - L McCord Building
 - M Chapel
 - N Barn
 - O Jeter Hall
 - P Henderson Hall
 - Q Infirmary
 - R V. R. Facility
 - S Joiner Hall
 - T Joiner Hall Gym
 - U Goodwin Hall
 - V Playground
 - W Rankin Hall
 - X Wading Pool
 - Y Scout Cabin
-
- 1 Staff Residence
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - 10
 - 11 Rusmisell Residence
 - 12 Superintendent's Residence

The purpose of this exhibit is to show the precise outlines of the buildings in the North Carolina School for the Deaf Historic District and their relationship to each other. Although the buildings are NOT keyed to the nomination inventory, the heavy line does show the district boundary.

