

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

October 30, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Replace Bridge 159 on Monteith Gap Road & Improve Road from West of Old Cullowhee Road to Ledbetter Road, PA 18-03-0004, Jackson County, ER 18-3052

Thank you for your September 19, 2018, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the Western Carolina University Historic District (JK0585) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of education and under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. We agree with the consultant's recommended boundaries, illustrated on page 41, for the eligible historic district.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 18-3052

September 19, 2018

MEMORANDUM

Due -- 10/19/18

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge No. 159 on Monteith Gap Road (SR1336), PA No. 18-03-0004, Jackson County

H- ER letters
10/27/18
RGE

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

Historic Structures Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 159 on Monteith Gap Road (SR1336). Improve Road from West of Old
Cullowhee Road (SR 1002) to Ledbetter Road (SR1337)
Jackson County, North Carolina
WBS# 17BP.14.R.212
PA# 18-03-0004

Prepared for:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Prepared by:
Mdm Historical Consultants Inc.
Post Office Box 1399
Durham, NC 27702
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September 13, 2018

Historic Structures Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 159 on Monteith Gap Road (SR1336). Improve Road from West of Old
Cullowhee Road (SR 1002) to Ledbetter Road (SR1337)
Jackson County, North Carolina
WBS# 17BP.14.R.212
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September 13, 2018

Jennifer F. Martin, Principal Investigator
MdM Historical Consultants, Inc.

Date

Cynthia de Miranda, Principal Investigator
MdM Historical Consultants, Inc.

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

Historic Structures Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 159 on Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336). Improve Road from West of Old
Cullowhee Road (SR 1002) to Ledbetter Road (SR 1337)
Jackson County, North Carolina
WBS# 17BP.14.R.212
PA# 18-03-0004

Property Name and Survey Site Number	Address and PINs	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
Western Carolina University Historic District (Study List)	65 West University Way (campus) and 82 Central Drive (Cullowhee Baptist Church) Cullowhee NC 28723 7559231452 (campus) 7559358382 (church)	Eligible under Criteria A and C for education, architecture, and landscape architecture

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace bridge No. 159 on Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336) and improve the road from west of Old Cullowhee Road (SR 1002) to Ledbetter Road (SR1337) in Jackson County, North Carolina. The project area is in the small community of Cullowhee in mountainous Jackson County. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) follows the study area boundary and is delineated on a map on page 6 of this report. This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015).

In July and August 2018, MdM Historical Consultants Inc. (MdM) conducted a historic architectural eligibility study of the Western Carolina University Historic District, which is located in the APE. MdM principal Jennifer Martin conducted the fieldwork on July 27 and 28, 2018, photographing and mapping all the built resources and landscapes associated with the Western Carolina University Historic District. Ms. Martin authored this report.

After an intensive evaluation following the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for eligibility, Western Carolina University is recommended eligible under Criteria A and C.

The historic architectural survey was carried out in accordance with the provisions of 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). This evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

In order to meet the requirements of the above laws, regulations, and guidelines, the work plan for the intensive-level survey included the following items: (1) conducting general historical and architectural background research in order to develop contexts within which to evaluate the potential National Register eligibility of the resources located within the APE; (2) an intensive-level field survey of the APE, including surveying, describing, evaluating, and proposing specific National Register boundaries for any resources believed to be eligible for the National Register; (3) specific historical and architectural research on the resources inventoried at the intensive level; and (4) preparation of a report developed pursuant to the above-referenced laws, regulations and guidelines. The report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public.



View from Bridge No. 159 on Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336) toward Ledbetter Road (SR 1337), view to the northeast

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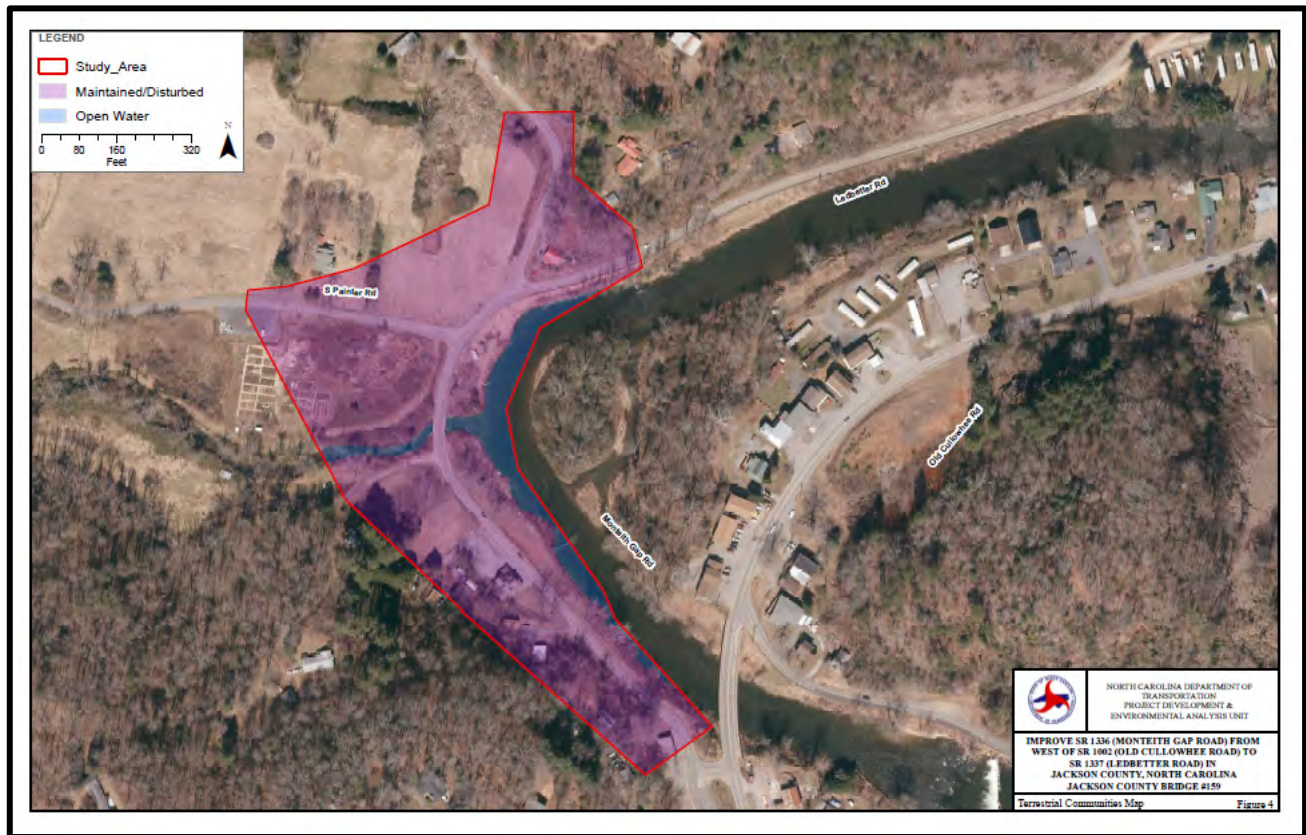


Old Cullowhee Road (SR 1002) with Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336) in the distance, view to the northwest from Central Drive at the former entrance to Western Carolina University

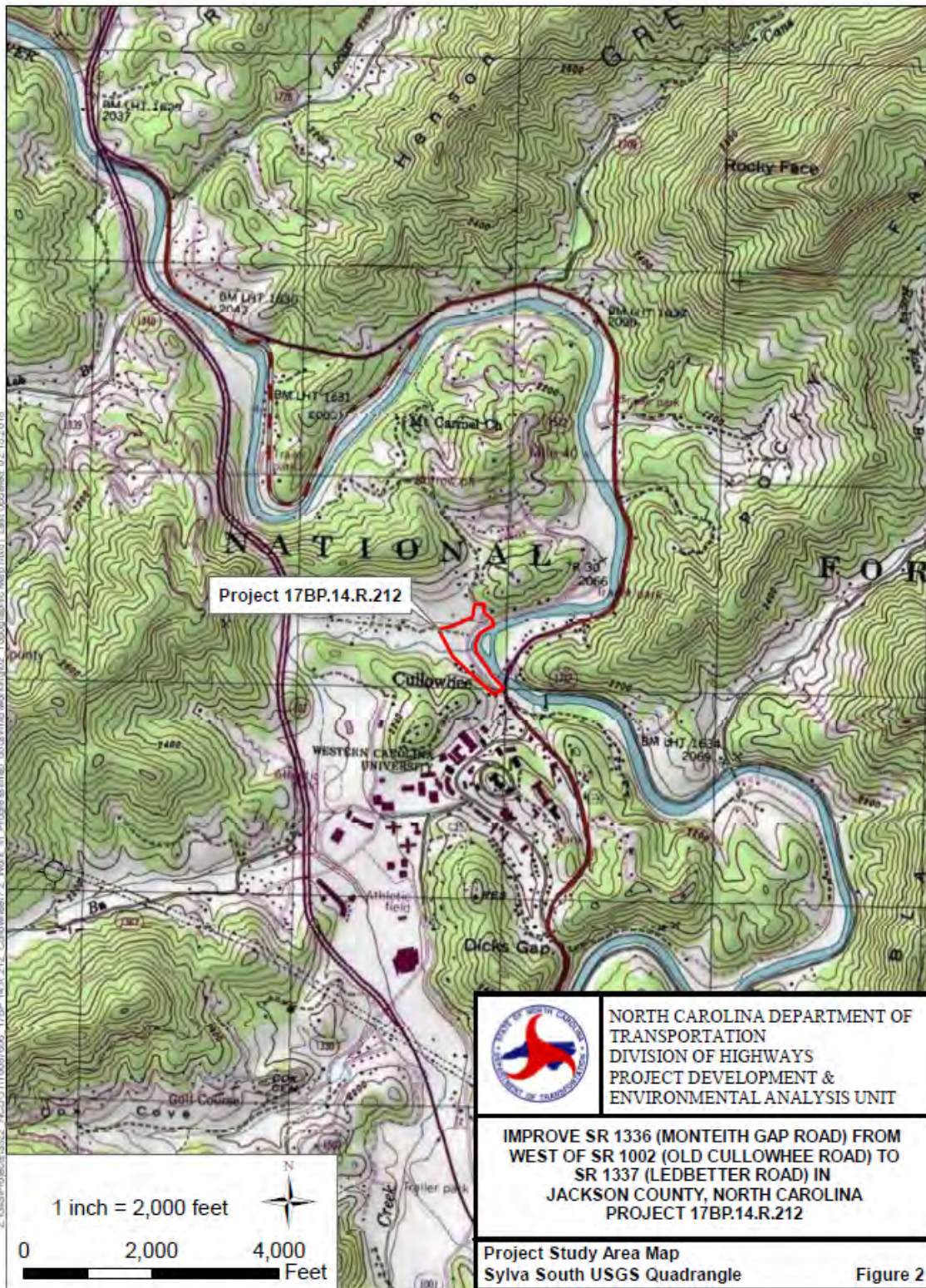
I. Project Location Maps



Location of Jackson County in North Carolina



Map of Study Area which also serves as the Area of Potential Effects (APE), courtesy of NCDOT



Project location map, courtesy of NCDOT

II. Introduction

NCDOT proposed to replace Bridge No. 159 over Cullowhee Creek on Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336) and improve the road from west of Old Cullowhee Road (SR 1002) to Ledbetter Road (SR 13337) in the unincorporated community of Cullowhee in central Jackson County. After it exits Old Cullowhee Road (SR 1002) to the northwest, Monteith Gap Road follows the curve of the Tuckasegee River before intersecting with Ledbetter Road, which is at the north end of the study area. At least three large apartment communities stand along Ledbetter Road creating heavy traffic on Monteith Gap Road and Bridge No. 159 during peak hours. At the south end of the study area, construction associated with the replacement of Cullowhee Bridge (JK0352) over the Tuckasegee River has created congestion and interruptions in the traffic flow.



Cullowhee Creek, view to the west from Bridge No. 159



Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336), view to the north toward South Painter Road and Ledbetter Road (SR 1337)



Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336), view southeast toward Old Cullowhee Road (SR 1002)

III. Methodology

The field survey was conducted on July 27 and 28, 2018. All resources historically associated with the Western Carolina University Historic District and adjacent properties fifty years old or older were photographed and recorded. Research on the project area and Western Carolina University was conducted by consulting the Jackson County GIS and tax records, the Register of Deeds office, the Western Carolina University website including the Hunter Library Digital Collections, and the archival issues of the *Asheville Citizen-Times* and other regional newspapers available on newspapers.com.

The Western Office of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office provided scans of all survey site files related to the Western Carolina University Historic District (JK 0585). The comprehensive architectural survey of Jackson County conducted in 1989-1990 produced files for Hoey Auditorium (JK0218), Breese Gym (JK0219), the Steam Plant (JK0220), Madison Residence Hall (JK0222), the Old Student Union (JK0223), Robertson Residence Hall (JK0225). A file exists for Madison Memorial Pool (JK221), but the small stone memorial erected in 1934 that stood between the steam plant and Breese Gym could not be located.



Monteith Gap Road (SR 1336), view to the southeast toward Old Cullowhee Road (SR 1002)

IV. Western Carolina University Historic District (SL): Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Western Carolina University Historic District
HPO Survey Site #	JK0585
Location	65 West University Way (campus) and 82 Central Drive (Cullowhee Baptist Church) Cullowhee NC 28723
PINS	7559231452 (campus); 7559358382 (church)
Construction dates	1923-1967
Recommendation	Eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Education, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture



Central Drive with the McKee Building in the foreground, view to the north-northeast, circa 1955. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU

Description

Setting

The Western Carolina University Historic District is located on the northeast side of the campus of Western Carolina University. The school lies in the Blue Ridge Mountains about fifty miles to the west of Asheville. The unincorporated community of Cullowhee in Jackson County serves as home to Western Carolina University. NC 107, a four-lane, median-divided, north-south highway,

borders the college to the west, while the Tuckasegee River meanders its way near the school's eastern boundary.

Western Carolina University began in 1889 with eighteen students as Cullowhee Academy on a quarter-acre on a hillside at the northeast end of the current campus. Over time, the school expanded greatly to northwest, southwest, and southeast and now covers 682 acres. Current enrollment stands at 9,171 undergraduates.



Western Carolina University Historic District (map numbers correspond to inventory and photos that follow)

Western Carolina University Historic District (SL)

The Western Carolina University Historic District occupies approximately forty acres of the 682-acre campus. The district includes buildings and structures along Central Drive from Old Cullowhee Road to Centennial Drive and buildings that occupy a wooded hill adjacent to Central Drive to the southeast. Red brick is the most common exterior material for buildings. Architectural styles include Art Deco, Colonial Revival, modernist, and Classical Revival.



Central Drive with Breese Gymnasium (8) to the left, view to the southwest

Ten historic buildings stand along both sides of two-lane Central Drive. Random-course stone walls line both sides of Central Drive, while a sidewalk borders only the west side of the street. The buildings include academic, recreational, religious, and industrial resources. One of the oldest building on campus, the 1924 steam plant, is at the street's northeast end. The steam plant (JK0221) has been expanded several times as the campus and enrollment has grown. Cullowhee Baptist Church (JK0217), its cemetery, and the Baptist Student Union (JK0867), occupy the west side of the north end of Central Drive. Although owned by the Baptist State Convention, the history of the church and its student union are closely tied to the university. Three New Deal buildings constructed in 1939 stand along Central Drive—Breese Gymnasium (JK0219), Hoey Auditorium (JK0218), and the McKee Building (JK0291). The Stillwell Building (JK0869), constructed in 1952 and expanded substantially in 1975 with a Brutalist rear addition, functioned as the campus's main academic building for many years after its construction. It now houses several of the university's science departments. Adjacent to the Stillwell Building is Hunter Library (JK0868), which was constructed in 1953 as a simple red-brick modernist building designed by architects Six Associates of Asheville, but which was greatly expanded in 1967 and 1983. The Bird Building (JK0866), located in the lower curve of Central Drive near the intersection with Centennial Drive, represents the modernist movement with its flat roof and concrete and brick exterior.



View of Steam Plant (7) from Madison Hall, view to the Northwest

The hillside above Central Drive encompasses the site where the small academy that grew into Western Carolina University began in 1889. The heavily wooded knoll exudes a character highly contrasted with the rest of campus where standard institutional and post-modern buildings stand close together and connected by wide paved walkways and streets. On the hillside, streets bordered by low stone walls and bearing the names Joyner Drive, Circle Drive, Bird Building Lane, and Chancellors Drive curve, climb, and descend through thickets of hemlock, balsam, and pine trees. Much of the natural and built features of the hillside are attributed to Earle Sumner Draper, who served as the school's landscape engineer from 1925 to 1934.

Near the top of the hill stands the commodious Moore Building (JK0865), the oldest academic-related building on the Cullowhee campus. Constructed in 1924 with a 1929 addition planned by Earle Sumner Draper, this three-story Classical Revival-style building displays a grand loggia along its north-facing façade. On a high knoll to the north stands the three-story, Classical Revival-style Madison Hall (JK0222) constructed in 1939 by the Public Works Administration (PWA) under the New Deal. Joyner Plaza, situated to the southeast of the Moore Building, includes a large brick monument and brick court that mark the former location of the 1913 Joyner Building, which burned in 1981. Just to the southeast is the former student union (JK0223), a one-story, Colonial Revival-style building designed by Asheville architect Leslie Gudger. Chancellor Drive, which runs along the front or north side of the student union, leads to two large Classical Revival-style

residence halls, Reynolds Dormitory (JK0870), a three-story building constructed in 1953, and the Erle Stillwell-designed Robertson Residence Hall (JK0225) from 1930.



Madison Hall facade, view to the southeast

Several historic resources have been lost within the boundaries of the Western Carolina University Historic District, including the school's two original buildings. The Woodland Stage was located between the Moore Building and Madison Hall on the hillside just below the intersection of the Joyner Drive and Bird Building Lane. Constructed in 1928, it was an outdoor amphitheater hosting plays and other performances. Nothing remains of the stage or seating, except for two low stone walls. In 2018, the university demolished the Graham Building, which stood on Circle Drive to the southwest of the Moore Building. Built in 1939 by the PWA, the long, hip-roofed, two-story brick building displayed swan's neck pediments over the two façade entrances.

1. McKee Building JK0291 (1939, 1954): Built by the PWA and designed by Erle Stillwell, the McKee Building initially served as the training school for elementary teachers. The two-story-on-basement brick building consists of two wings set at an angle with an entrance portico at the center façade. Limestone sheathes the first level of the portico where three arched openings lead to three sets of recessed double-leaf doors with transoms. Three windows pierce the upper level which is crowned with a classical concrete balustrade. A two-and-a-half-story addition was built onto the south end in 1954 during a major expansion of the school's campus.



McKee Building soon after completion in 1939, view to the northwest. Photo used by permission from Hunter Library, WCU



McKee Building facade (obscured), view to the southwest



McKee Building rear elevation, view to the east-southeast

2. Hoey Auditorium JK0218 (1939, 1988): Built by the PWA and designed by Erle Stillwell, the Art Deco-inspired Hoey Auditorium is a tall, rectangular brick building with a flat roof with a stepped parapet. Brick pilasters with concrete caps extend about three-quarters of the building's height on each elevation. Alterations include the addition in 1988 of the five-sided brick entrance portico and the infilling of the windows.



Hoey Auditorium, circa 1950, view to the northwest. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU



Hoey Auditorium, view to the west

3. Stillwell Building JK0869 (1952, 1959, 1966, 1975, 2008): Stillwell served as the main academic building for several years beginning in the summer of 1952. The brick, L-shaped building consists of two wings at right angles. Originally the south wing was three stories and was connected to the two-story north wing with a four-story, flat-roofed brick tower. A third level was added to the north wing in 1959. The building has been heavily renovated with the construction of a bow-shaped-roofed, metal-clad addition on top of the north wing and a three-story front entrance topped with a bow-shaped metal roof. All windows in the brick building have been replaced. In 1975, the large, four-story Natural Sciences Building with an aggregate and concrete exterior was attached to the Stillwell Building by a three-story enclosed breezeway. The firm of Lyles, Bisset, Carlisle, and Wolff of Raleigh designed the Brutalist addition and Buncombe Construction Company served as



Stillwell Building, circa 1955, view to the north. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU

contractors. The school's football field stood behind the Stillwell Building and had to be moved to accommodate the large addition.



Stillwell Building, north wing, view to the west



Front addition to the Stillwell Building, view to the northwest



1975 addition to the Stillwell Building, view to the west

4. Hunter Library JK0868 (1953, 1967, 1974, 1983)

The large, multi-part, red-brick building with a flat roof and metal-framed replacement windows has had several additions. Designed by Asheville architects Six Associates and opened in March 1953, the building was 32,000 square feet and stood three stories with a one-story section to the south. In March 1967, Lady Bird Johnson attended the dedication of the addition of the 25,000 square-foot, two-story rear wing with a flat roof. In 1974, Six Associates served as architects for the addition of bridges that connected two interior mezzanines and renovations to other interior spaces. In 1983, a 98,000 square-foot addition designed by Six Associates was completed on the north elevation.



Hunter Library, circa 1960, view to the northwest



Hunter Library, view to the northwest



1967 rear wing of Hunter Library, view to the southeast



Cullowhee Baptist Church, view to the north

5. Cullowhee Baptist Church and Cemetery JK0217 (1929)

The highly intact, front-gabled brick, T-shaped building prominently displays eight columns supporting a projecting brick pediment with a half-round louvered vent. A domed bell tower with louvered vents on its sides tops the roof ridge. The building features curved rafter tails and triangular knee braces. Segmental brick arches with stone keystones and stone lintels frame stained glass windows on the front-gabled block. A two-story, gable-roofed Sunday school wing is attached to the rear elevation to create the T-shaped footprint. Organized in 1821 near the community of Webster but later moving to its current location, Cullowhee Baptist Church has been associated with Western Carolina University since 1889 when classes were held in the church while the first school building was being constructed. The current building is the congregation's sixth. A cemetery with approximately 440 markers is located just northeast of the church and contains stones from as early as 1832.



Cullowhee Baptist Church Cemetery, view to the north

6. Baptist Student Union JK0867 (ca. 1960)

The one-story, flat-roofed brick modernist building is partially fronted with a concrete breeze block wall. A metal-framed glass entrance vestibule at the center of the façade is topped with a shed roof.



Baptist Student Union, view to the north

7. Steam Plant JK0221 (1924, late 1950s, 1966)

The original 1924 portion of the steam plant is a rectangular brick building with arched windows, a decorative brick cornice, and a tall, round, brick smokestack. A barrel-roofed, free-standing brick building was added to the plant in the late 1950s. In 1966, the plant was expanded on the north and a new boiler installed. The 2018 state budget includes funds to replace the building.



Steam Plant, circa 1940, view to the southeast. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU



Steam Plant, view to the east

8. Breese Gymnasium JK0219 (1939, 2004)

Built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) on the former site of Cullowhee Methodist Church, the uncoursed granite-faced building hosted basketball games, dances, and contained a swimming pool. Hendersonville architect Erle Stillwell designed the two-story building. The larger central core includes stepped stone parapet walls on its north and south ends and a two-story, flat-roofed section on the rear. Flanking lower two-story north and south wings display flat parapets. In 2004, new windows were installed and the original entrance converted to a window.



Breese Gymnasium, circa 1940, view to the southeast. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU



Breese Gymnasium, view to the east

9. Bird Building JK0866 (1960)

The two-story, brick and concrete modernist building with a flat roof sits on a rise on the northeast side of Central Drive. The northwestern rectangular block is finished in concrete panels and features a band of tall vertical windows on the façade. It overhangs a lower brick level so that the concrete mass appears to float. It is surrounded on the south and northeast by a fairly typical flat-roofed brick wing with replacement metal-framed windows. The center facade entrance is fronted with metal-framed glazing. The rear includes a flat portico sheltering a secondary entrance framed in glass, metal, and brick. The Bird Building served as the administration office until 1979, when it became the student health center.



Bird Building, view to the northeast

10. Madison Hall JK0222 (1939, 1994)

Built on the site of one of the school's original structures known as the Madison building, this three-and-a-half-story, red-brick building occupies a lofty setting on the upper campus. Constructed with New Deal funding, the substantial, side-gabled building displays a pair of curved

concrete stairs leading up to three large arches that access a recessed entrance on the second level of the façade. A classical entrance with banded pilasters and a flat moulded cornice is set on a stuccoed wall in the recess. Other features include hipped-roof dormers clad in copper and gabled returns. A 1994 renovation added a brick porte-cochere on the south end. All windows have been replaced.



Madison Hall, circa 1950, view to north. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU



Madison Hall, view to the northwest

11. Moore Building JK0865 (1924, 1929)

G. Murray Nelson designed the substantial, three-story, red-brick Classical Revival-style building with a hipped roof that stands on top of the hill at the center of the north campus. In 1929, a two-story, brick wing was added to the southwest corner. The north-facing façade features a classical entrance contained in a one-story, flat-roofed brick projection. A one-story loggia with brick arches resting on slender columnettes spans a portion of the façade. Some windows have been replaced, but many original features remain including arched oversized bays with keystones. An Asheville

newspaper described the girls' dormitory upon its completion as "a handsome, three-story, fire proof, brick building with ninety rooms, each room being furnished with two single beds, and can take care of 180 girl students."¹ The building currently stands vacant.



Moore Building, circa 1925, view to the west. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU



Moore Building facade, view to the southeast

¹ "Editors and Educators Hold Joint Meeting at Cullowhee; State Institute Inspected," Asheville Citizen-Times, May 31, 1924.

12. Reynolds Dormitory JK0870

(1953) The substantial, three-story, red-brick Classical Revival-style building was constructed as housing for undergraduate men. The south-facing grand portico is concrete scored to appear as stone. The first level loggia is entered through three arched openings. The portico's upper level loggia features four columns fronting two upper and lower curved balconies. A balustrade crowns the center portion of the portico.



Reynolds Dormitory, circa 1955, view to the east. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU



Reynolds Dormitory, view to the east

13. Robertson Residence Hall JK0225 (1930) The substantial three-story red-brick Classical Revival-style dormitory was designed by Hendersonville architect Erle Stillwell. The side-gabled building features a classical entrance on its south-facing façade that incorporates a closed pediment with dentils crowning four pilasters with Corinthian caps that terminate at the shelf atop the first level. At the second level between the pilasters, a window with a scrolled swan’s neck pediment and a swag element tops the arched entrance. Windows throughout are topped with brick flat arches and contain replacement sash. According to the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, “An imposing site for the dormitory was sought and it was found that the most desirable place on or



Robertson Residence Hall, circa 1940, view to the northwest. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU

adjoining the campus was the Cullowhee negro church yard and cemetery.” According to the newspaper, the school bought the property and “the church was moved to a new site and 76 bodies were exhumed.” When completed, only furniture made in North Carolina and selected by Erle Stillwell filled Robertson Hall.²

² “Cullowhee to Dedicate New Robertson Dormitory Wednesday Evening,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 31, 1931.



Robertson Residence Hall, view to the northeast



Robertson Residence Hall facade, view to the southeast

14. Student Union JK0223 (1939) The intact, one-story, side-gabled, brick, Colonial Revival-style building was designed by architect Leslie Gudger. The side-gabled building consists of a main block and lower and smaller flanking side wings with side-gable roofs. An original domed cupola with corner pilasters tops the slate shingled roof. At the entrance, a swan's neck pediment tops the single-leaf paneled wood door with flanking pilasters.



Student Union with Moore Building in the background, view to the northwest

Historical Background

In 1889, Robert Lee Madison became the first director of Cullowhee Academy, a two-year school supported with local taxes and private subscription. When Madison, then twenty-two years old, opened the school, eighteen students attended class in an unpainted frame building (not extant). Madison, who had settled in Jackson County in 1885 to teach in a rural school, began lobbying for a statewide system of teacher training schools to staff rural classrooms. The Cullowhee Idea, as Madison called it, influenced the development of teacher training and pioneered the creation of regional universities in North Carolina.³

³ "Cullowhee Idea," Digital Heritage website, www.digitalheritage.org, accessed on July 30, 2018.



Cullowhee Academy's original building, built 1889, not extant. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU

The first year, Madison and his sister, Marguerite, served as the school's sole teachers. Three teachers, including a music and art instructor, worked at the school the following year. Madison raised fund for the construction of a second campus building in the 1890.⁴

In 1891, the academy's name was changed to Cullowhee High School and in 1893, at the strong urging of Robert Lee Madison, the state general assembly provided \$1,500 in funding to establish a normal department for the training of rural teachers at the school.⁵ The normal school at Cullowhee became the first state-supported training for rural teachers in North Carolina.⁶ By 1894, the school offered four programs: a classical curriculum, a normal curriculum for the training of teachers, a commercial course for business students, and a fine arts course of study. In May 1894, twelve students received their first-grade teaching certificates from the normal department.⁷

By 1902, three hundred teachers had finished their training at Cullowhee High School.⁸ In 1903, the school erected Madison Hall (not extant), a pebbledash-exterior building containing

⁴ Robert L. Madison, "Experiences of a Pedagogue in the Carolina Highlands," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 7, 1938: "Jackson County to Observe Centennial," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 26, 1951.

⁵ "From One-Teacher School with Small Enrollment to Great Institution is Record of Cullowhee Normal School," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 8, 1924.

⁶ "Cullowhee is Pioneer in Teacher Training," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 18, 1934.

⁷ Jeanine Ordoyne, "Robert Lee Madison," Catamount Tales: the History of Western Carolina University website, www.wcuenglish.net, accessed July 30, 2018.

⁸ "Cullowhee High School," *News and Observer* (Raleigh), June 4, 1902.

classrooms, offices, and an auditorium. The first campus building constructed with state funds, it stood on the site of a hillside Cherokee village.⁹ That same year after visiting the campus, Governor Aycock remarked, "I know of no investment which the State has made in the way of education which has brought larger results in proportion to the amount expended."¹⁰

In 1905, the school became the Cullowhee Normal and Industrial College.¹¹ Davies Hall (not extant), a frame dormitory for women, was added to the campus in 1909.¹² A local writer noted the building "is nicely located on the top of a peak and [when completed] will be supplied with artesian water."¹³

In 1913, the school transitioned from a high school to a junior college. The Joyner Building (not extant), described as a compact brick structure in the center of campus, was completed in 1913 with eight classrooms, a science laboratory, a library and reading room, office rooms, a post office, and book store.¹⁴ It displaced Madison Hall as the center of campus. In 1914, the campus was described as "situated on a lovely elevation overlooking the limpid waters of the winding Tuckasegee [River], 2250 feet above the level of the sea and commanding a view of beauty and [grandure] of the surrounding hills and plans."¹⁵ Even as the student body expanded and more programs were added, transportation to the school remained problematic. During this period, a county resident remarked in the local paper that "we must build a good sand clay road from Sylva to Cullowhee and make this school accessible [sic] to all of Western North Carolina."¹⁶

In 1924 when Hiram T. Hunter became the school's third president, four main buildings (Joyner, Madison, Davies, and Moore) and a steam plant stood on the 400-acre campus.¹⁷ The buildings occupied a hillside stripped of trees from logging and farming with no paved driveways or walkways connecting them. The campus grounds contained pig pens, cow enclosures, open toilets, and a dump for construction materials.

In 1925, President Hunter hired noted Charlotte landscape architect Earle Sumner Draper to improve the campus and provide plans for future growth. From 1925 to 1934, Sumner served as the college's landscape engineer offering plans for additions to existing buildings and sites for future buildings and athletic facilities. Upon Draper's recommendation, the school acquire additional land to the west of the original campus for expansion. He proposed walkways to

⁹ "Western Carolina University: Tale of a Haunting Dream," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 26, 1969.

¹⁰ "Governor Aycock's Message," *The News Reporter* (Littleton, North Carolina), January 16, 1903.

¹¹ "Four-Year Teachers' College May Be Made Out of Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 18, 1925.

¹² "Western Carolina University: Tale of a Haunting Dream," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 26, 1969.

¹³ "Jackson County's Fair Proved an Eye-Opener," *Asheville Gazette-News*, October 5, 1909.

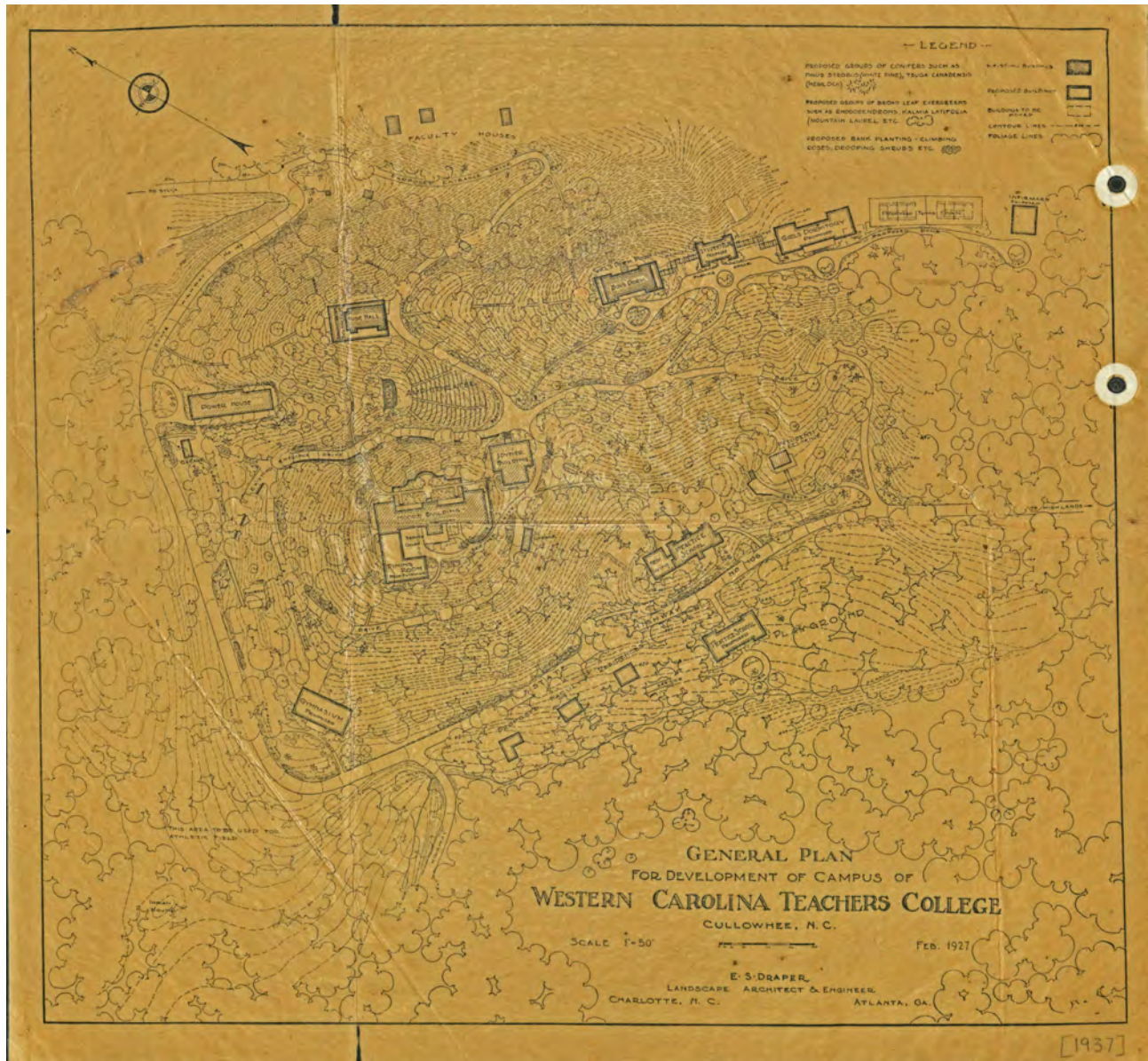
¹⁴ "Cullowhee Has Much to Offer," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 30, 1926.

¹⁵ "What Cullowhee Means to W.N.C.," *Jackson County Journal*, March 13, 1914.

¹⁶ *Jackson County Journal* (Sylva), February 28, 1913.

¹⁷ "From One-Teacher School with Small Enrollment to Great Institution is Record of Cullowhee Normal School," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 8, 1924.

connect buildings and the planting of conifers and evergreens that still tower over the historic buildings on the north campus hillside. The stone walls that remain on the hillside portion of campus resulted from Draper's plans.¹⁸



Earle Sumner Draper's General Plan for Campus Development, dated February 1927. Used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU.

¹⁸ Jeannie Saunders, "Discovering a Part of WCU's Past: Earle Sumner Draper," brochure in the Special Collections, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, 1990.



Stone steps and stone walls behind (south of) the Moore Building, view to the northeast.

The only major building surviving from 1924 is the Moore Building. Constructed in 1924 with a 1929 addition, the Classical Revival-style edifice designed by architect G. Murray Nelson occupies the hillside on the north side of campus.¹⁹

In 1925, the school became a four-year college renamed Cullowhee State Normal School.²⁰ In 1926, a concrete tunnel to house the campus heating system and an outdoor amphitheater known as the Woodland Stage (not extant) were completed.

In 1929, the school became Western Carolina Teachers College.²¹ Robertson Residence Hall, designed by Hendersonville architect Erle Stillwell, was built in 1930. By 1932, 350 students attended the college.²² At the end of 1935, the campus boasted an array of buildings including an administration building, three dormitories, a training school that served as a teaching laboratory, heating plant, eight residences, three dairy barns, a hydroelectric plant, a small cannery, and twelve garages.

¹⁹ "Campus History," Western North Carolina 2014 Master Plan, 34.

²⁰ "WCU Opens Year with New Buildings, Name," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 20, 1967.

²¹ "Inaugural Celebration Planned for WCU Chancellor on Oct. 26," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 18, 1974.

²² "Founder of College is Still on Faculty," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, December 18, 1932.

In the fall of 1939, the school dedicated six new buildings including a gymnasium, boys' dormitory, auditorium, infirmary, and student union.²³

In 1947, 1949, and 1951, the state legislature funded an expansion that doubled the number of buildings on campus. The Stillwell Building, Hunter Library,

and Reynolds Dormitory were constructed, the latter on the site of Davies Hall, the dormitory built for women in 1905. During this phase of expansion, new roads were laid out all over campus, new rock walls constructed, and old rock walls repaired.²⁴ In 1953, the legislature dropped "Teacher" from the school's name.²⁵

On July 1, 1967, Western Carolina College became Western Carolina University after the general assembly instituted a new system of regional universities. In the fall of 1967, the C. D. Killian Education and Psychology Building and A. K. Hinds Student Center opened in the nearly level area to the southwest of the original campus. The school also completed a large addition to the Hunter Library.²⁶ In 1967, as the campus grew to the southwest of Central Drive, the university opened a new student center designed by architect Anthony Lord, Dodson Cafeteria, and the Helder and Leatherwood dormitories (neither extant). In 1969, enrollment topped five thousand students for the first time.²⁷

Western Carolina University, the fifth oldest institution in the University of North Carolina system, has continued to expand over the past fifty years. Numerous new, modern buildings and sports



McKee Building under construction with Breese Gymnasium to the left, 1939, view to the northeast. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU

²³ "W.C.T. College to Hold Celebration," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 22, 1939.

²⁴ "1950 Marks Beginning of WCC Building Program," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 22, 1956.

²⁵ "College Broadens Field of Service," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 11, 1953.

²⁶ "WCU Opens Year with New Buildings, Name," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 20, 1967.

²⁷ "Enrollment History, Fall Terms," www.wcu.edu, accessed August 1, 2018.



Hunter Library under construction in 1953. Photo used by permission of Hunter Library, WCU

facilities have been constructed primarily on the level area to the west of the campus's historic core. In 2011, the school dedicated Central Plaza with its zero-depth fountain as the new center of campus. Whereas Central Drive, the location of the school's 1924 steam plant stands, once served as the campus's main entrance, that designation has been given to Memorial Drive, just off NC 107.

Context: State Normal Schools in Piedmont and Western North Carolina

In 1877, a North Carolina senate bill provided for the establishment of state normal schools. As a result, four schools for training white teachers, six schools for training black teachers, and one for Native American teacher training opened from 1881 to 1913 across the state.²⁸ The state established three normal schools, including the Cullowhee Normal and Industrial College, the forerunner of Western Carolina University, in the piedmont and western portions of North Carolina. In 1891, the North Carolina State Normal and Industrial School (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro) opened. In 1903, Appalachian State Normal School opened at what was originally Watauga Academy in Boone.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro originated as the North Carolina State Normal and Industrial School, established in 1891 to train women educators. By 1949, the school had become the largest college for women in the United States. The school changed names several times before becoming the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1963, the same year it became a co-educational institution.²⁹

²⁸ *The History of Education in North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Education, 1993), 11.

²⁹ "Timeline of UNCG History," www.library.uncg.edu, accessed August 8, 2018.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Historic District (GF2096; Study List 1990), located at the center of the urban campus, contains red-brick buildings dating from the late nineteenth century into the 1960s. College Avenue, designed and laid out in the early twentieth century by Boston landscape architect Warren Henry Manning, forms the spine of the district. Stately red-brick, mostly Classical Revival-style collegiate buildings standing on both sides of College Drive and create an architectural consistency and cohesiveness.



1950 Library on College Avenue. Rear addition dates to 1973.

The Forney Building on the east side of College Drive opened in 1905 as a Carnegie Library, but was rebuilt in the 1930s after a fire. The two-story, red-brick, hipped-roof building displays a full-height classical portico with Ionic pilasters. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Historic District also contains numerous residential halls including the quadrangle, a group of seven dormitories designed by architect Harry Barton and built between 1919 and 1923. Harry Barton also designed the Curry Building on Spring Garden Street. Opened in 1926, it served as the training school for practicing teachers until 1970. The four-story, Romanesque Revival-style Julius Foust Building (GF0023, NR 1980), constructed in 1892 and located on Spring Garden Street, is the school's oldest building. First known as Main, it was designed by local architects Epps and Hackett. East and west wings were added in 1895. Northrup and O'Brien designed the Neoclassical Revival-style Jackson Library, which was built in 1950. In 1973, a stark white tower designed by Odell Associates of Charlotte was added to the rear elevation. Six Associates of Asheville designed three modernist residential halls: Grogan Residence Hall (1963), Cone Residence Hall (1967), and Phillip-Hawkins Residence Hall (1967). The red-brick, multi-story, flat-roofed buildings typify collegiate housing from the period.³⁰ The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Historic District contains roughly twenty-seven contributing buildings primarily along Spring Garden Street, College Avenue, and Walker Street.

Appalachian State University began as Watauga Academy when brothers Blanford and Dauphin Dougherty established the school in Boone in 1899. After it became one of the state's chartered normal schools in 1903, the name changed to Appalachian Training School for Teachers. In 1929, the school transitioned to a four-year college called Appalachian State Teachers College. In 1967, it

³⁰ "A History of Buildings at Grounds at UNCG," www.library.uncg.edu, accessed August 8, 2018.

became Appalachian State University reflecting its expansion from a teacher's college to an institution offering a variety of degrees. In 1972, ASU joined the University of North Carolina system.

Appalachian State University and the town of Boone have expanded together since the school's founding in the late nineteenth century. Unlike Western Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Appalachian State University retains few historic buildings from the first half of the twentieth century. Most buildings from the campus's first fifty years have been demolished, while some burned.

A small number of historic buildings remain, but they stand scattered around the 1,300-acre campus and do not constitute a potential

historic district. Founders Hall, originally Watauga Hospital, dates to 1938 and is a three-story, red-brick building with classical detailing. Also dating to 1938, the former Appalachian High School building (WT0564), now Chappell Wilson Hall, is a two-story, granite building located on the north side of campus. Several modernist buildings from the 1950s and 1960s remain on campus. East Residence Hall, built in 1952 on Locust Street, is a five-story, red-brick building with cast concrete projecting window surrounds. Built in 1965, Edwin Duncan Hall is a sprawling, flat-roofed red-brick classroom building near the center of campus. Overall, the campus is overwhelmingly modern with little of its historic fabric remaining intact.



East Residence Hall, built in 1952, view to the northwest

Evaluation

For the purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Western Carolina University Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The district contains the earliest surviving buildings of the state university established in 1889 as Cullowhee Academy, a private school for children. The campus's historic core retains buildings and landscape features from the 1920s through 1960s that convey its significance in the areas of education, architecture, and landscape architecture. The Western Carolina University Historic District retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While the university has constructed many modern classroom, dormitories, and support buildings, the historic core buildings and campus plan at the north end of the property remain mostly intact, with new construction focused to the south and southwest where a new center of campus has been established.

The Western Carolina University Historic District is eligible for the Nation Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. To be eligible under Criterion A, a property must retain integrity and must be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Western Carolina University Historic District is eligible under Criterion A in the area of education. Established in 1899 as a semi-private academy, the school received state funding in 1891 to establish a normal department to educate teachers for rural schools in western North Carolina—the first such state institution in North Carolina. Over its one hundred and twenty year history, the school would transition into an integral part of the University of North Carolina system educating thousands of students from around the world on its Jackson County campus.

The Western Carolina University Historic District is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion B. For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Robert Lee Madison (1867-1954) established Cullowhee Academy in 1889, the predecessor to Western Carolina University. An educator and one-term state legislator, Madison served as president of the school from 1889 to 1912 and again from 1920 to 1923. Although Madison's contributions to Jackson County's and North Carolina history of education are significant, no buildings from his tenure at the school remain standing. According to guidelines for establishing significance under National Register criteria B, properties that post-date an individual's significant accomplishments are usually not eligible under that criteria.

The Western Carolina University Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Western Carolina University Historic District comprises the historic buildings and grounds of the oldest surviving normal school in western North Carolina. The architectural significance of the Western Carolina University Historic District derives from its importance as a group of educational buildings dating from 1924 to 1967 that reflect the procession of architectural styles used for academic buildings in North Carolina in the middle decades of the twentieth century. Architectural styles range from Classical Revival to modernist and include five buildings constructed in 1939 under the New Deal. The district's buildings play a critical role in defining the architectural character of a campus as it transitioned from a four-year normal college to a state university.

Western Carolina University Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture for the intact plan and features designed by noted Charlotte landscape architect Earle Sumner Draper. The circulation design and elements such as walkways and stone walls remain mostly intact within the campus's historic core and reflect Draper's emphasis on curvilinear tree-lined streets, bounteous green spaces, and native materials for construction of landscape elements.

The Western North Carolina University Historic District is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D. For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion D, it must have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Although the campus's first building was constructed in the late nineteenth century, the earliest surviving built resource in the Western Carolina University Historic District, the original section of the steam plant, dates to 1924. It is unlikely that the district could contribute significant information pertaining to building technology or historical documentation not otherwise accessible from other extant resources and written records. According to oral history accounts, the school's earliest buildings were constructed on the hillside where the Moore Building and Madison Residence Hall now stand, which was the site of a Cherokee Indian village. Further investigation of this claim outside the scope of this project would be needed to determine the district's potential eligibility under Criterion D.

Boundary Description and Justification

Note: The Western Carolina University Historic District was placed on the Study List in 1992. A definitive boundary was not delineated at that time, mostly likely because a National Register nomination was not imminent. The survey site file for the Western Carolina University Historic District includes an undated campus map upon which an HPO staff person outlined a proposed boundary. The boundary recommended in this report largely corresponds to the boundary outlined by the HPO staff person in the survey site file.

On HPOWEB, the GIS service of the HPO, the boundary for the Western Carolina Historic District encompasses the entire campus of Western Carolina University plus some of the surrounding area. The large boundary in HPOWEB does not correspond to the one noted by the HPO staff person in the survey site file or to the boundary recommended in this report.

The proposed boundary of the Western Carolina University encompasses two parcels covering approximately forty acres (portions of PIN 7559231452 and all of 7559358382). The boundary includes fourteen buildings and significant landscape features such as low stone walls that border streets and walkways, and stone stairs and walkways. The boundary is drawn to include the core of historically significant historic buildings and structures associated with the history of the development of the school. The buildings included in the boundary are mostly intact. Two buildings—Stillwell and National Sciences Buildings (K0869) and Hunter Library (JK0868)—have been altered, but they do not diminish the overall historic integrity of the district. Modern buildings, structures, parking lots, and athletic fields associated with Western Carolina University are excluded from the historic district.



National Register boundary map. Created from base map on HPO Web

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