

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Crossnore School Historic District

Crossnore, Avery County, AV0088, Listed 1/29/2009

Nomination by Davyd Foard Hood

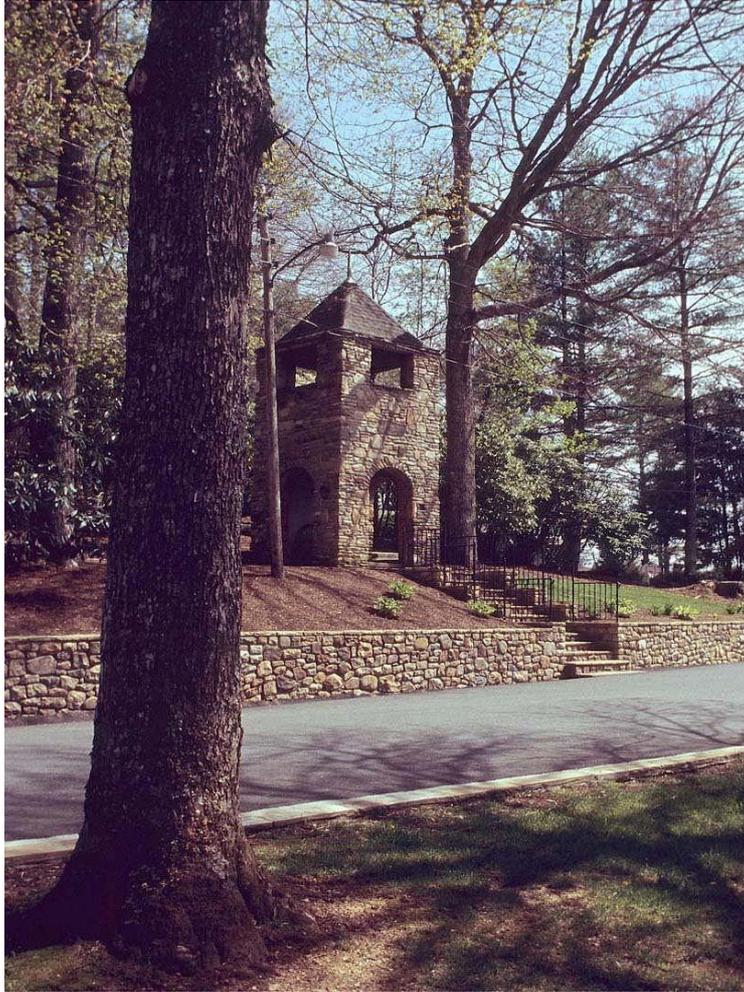
Photographs by Davyd Foard Hood, May 2006



Sloop Chapel, and Weaving Room (right) in background



DAR Dormitory/Mary L. Jackson Cooper Building



Bell Tower



DAR Chapter House

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crossnore School Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Within the campus of Crossnore School, North side of Crossnore Drive (SR 1143), opposite junction with Dellinger Road (SR 1148) not for publication N/A
city or town Crossnore Vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Avery code 011 zip code 28616

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Crossnore School Historic District
Name of Property

Avery County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
6	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

EDUCATION/education related
RELIGION/religious facility
SOCIAL/meeting hall
HEALTH CARE/hospital

Current Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

EDUCATION/education related
RELIGION/religious facility
SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman bungalow
OTHER: half-dovetail log building

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
Wood
roof Asphalt
other Wood
Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education
Health/Medicine
Social History

Period of Significance

1928 - 1960

Significant Dates

1928, 1933, 1936, 1951, 1956, 1960

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
Sloop, Drs. Mary Turpin Martin and Eustace Henry

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Franklin, William Erwin, builder
Weaver, John R., builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
North Carolina Division of Archives and History
Raleigh, North Carolina

Record # _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 7.83 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>416240</u>	<u>3986740</u>	3	Zone	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	_____	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Davyd Foard Hood
organization _____ date 2 September 2008
street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-1847
city or town Vale state NC zip code 28168

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name The Crossnore School, Dr. Phyllis H. Crain, Executive Director
street & number Post Office Box 249 telephone 828/733-4305
city or town Crossnore state NC zip code 28616

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Crossnore School Historic District
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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Crossnore School Historic District, located in the small Avery County town of the same name, is an irregularly shaped enclave of six contributing historic resources (#1-2, 4-7), together with one noncontributing modern building (#3), that constitute the oldest surviving buildings associated with the school established here in 1913. Crossnore School has an average resident boarding enrollment of eighty-five students, and in 2005 the town had a population of 237. The district lies on the north side of Crossnore Drive (SR 1143), a two-lane asphalt paved road that is the town's main street, and incorporates a part of Johnson Lane, a campus drive that leads south to Crossnore Drive where it meets Dellinger Road, which, in turn, carries south to US 221 and the Crossnore Presbyterian Church (NR 1996). The junction of Crossnore Drive, Johnson Lane, and Dellinger Road is effectively the center of town. The town post office is located in the southwest corner of the intersection, the town hall stands in the southeast corner, and most of the acreage on the north side of Crossnore Drive, on both sides of Johnson Lane constitutes the school campus. The only commercial activities here at the town center are three businesses operated on the Crossnore School Campus. The Crossnore Weavers and Gallery are housed in the Homespun House/Weaving Room (#4), which was individually listed in the National Register in 2001 as the Weaving Room of Crossnore School. The Blair Fraley Sales Store and Miracle Grounds Coffee Shop and Bookstore occupy buildings at the south edge of the campus, outside the district, on the north side of Crossnore Drive. The district occupies about 7.83 acres at the southwest edge of the school's campus of about eighty acres, which includes some twenty additional frame and masonry buildings and related facilities dating largely from the second half of the twentieth century. Crossnore has an altitude of 3,456 feet above sea level. Avery County lies in the mountainous northwest part of North Carolina, and its northwest boundary is conterminous with the North Carolina/Tennessee state line.

As the district map and USGS map indicate, the tree-shaded, grass-covered campus of Crossnore School occupies hillside terrain marked by terraced building sites. It is overlaid with several principal roads (Johnson Lane, Miracle in the Hills Drive, and Allen Circle) and a series of smaller lanes that effectively serve as access drives for a number of campus buildings. From its beginning in 1913 as a school for underprivileged mountain children, operated in conjunction with the area public school, Crossnore School developed in a rather informal, ad hoc fashion without ever having a campus plan. It was not until 1967 that any deliberate effect was made to "organize" the grounds of the campus. For financial and administrative reasons, nothing came of the proposed organization of buildings and grounds, and little of either a second, late 1960s effort, or a 1975 proposed plan, produced visible results. A sustained initiative, dating from the mid 1980s, and more particularly the last decade, has produced the better-organized newer facilities that flank the district on the east and northeast.

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The district occupies mowed, grass-covered grounds, punctuated with specimen and massed plantings of rhododendron, dogwood and other under-story trees, and shaded by mostly deciduous trees. Evergreen shrubs are also used for foundation plantings. The roads and lanes in the district are asphalt paved, and the walks are concrete, asphalt, or gravel. The sloping terrain of the district is retained at points by low river rock or stone walls, usually carrying parallel with a road or walk, and rock, stone, and concrete are used for the several flights of steps that provide easy pedestrian access along the face of slopes. In short the grounds of the district have a natural, uncontrived feeling and character that serves as a sympathetic setting for its rustic Craftsman-style buildings.

Although Crossnore School was organized in 1913, the oldest surviving building in the district erected for educational purposes is the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Dormitory/Cooper Building (#1) of 1933. As Mary Martin Sloop, the founder of the school, wrote in 1952, "our original buildings on campus . . . were quickly and cheaply built." They were built that way, when the needs of area students for boarding facilities were very pressing and funds were low, with the view that better, replacement, and more permanent buildings would come in time. The DAR Dormitory was acknowledged at its dedication as the first of that group of permanent buildings. In 1938 Mary Martin Sloop recalled "It set a standard for better building on our campus, using our native materials in an artistic and pleasing way at a minimum expense." The combination of local rock, gathered from the nearby Linville River, and chestnut bark shingles utilized in the DAR Dormitory launched a pattern of buildings on the campus that continued into the mid-twentieth century and, absent the availability of chestnut bark, with variation, to the present. All of the contributing resources in the district utilize Linville River rock either for their elevations or for their foundations and decorative enhancements. Stone masonry is the chief, single physical feature that links all of the buildings in this district to each other and the place they occupy in Avery County.

The five contributing buildings and one contributing structure in the district span the period from 1928 to 1960. They are buildings of varying size reflecting their different usages, of stone, frame, or log construction (#6), and stand one, one-and-a-half, or two stories in height. They stand in harmony and no one building dominates the other. The E. H. Sloop Chapel (#5), with its towering steeple, occupies a singular presence on the campus and in the district in the fashion that many such school chapels do. All of the buildings were erected for educational purposes except for the DAR Chapter House (#6) and the Garrett Memorial Hospital/Edwin Guy Building (#7), which served as a private community hospital from 1928 to 1999, under the direction of Dr. Eustace Henry Sloop from 1928 to 1960. Later, non-historic additions to the hospital were pulled down and it was refitted in 2005-07 to house Crossnore School's adoptive placement services facility. The DAR Dormitory (#1) and the Homespun House/Weaving Room (#4) were both erected in the 1930s. Three of the resources date to the 1950s.

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The first of these, the Bell Tower (#2), stood as a concrete block structure from 1951 until summer 1960 when the Linville River rock veneer was added. The E. H. Sloop Chapel (#5), also veneered in Linville River rock, was completed in 1956 on the site formerly occupied by the Altamont Consolidated High School. That building, placed in use in 1920 and used until about 1951, was the public day school which the Crossnore boarding students attended. The final building of the 1950s, the DAR Chapter House (#6), is a one-story log building re-erected here in 1958-59 from the remains of a ca. 1904 Avery County log house. The single noncontributing building in the district, the Bayles Administration Building (#3) of 1988, is a two-story Craftsman-Revival-style building erected on the site of the school's former dining hall and kitchen. Like all the contributing buildings in the district, the administration building incorporates stone masonry in its exterior finish.

Inventory List

1. DAR Dormitory/Mary L. Jackson Cooper Building
187 DAR Drive
1933; 1960; late 20th century
Contributing building (National Register Criterion A)

The DAR Dormitory is the oldest surviving building on the Crossnore School campus that was erected as a part of its educational mission. The Craftsman-style building with chestnut-bark elevations was completed in 1933 and for many years it was a residence for "big girls," those in their mid-to-late teenage years. It was created by the North Carolina Chapter, DAR, and was the first important building that reflected the strong association of the Daughters of the American Revolution and its members with support of the school. In a memorial for Mrs. Ralph (Susan Harwood) Van Landingham (1852-1937) who was state chairman of Approved Schools, 1931 to 1934, Mary Martin Sloop wrote "She conceived and carried to completion the building of the N.C.D.A.R. Dormitory for big girls, named in honor of Mrs. Sidney P. (Mary L. Jackson) Cooper, then state regent."

The building stood as built and dedicated from 1933 until 1960, when the much deteriorated chestnut bark ceased to be a weatherproof sheathing, and it was replaced with "fire-resistant gray bark-grained composition shingles." In the later twentieth century the building was renovated again, and its elevations re-sheathed with the present manufactured sheet siding with vertical joints that appears on a number of the school's residential buildings. That project also saw the replacements of the building's original multi-pane sash windows, which had been fitted with screens, with modern one-over-one thermal sash. While the loss of the bark sheathing and original sash windows have compromised the larger architectural significance of the building, the survival of the building's handsome rock veneer foundation and entrance porch, and its original form continue to reflect its original appearance and

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support the building's contributing status and significance in the areas of education and social history. The building satisfies National Register Criterion A.

The DAR Dormitory is a rectangular two-story frame building that stands on a full stone/stone-vener foundation that encloses a cellar. Because of the change in its site grade, the northwest (rear) elevation of the foundation is a full story in height. The masonry, comprising rock from the Linville River laid up with recessed mortared joints, features an appealing, picturesque pattern of large irregularly-shaped stones laid in asymmetrical fashion in a field of generally horizontally-coursed smaller stones. The size and mass of the large rectangular building is mitigated by its design. The central block, five bays wide and covered by a tall asphalt-shingle jerkinhead roof, is flanked by one-bay wide, one-and-a-half-story blocks with lower, complementing jerkinhead roofs. The front (southeast) elevation is enhanced by a shallow projecting gable with a further projecting stone entrance porch that features a broad arched opening protecting modern paired glazed doors fitted with sidelights and a transom that echo the original configuration. The arc of the opening is formed by thin stone voussoirs and a keystone. A bronze plaque mounted on the stone face of the porch on the left of the entrance is inscribed:

The Mary Jackson Cooper
Building
N.C.D.A.R.
In Honor of
The State Regent
and the
Administration of 1931-1934

A same-sized contemporary bronze plaque mounted on the right side of the archway bears the following legend:

The Rock Entrance
Given in Honor of
Mrs. Russell William Magna
President General N.S.D.A.R.
1932-1935
By Her
National Board of Management

The side and rear elevations of the DAR Dormitory have a generally symmetrical appearance. The northeast and southwest sides of the building have three bays on the first story and two on the second

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level. These were originally all windows. On the northeast side the center first-story window opening was infilled and sheathed while one of the two openings above was enlarged to door size as a fire escape served by a simple metal single-flight stair set parallel with the elevation. The dormitory's rear (northwest) elevation is dominated by the full-height foundation, which engages a rock chimney that rises in the center of the five-bay main block. The foundation has a door opening and three window openings; the window openings are now fitted with panels of the manufactured siding that is also used to sheath the face of the door.

The front doors open into a large parlor that remains the most important, original space in the building. It is finished with oak flooring and chestnut paneling. The original interior decoration also includes an exposed face rustic rock chimney breast centered on its northwest side, paired window seats that flank both the entrance and the fireplace, and three three-section wood bookcases. At the northeast and southwest ends of the room two shallow steps rise to recessed landings where both doors open into offices and restrooms. While the parlor and its finish were retained and continue to serve as the school's principal entertaining room, the other parts of the building were refitted in about the 1990s, when the building came into use as classroom space for the high school of the newly-organized Crossnore Academy. It was used as classroom space until the Wayne Densch Building was completed in 2001.

2. Bell Tower
East side of DAR Drive
1951; 1960
Contributing structure

In about 1950 Mary Martin Sloop began advocating the construction of a bell tower for Crossnore School, a tower in which she originally intended to incorporate an incinerator for the refuse generated at the school. Fortunately, that combination never occurred. One of her longest pleas for a bell tower was published in the July-September 1950 number of the "Crossnore School Bulletin."

We can do without a Bell Tower, but we ought not to. A high one that lifts the bell—or bells—up into the air. The present bell is a Godsend....Here a bell must wake up a campus of sleeping youngsters that don't want to be awakened. The setting of our present bell is on a roof, down the side of a hill, and when the rope breaks, which isn't infrequent, two boys on duty in the kitchen, grab a big frying pan apiece, and a big spoon, and go all over the campus, up one path and down another, making a terrible noise—but it's effective. So I still say we need a bell tower, higher up on the hill and add to this faithful bell two more bells that have

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been offered to us, and the three will save the frying pans. We aim to make the bell tower artistic as well as useful. We will build it of river rock, put it in a prominent spot on the campus, landscape around it and keep it clean as a pin.

It remains unclear whether the original donation for the bell tower was insufficient to cover the rock veneer. In the event, a bell tower was erected in 1951 and (apparently) dedicated on 26 October 1951. A small brass plaque identifies it as the gift of Edith C. Reichardt in memory of her husband Otis N. Reichardt. The bell tower that stood on the Crossnore campus from October 1951 into the summer of 1960 was a concrete-block structure, square in plan, with brick outlining the tall round-arch-headed entrances on its front and side elevations. Circular openings, also outlined in brick, were positioned above the entrances and below rectangular openings in the upper belfry level of the tower. It was covered with a tall bellcast hip roof.

In the summer of 1960 the “artistic” river-rock bell tower Mrs. Sloop envisioned became a reality. A photograph published in the July-September 1960 issue of the “Crossnore School Bulletin” shows the concrete-block tower, rock piled at its base and along a low retaining wall, and an adult male and several youngsters. The caption reads “Coach Reese and helpers putting a rock veneer on the Bell Tower—a memorial to Mrs. Edith C. Reichardt.” At her death Mrs. Reichardt made a bequest to the school for the rock veneer. The veneer, of Linville River rock, is laid up in a pattern similar to that seen on the nearby DAR Dormitory and the campus’s other stone buildings. It features large, irregularly-shaped stones laid in a mortared field of smaller stones that have a generally horizontal coursing. The arched heads of the three entrances are fitted with simple self-arches. The circular openings on the mid-level of the tower were covered by the rock veneer; however, they remain visible inside the tower where the concrete blocks are painted a light white/beige.

It remains unclear whether the stone and cement steps that lead down from the base of the tower to DAR Drive were added in 1960, or later when a low stone wall was erected along the east side of DAR Drive to retain the grass-covered grounds of the tower.

3. Bayles Administration Building
100 Norton Drive
1988
Noncontributing building

The construction of this building, the third known administration building at Crossnore School, was funded by a bequest of Mrs. Rhoda Brakeley Bayles (d. 30 August 1955), of Easton, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Bayles named Crossnore School the beneficiary of her estate that was subject to certain life

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estates. At her death the estate had a value of about \$400,000 which increased to just under \$800,000 in 1973 and more in the 1980s when the life estates expired. The bequest carried the provision that the funds be used to erect a building at Crossnore School in memory of Lewis Condict and Rhoda Brakeley Bayles. The administration building was the largest of the three buildings erected at Crossnore by the bequest; the others were a residence for the school's executive director and a maintenance shop for the buildings and grounds department. David Patrick Moses, a Linville-based architect, designed the administration building.

The Bayles Administration Building is a large rectangular Craftsman-style two-story frame building covered by an asphalt-shingle jerkinhead roof. Its form and massing generally replicates that of the earlier, nearby DAR Dormitory. It is sheathed in manufactured sheet siding with vertical joints. The building stands on a mortared rock veneer foundation and occupies the site of the school's former dining hall and kitchen. Its inset siting and rhododendron plantings mitigate its noncontributing presence in the historic district.

The stonework of the foundation is continued on the building's south façade where a one-story stone entrance porch, mimicking the porch on the DAR Dormitory, occupies the center of the building. The asymmetrical fenestration of the façade is centered by the porch and an inset decorative gable fitted with a fanlight at attic level. The window openings vary in size with the largest being the four-part window on the extreme west end of the façade which illuminates the board room. The side and rear elevations of the building have a like variety in their fenestration with metal frame windows. Because of grade shift the east elevation of the second story is on near ground level and a secondary entrance, providing convenient on-campus access to the second-story offices, is located here.

The interior of the administration building has a cross-shaped plan with the spine of the cross leading from the front door to the stairwell at the back of the expansive entrance hall. Side-halls, parallel with the façade, carry to the east and the west, on both levels, providing access to the many offices and service facilities aligned along their sides. The Founders' Room, which also serves as the school's board room, and the executive director's office are located in the west end of the first story. The interior of the building has a conventional finish on its floors, walls, and ceilings.

4. Homespun House/Weaving Room
205 Johnson Lane
1936; 1986
Contributing building

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This building was entered individually in the National Register of Historic Places on 25 April 2001 as the Weaving Room of Crossnore School. The rustic building is distinguished by the appealing combination of rock masonry and chestnut bark shingles on its gable ends.

The Homespun House/Weaving Room is a small one-and-a-half story masonry building, standing on a basement foundation, whose elevations are finished with rock from the Linville River laid up in the patterning seen elsewhere in the historic district. Large irregularly-shaped stones are inset in a field of a generally horizontal coursing of small stones. The building is essentially symmetrical in its elevations and fenestration. It is covered by a side-gable roof of asphalt shingles.

The three-bay east façade is enhanced by a center-bay frontispiece that incorporates the shed porch and rises behind it in the form of a wall dormer. The center entrance is flanked by openings holding paired six-over-six sash. On the second level the wall-dormer holds paired sash windows while the flanking conventional dormers hold single sash windows.

On the symmetrical north and south gable ends, shallow one-and-a-half-story one-bay wide wings are recessed behind the façade, at about the mid-point of their depth, and covered with low side-gable roofs. The expansive upper gable ends of the main block are sheathed with chestnut shingles as are the gable ends of the wings and the shed-roof dormer on the rear of the main block. In 1986 a two-story shed room frame addition was erected across the full-width of the rear elevation. Because of the drop in grade the lower story of the addition is on basement level and the upper story is on the main level of the building. Four complementing window openings on each level hold paired one-over-one sash. The addition is sheathed in manufactured sheathing similar to that which appears on the administration building. The entrance to the addition, on its south shed end, is served by a metal ramp positioned parallel with the building's side wall.

The interior of the building is unchanged since its listing in 2001, and retains the original finish in the main block and conventional finish in the 1986 addition. The building continues to be used for weaving and for sales and museum displays.

5. E. H. Sloop Chapel
139 Miracle in the Hills Drive
1956
Contributing building

The E. H. Sloop Chapel is a small Craftsman-style church building, with Gothic Revival influence, of masonry and frame construction, which represents an appealing combination of local stone and

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craftsmanship, Gothic-style lancet-arch window and door openings and buttressing, and brown stained woodwork. The chapel was erected in 1956 by a building crew headed by John R. Weaver (188_- 1964), the school's construction superintendent. The building is essentially one large rectangular chamber, resting on a concrete block, partial basement foundation, with a projecting enclosed porch on its southwest gable front. Its gable front roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The rock masonry, comprising water-washed and smoothed stones from the Linville River, is similar to the masonry of the older surviving buildings in the district. However, its character is markedly different and features a larger number of medium sized, irregularly-shaped stones set in a generally horizontal coursing of smaller stones. In short the difference between the large accent stones and the field which they are laid, seen in the earlier buildings, is not as pronounced here. That said, the masonry is no less visually appealing and has rich, densely woven appearance.

The principal architectural development of the building occurs on its façade and side elevations. The façade is five bays wide with the three center bays set in the gable-front projecting porch. Here the recessed center entrance with paired wood doors is flanked by lancet-arch window openings fitted with diamond-patterned colored glass that illuminate the shallow vestibule. The window openings have flat stone sills and arched tops framed by soldier-like stone voussoirs. A shallow stoop and fourteen concrete steps are flanked by stone side walls and descend to a flagstone walk leading down to Miracle in the Hills Drive. The gable front of the porch is sheathed with weatherboards as is the complementing gable front of the church block. Both of these gables are finished with pent roofs at their bases, which have the effect of accommodating the thicknesses of the respective stone walls. The porch and the main block are linked by the square-in-plan two-stage base of the steeple; its elevations are weatherboarded and support an octagonal belfry, with lancet-arch openings, and its tall copper spire.

The front corner of the Sloop Chapel and the five bays of its southeast and northwest side elevations are enhanced by rock buttresses whose mass tapers in their rise from the ground to the building's molded eaves. The corners of the buttresses often feature tall squarish stones that have the appearance of cornerstones. The side elevations are slightly different in appearance. On the southeast elevation the front four bays hold lancet-arch windows while the fifth bay, at the back of the building, contains a doorway protected by an open bracketed, gabled hood. The door's vertically sheathed face is like that of the chapel's front doors. The original, simple concrete stoop has been enlarged and is now linked to a concrete sidewalk. This doorway, opening into the liturgical east end of the chapel, now serves as a handicap-accessible entrance, as well as the principal entrance for visitors who come to view the chapel's 2006 fresco. On the opposite, northwest elevation all five bays contain lancet-arch window openings. Here, in the second bay forward of the church's north corner, concrete steps descend to the basement level. The steps are flanked by two-part stone walls that support an open-work gable-roof

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hood. The masonry of the rear (northeast) elevations is blind; a three-part stained glass window is centered in the weatherboarded gable end. A stone flue stack rises with the wall and above it.

The paired front doors of the building open into a shallow vestibule that is paved with green flagstone and finished with varnished pine sheathing. Complementing paired doors then open into the chapel. The interior decoration of the chapel survives intact except for the addition of a rectangular fresco, entitled "Suffer the Little Children," that was painted in 2006 by Benjamin F. Long IV, a North Carolina artist who specializes in frescoes. The warm, golden atmosphere of the chapel derives from the dark wormy chestnut paneling which glows in the light of the colored glass windows. The windows have outer borders of blue glass and inner borders of red glass. The ribbon-like frame between these borders is made up of ochre and rose colored glass. The leaded lattice field of each window is then made up of rose, ochre, blue, and green diamond-shaped panes, some few of which feature Christian symbols. The floor of the chapel is oak and the walls are finished with chestnut paneling that rises from a simple baseboard to the cornices at the top of the side walls, which incorporate the braces of the open-beam ceiling. The chapel's southwest and northeast gables are fully paneled. A series of (apparently) original metal Gothic-style lamps hang on long chains from the chapel ceiling which is finished with painted plaster or wall board in rectangular panels with dark wood battens. The hanging lamps are supplemented by wall sconces which feature decorative metalwork leaves and acorns on the faces of the half-round translucent globes. Seating in the chapel consists of tiers of pews flanking the center aisle. The chancel at the northeast front of the chapel is raised two steps above the main floor and carpeted. Its complementing furniture consists of a pulpit/lectern, a communion table, flower stands, and two chairs as well as a grand piano. The chancel is illuminated by the three-part stained glass window which comprises a mountain landscape in ribbon-like frames and colors sympathetic to the colored glass in the other windows. The High Point Glass and Decorative Company produced these windows, and it probably executed the chapel's other windows.

The basement level is reached by a stair which descends in the west corner of the chapel. Only the northwest third of the basement is finished. This space is partitioned to provide a passage, men's and women's lavatories, a meeting room, a custodial closet, and the furnace room. The finish of these spaces is simple and conventional.

6. DAR Chapter House
120 Miracle in the Hills Drive
1958-1959
Contributing building (National Register Criterion A)

This one-story, one-room log building was erected in 1958-1959 of logs salvaged from a ca. 1904 dogtrot-plan house built by members of the Webb family on Little Plumtree Creek, Avery County. The

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Chapter House was built as a meeting place for the Crossnore Chapter, Daughters of the America Revolution, which was organized in 1931 with twelve charter members, including Mary Martin Sloop and her daughter Emma Beattie Sloop Fink (1909-2001). The chapter continues to use the Chapter House for meetings in warmer months of the year. Short sketches of the building, prepared by chapter members, recount the derelict condition of the Webbs' unoccupied dogtrot plan house and its ruined roof. The log walls of the house were taken down, as was its stone chimney, and the materials transported to the campus where a single-room log building was constructed by John R. Weaver, Obie Oscar Johnson (1905-1993), the long-time head of buildings and grounds at Crossnore School, and a work crew.

The rectangular, single-pen, one-story log chapter house stands on a mortared rock foundation and is covered with a wood shingle roof. The logs are laid up with half-dovetail joints and chinked with concrete. The blind gable ends of the chapter house are sheathed with unpainted weatherboards. On the east front elevation the centered doorway is protected by a simple shed roof wood porch. A mortared stone chimney stands in the north gable end. The west elevation has a three-bay arrangement with a centered doorway flanked by window openings holding six-over-six sash. Both doorways are fitted with board-and-rail doors. The west doorway, elevated above grade, opens onto a wood stoop with a single flight of steps descending to grade.

The rustic interior has a wood floor, exposed log walls, and a flush board ceiling. The fireplace in the north wall has a heavy wood mantel shelf. The chapter house is fitted with two hanging lights crafted for the room. A wood wagon wheel is fitted with six lamps and hangs in the north end of the room while a double yoke for oxen is fitted with two lamps and hangs in the south part of the meeting room. The room is furnished with antique furniture of varying dates including two spinning wheels, a corner cupboard, a pie safe, and seating furniture.

7. Garrett Memorial Hospital/Edwin Guy Building
100 Sloop Drive
1928; 2006-07
Contributing building (National Register Criteria A and B)

The present appearance of this rustic Craftsman-style rock-veneered frame building, erected in 1928 and subsumed by additions for a larger, modern hospital on every elevation over the course of some seventy years, owes to a restoration and adaptive reuse project undertaken by Crossnore School, Inc., and completed in spring 2007. The original H-shaped one-story hospital is attributed to William Erwin Franklin and contained medical offices, rooms for twenty patients, and related facilities. On its

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completion it became, with Grace Hospital in Banner Elk, one of two small same-sized hospitals in Avery County that served its residents and those in adjoining counties.

Garrett Memorial Hospital was named in honor of Mrs. Garrett, the mother of Mrs. E. N. McWilliams, a donor to its construction. The hospital received its charter in July 1928, and in August 1928 Crossnore School conveyed a lot of two acres fronting on today's Crossnore Drive (then NC 194) to the hospital (Avery Deeds, 23/343-45). From 1928 until 1960, the hospital was administered by Dr. Eustace Henry Sloop. In 1983, the hospital was renamed Sloop Memorial Hospital. Effective 1 October 1998 Sloop Memorial Hospital was merged into Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital (Avery Deeds, 379/1174). This hospital was closed in 1999, and all hospital medical services in Avery County thereafter were offered at a new medical facility at Linville.

The former Garrett Memorial Hospital stood unused for some five years while the future of the building and the use of its site were considered. In 2004 the proximity of the building to Crossnore School, its history and long association with the Sloop family, the need for convenient and comfortable quarters for the school's adoption placement services, and a donor combined as considerations. On 11 November 2004 the Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital conveyed the vacant hospital and its now three-parcel tract to Crossnore School (Avery Deeds, 384/1775-78). The decision was quickly made to demolish all the post-1928 additions and to rehabilitate the original rock hospital attributed to William Erwin Franklin. Documentary photographs taken during the demolition and at its end show that the chestnut bark sheathing in the gable ends had been lost or removed during the sequential expansions and that all but one of the window openings had lost their sash and been boarded over. The school then engaged the Charlotte architectural firm of McClure Nicholson Montgomery to prepare the adaptive reuse plans. Construction was completed in spring 2007.

The Garrett Memorial Hospital/Edwin Guy Building is a handsome Craftsman-style building, with elevations of water-smoothed rocks from the Linville River, whose fabric and appearance reflect both its original construction and the rehabilitation of 2006-07. In laying up the veneered walls of the hospital Mr. Franklin chose relatively evenly-sized rocks and laid them in horizontal coursing. He used smaller stones for the piers that define the bays and for a decorative, vertically-set water table. Each of the four elevations of the H-shaped one-and-a-half story building are symmetrical in their design and well developed, reflecting the fact that when built in 1928 the hospital occupied a very prominent site and all of its elevations were visible to public view. Like the Crossnore Presbyterian Church it was a landmark in the community in the 1920s (and thereafter) and its refitting has reclaimed that status. The building is covered with a pre-cast cement tile roof that includes its original tiles, others of the same date found unused and stored in the hospital basement, and yet others salvaged from the ruins of the

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former Crossnore Presbyterian Church manse. The ridge caps were made especially for its rehabilitation.

The northeast elevation, facing onto an entrance drive, is the effective front of the building. The recessed center block has an eight-bay elevation that is flanked by projecting gable fronts that contain paired windows in large openings on the first story and smaller windows in the upper shingle-sheathed gable ends.

These gable ends and others on the building were originally sheathed with chestnut bark that was lost or taken down during the several expansions, and its in-kind replacement is no longer available. The original fenestration pattern is replicated today in bungalow-style three-over-one metal sash windows. Paired, multi-paned glazed doors with transoms flank a stone pier at the entrance. The southwest elevation, overlooking Crossnore, repeats the pattern of the eight-bay wide recessed center block and flanking, projecting one-bay gable fronts. Here glazed doors at the edges of the main block flank trios of windows set between stone piers.

The building's northwest elevation has a seven-bay arrangement with the center entrance sheltered by a pedimented gable porch. It protects paired doors and has three-part piers that taper in their rise. On each side of the porch stone piers flank the three windows. A gable-front dormer above the porch holds two small, paired windows. The southeast elevation has a centered, multi-pane glazed door flanked by two openings on each side that hold paired sash windows; the openings immediately adjoining the door are slightly narrower than the outer bays, a device used by Mr. Franklin to mitigate the repetition of the fenestration. A gable-roof dormer is centered above the first-story entrance.

Because of the long, seventy-year use of the building as a hospital and alterations through time, the interior plan of the former hospital has been adapted for its new use. The front door opens into an expansive stair hall with lavatories for both sexes that occupies the northeast part of the main block while a large conference room occupies the pendant southwest part of the center section. A sitting room is located in the north corner of the first story while three bedrooms with adjoining bathrooms are located in the other three corners of the facility. These four rooms are served by shallow passages accessible by the building's side doors. The upper level of the building contains two bedrooms with adjoining bathrooms. The interior decoration of the building is conventional.

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8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Crossnore School Historic District, comprising five historic buildings and one historic structure (and one noncontributing building), erected between 1928 and 1960, is an enclave of stone or stone-enhanced resources that reflect the local importance of Crossnore School and this district in the areas of architecture, education, health/medicine, and social history. These resources also reflect the extraordinary contributions of Doctors Mary Turpin Martin Sloop (1873-1962) and Eustace Henry Sloop (1878-1961) to the betterment of educational opportunities and medical services to the citizens of Avery County and the region. The two doctors, both natives of the Piedmont, settled permanently in today's Avery County following their marriage in 1908. From the summer of 1908 to late fall 1911 they lived at Plumtree, then in Mitchell County, and practiced medicine in relatively primitive circumstances. Their decision to locate to the village of Crossnore in 1911 was the first step among many that would forever marry them, their careers and reputations, to a place whose fortunes, and those of its two principal institutions, would be intertwined for a half century. Within the space of two years each had cast their lot for the future. Mary Martin Sloop committed her energies to improving both the educational facilities in Avery County and its children's opportunities for education. In 1913 she founded Crossnore School and in 1917 saw it chartered as an institution that cooperated with the fledgling public school system, supplementing the traditional offerings of a young graded school with instruction in domestic, agricultural, and manual arts. By about 1920 Crossnore School was providing modest boarding accommodations for children, whose circumstances prevented them from regular attendance in public school, and offered a range of supplementary vocational classes and other instruction, including elective Christian education, to improve every aspect of their lives. The weaving program she established at Crossnore would become nationally recognized and continues to the present. The resale shop launched at the Crossnore School in about the late 1910s continues in operation today as the Blair Frayley Sales Store. The sale of donated new and used clothing and household goods provided important income to the school and raised the standard of living for area customers who were able to acquire good quality clothing and household furnishings at affordable prices.

Mary Martin Sloop remained the director of the school until becoming incapacitated in 1959, and her death in January 1962. She recounted her experience at Crossnore in a well-received memoir, *Miracle in the Hills*, published in 1953. Eustace Henry Sloop would serve as chairman of the board of trustees for Crossnore School from 1917 until his death in February 1961. However, his chief service to his adopted community and county was in the provision of medical services. The construction of Garrett Memorial Hospital in 1928 represented the culmination of two decades of his medical services in

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Avery County, and Dr. Eustace Sloop would serve as its medical director through two expansions into 1960, just before death ended his work as a doctor and surgeon. Garrett Memorial Hospital would be renamed Sloop Memorial Hospital in 1983 in honor of the doctors Sloop.

The period of significance for the district begins in 1928 with the construction of the hospital by William Erwin Franklin, a celebrated local stonemason, and ends in 1960, when Mrs. Sloop's long-delayed wish for a school bell tower of Linville Rock was realized and Dr. Eustace Sloop gave up effective supervision of Garrett Memorial Hospital. During this period the earliest, inexpensively-built school buildings were gradually replaced with more permanent Craftsman-style buildings, beginning in 1933 with the erection of the DAR Dormitory through the financial contributions of the North Carolina Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. This followed Crossnore's addition to the DAR's list of Approved Schools in 1922, which initiated DAR-support from across the United States that continues to the present. The use of local Linville River rock and chestnut bark sheathing on the DAR Dormitory was continued in the construction of the Homespun House/Weaving Room in 1936. While chestnut bark ceased to be available in the 1940s due to a blight, the school and its builders continued the tradition of using rock gathered from the Linville River in the erection of the E. H. Sloop Chapel in 1956 and the veneer added to the Bell Tower in 1960. This use of local stone, laid up by local craftsmen sets the buildings of Crossnore School and this district apart and reflects the traditions of mountain craftsmanship that define its architectural significance. The period of significance extends to 1960, beyond the fifty year cut-off date, to acknowledge the significance of the bell tower stone re-facing as a continuation of the school's design aesthetic and an integral part of the original vision for the campus. Criteria Consideration G for this two year time period is not being claimed. The school continues to function today although the post-1960 period does not meet Criteria Consideration G for exceptional significance.

The Crossnore School Historic District satisfies National Register Criteria A, B, and C, and is associated with the contributions of Eustace Henry and Mary Turpin Martin Sloop which are inseparable from the institutions they founded and guided and the architecture of the buildings in this district, where educational opportunities and medical services for thousands of area residents were provided.

Historical Background, and Education and Social History Significance

The history of Crossnore School, the lives of its founders, Drs. Eustace Henry and Mary Turpin (Martin) Sloop, and the village where they established a school and hospital, are inextricably linked from 1913, when the school opened, until 1962 when Dr. Mary Martin Sloop died on 13 January, eleven months after the death of her husband. For this near half century the school grew, in

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appearance, facilities, and service to the mountain children, in company with the nurturing Mary Martin Sloop gave to the place and the boys and girls of Appalachia, whose potential she saw being as important as that her own two children. At the same time, a village of sizable proportions developed around the crossroads during this period. From its beginning, Crossnore School was the engine of the village's economy, joined by the hospital in 1928, and it has remained so into the twenty-first century. The history of Crossnore School was recounted by Mary Martin Sloop in *Miracle in the Hills*, an anecdotal, conversational narrative fixed into book form by LeGette Blythe, its co-author, for publication by McGraw-Hill in 1953.¹

Education was an overriding factor in Mary Turpin Martin's life from her birth at Davidson, North Carolina, on 9 March 1873 until her death at the age of eighty-eight. Mary Martin was educated in the public school at Davidson and at the Statesville Female College for Women, whence she graduated in 1891.² She returned home to Davidson where the 1890s were taken up with care for her invalid mother, Letitia Coddington (Costin) Martin (1841-1901), and studies, as the only coed, in classes at Davidson College. Mary Martin had fixed on work in medicine and foreign missions. Miss Martin is said to be the first woman admitted to the North Carolina Medical College, then headquartered in Charlotte; the school also held classes at Davidson College that she attended. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory, and she enrolled at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, where she graduated in 1906. As a thirty-three-year-old spinster, she was considered too old for a posting to China, and unsuited, as a single woman, for the missionary field in Africa. After an internship at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, she moved to Decatur, Georgia, where she became the first resident physician at Agnes Scott College. That post was short, for in the spring of 1908 she was back in North Carolina where her career would be made.

Mary Turpin Martin had met Eustace Henry Sloop (1878-1961), a young man nearly five years her junior, in 1893, when he came to a party for the newly-enrolled freshman class at Davison College. At the age of fifteen he was, as she described in *Miracle in the Hills*, "the youngest freshman in the class" and "quite good-looking" (Sloop, 17). He was a son of William A. and Emma (Beattie) Sloop and had grown up in nearby Mooresville, North Carolina. After graduating from Davidson in 1897, he taught for a time at Pantops Academy in Charlottesville, Virginia, and in 1902 he returned to Davidson to take courses offered by the North Carolina Medical College. He graduated from the school and next did post-graduate work at Jefferson Medical College, while Mary Martin was at Agnes Scott College. Fifteen years after they first met, Mary Martin and Eustace Sloop were married on 2 July 1908 at the Presbyterian Church in Blowing Rock where the Martin family had a summer residence.

Through the course of conversation during their long courtship, the couple decided "we would settle down in the North Carolina Mountains. If we could not be foreign missionaries, we could serve at

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home” (Sloop, 20). Mr. Sloop was easily convinced of the rightness of their decision. While a student, either in the 1890s or 1900s, he had gone on a walking tour in an area that included Plumtree, in Mitchell County, and Blowing Rock, situated on the Caldwell/Watauga County border. In the year before their marriage, Eustace Sloop had returned to Plumtree and opened his medical office. After their morning wedding and the wedding breakfast, the couple set off on horseback for Linville where they enjoyed a week-long honeymoon at the Eseeola Lodge. Their days were spent riding through the Linville River valley.

At the end of the week, they set out, again on horseback for Plumtree, where they first occupied rooms on the second story of a school building under construction (Sloop, 28). Plumtree, a village on the North Toe River, was a center of the mica-mining industry in Mitchell County. Plumtree was then little more than a hamlet, with a swinging bridge across the river whose name had been abbreviated from “Estatoe,” two stores, some half dozen houses near the village center, and a small building used by Dr. Eustace Sloop as his office (Sloop, 28-29). The school building in which the Sloops first found accommodation was a part of the boys school established in Plumtree in 1903 as a department of the Lees-McRae Institute that opened as a girls school in nearby Banner Elk, also in today’s Avery County, in 1900. The Sloops’ first child, Emma Beattie Sloop, was born at Plumtree on 12 July 1909.

Shortly after the Sloops move to Plumtree, a movement developed to create a new county, with a county seat and its court that was more accessible to residents in the Linville River valley and the adjoining coves. On 13 February 1911 the bill creating Avery County, named in honor of Revolutionary War patriot General Waightstill Avery, was ratified in the General Assembly. It was formed from portions of Mitchell, Watauga, and Caldwell counties and bordered on the northwest by the North Carolina/Tennessee state line. The commissioners were to select the site of the county seat, which was to be named Newland, in honor of William Calhoun Newland, lieutenant governor of North Carolina (1909-1913). Plumtree was in the part of Mitchell County incorporated into Avery County.

That same year, 1911, the Sloops decided to relocate their medical practice, and to move it to the Linville River valley where a doctor was needed and where Dr. Eustace Sloop had made important friends. Their decision to move, made coincident with the organization of the new county and the selection of its new county seat, was influenced by one of those friendships which would flourish on both a personal and professional level until death. Alexander A. Johnson (1867-1948) was a resident and leading farmer of the Altamont section of the valley and lived near the place known as Crossnore. It was Lambert Johnson (1893-1971), his son, who moved the Sloops and their possessions by ox cart from Plumtree to Crossnore. Forty years later Mary Martin Sloop recalled that Crossnore, with a population of twenty-three in 1910, was a village of “three houses, a combination schoolhouse-and-church, and one store” (Sloop, 47).

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The Sloops newly-completed cottage stood on a tract of 180 acres that had a long border with the Linville River and was located south of the Crossnore village center. Dr. Eustace Sloop purchased the property on 14 October 1911 from Potter Maclay Brown and his wife for \$1,750 (Avery Deeds, 1/143-46). Dr. Sloop had erected the (now lost) cottage and a small office on the property. In the event that tract would remain the home of the doctors Sloop for the remainder of their lives. A son, William Martin Sloop, the second of the doctors' two children was born here in 1912.

Two days after arriving in Crossnore, the Sloops attended Sunday school at the village's multi-purpose "schoolhouse-and-church," and they thus embarked on the path to the organization of Crossnore School. The one-room weatherboarded log building was of rudimentary construction, uncertain age, and in a deteriorated condition. Through the course of 1912, the Doctors Sloop lobbied at every turn for a new school. Some in the community were difficult to convince, while others, like Mr. Johnson who had sent all ten of his children to the Berea Academy, were early supporters of the Sloops' initiatives. In spring 1913, the old log school building was pulled across the road, today's Crossnore Drive, and a new two-room frame school was erected on its earlier site. Not long after its being placed in service, a third room for a third teacher was added. Both of those buildings are long lost.

Crossnore School, the institution that survives today as an important child care facility in western North Carolina, traces its origins to the construction of that modest building, the first in the village erected specifically for public education, and Mrs. Sloop's relentless drive to improve the educational opportunities for children in the larger Crossnore community and beyond. The school founded by Mrs. Sloop in 1913 was a unique, hybrid institution, apparently one unlike any other in western North Carolina. It essentially co-existed with the local public school, each sharing facilities with the other, in arrangements that evolved with varying proportional shares of financial responsibility for the construction and fitting up of classrooms and teachers' salaries. From 1913 to the chartering of Crossnore School in 1917, there was little distinction between the two, except for the additional funding Mrs. Sloop secured to support her voice in the public school improvement. From 1916-1917 onward Crossnore School gained a visible presence as it acquired land, erected buildings, and supported teachers in domestic and manual arts and an agricultural program. Once Crossnore School was able to accept boarding students and erect dormitories, it became an even more distinct entity. The Crossnore School then enrolled its own boarding students who attended the basic classes taught in the public school as well as other elective courses offered in classes and facilities for which Mrs. Sloop raised funds.

When Mr. and Mrs. Sloop arrived in Crossnore in 1911, the public education system in this as yet, relatively remote region was still little developed. The efforts of denominationally-affiliated social and

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educational charities in western North Carolina, including that of the Presbyterian Home Missions Board in the Blowing Rock and Banner Elk communities, seen principally in the work of Edgar Tufts (1869-1923) from the mid-1890s onward, were certainly egalitarian and successful. However, Mrs. Sloop saw a still larger need to be met, and she focused her efforts on two altogether intertwined initiatives. The first was to greatly improve the delivery of public education in her newly-adopted Crossnore home. The school year then consisted of about four and a half months of instruction delivered by one or two people in the community, who while perhaps among the best educated, in their respective community, still had little more than a grade school education at best. Classes were taught in rudimentary circumstances, with few textbooks, and often, still yet, in an ungraded system. Mrs. Sloop determined on a three-prong improvement. She sought the hiring of qualified teachers, usually from outside the community, with college degrees when possible, to teach a full nine-month term. With additional teachers and classrooms, a sure advance over the one-room and one-teacher school, a standardized graded school system could be implemented. These aims together with better constructed, heated and well-illuminated classrooms met basic educational needs.

A parallel initiative, the training of girls in domestic arts and home economics and boys in agriculture and manual arts, was seen by Mrs. Sloop as a primary means of improving the lives of the young and providing better preparedness for their future. Instruction in these areas would become very important parts of the Crossnore School curriculum, together with the weaving program that was initiated in about 1920 and evolved through the twentieth century to its current status at Crossnore.

While many of the neighborhood children could walk to school daily, a near-equal number lived at a greater distance, or in family circumstances that did not encourage daily attendance. And there were yet others who were pressed to give up their schooling and marry at a very young age. In her memoir Mary Martin Sloop wrote feelingly of one such girl, Hepsy, who was in her thirteenth year and also attending an afternoon sewing class held in the Sloop residence. Hepsy's mother died when she was ten, leaving Hepsy, the eldest of six (or seven) children with their father, who worked away from home at a saw mill. The burden of caring for these siblings fell upon Hepsy. When Hepsy did not attend one of the sewing classes, Mary Sloop learned that she was planning to marry, and to marry an older man who made moonshine whiskey. Mary Sloop immediately determined to intervene and to put a stop to this child marriage. The solution was to send Hepsy to the Lees-McRae Institute, a boarding school at Banner Elk. This course of action was supported by her father who recognized her intelligence but was without any financial ability to help her.

In countless retellings of this tale, from the 1910s through her 1953 memoir, Hepsy's experience was that of one girl, but Mary Sloop used her plight as a metaphor for those of so many other mountain children whose education and potential for happy, productive lives were circumscribed by dire family

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circumstances. Mrs. Sloop never gave her surname, and still yet, the name of the person whose unhappy straits gave rise to the boarding program at Crossnore School remains simply "Hepsy." And it is with Hepsy that another important Crossnore institution came into existence. With her enrollment at the Lees-McRae Institute secured, Hepsy faced another challenge. She did not have "presentable" clothes. Mrs. Sloop, who had turned to family and friends for financial support to educate Hepsy, turned to other kinswomen, believed to be about Hepsy's size, for clothing they might give for her "secondhand" use. Her cousins complied with her request and sent Mary Sloop a trunk filled with clothing. Optimism faded when the lid was lifted and all the clothing was found to be black, the apparel of mourning, and unsuitable for the young girl. A neighbor, who saw the handsome dresses, expressed her own interest in them, and indicated she would be happy to buy. Others voiced like interest, and the money realized from the sale of these garments was used to buy appropriate clothing for Hepsy. Thus, in this effort to clothe Hepsy for school at Banner Elk was born the idea of the sales shop where donated secondhand clothing and household furnishings were sold to support education. The resale of clothing and household furnishings remains an important source of income for Crossnore School to the present in the Blair Fraley Sales Shop.

In the mid-1910s a second two-room addition was made to the 1913 public school in Crossnore. This five-room public school was supplemented in 1917 by the first in a long series of buildings that have housed Crossnore School to the present. The new two-story, one-room plan gable-front weatherboarded frame building was dubbed "Treasure Island" by the students. It housed manual training classes on the first story and home economics on the second story (Sloop, 90-91). For periods since coming to Crossnore, the Sloops had boarded teachers in their home. Other residents in Crossnore did likewise through time. But as the number of teachers grew, the need for a teacherage increased, and in 1917 a modest building was erected as a teacherage. It and "Treasure Island" are illustrated in an early surviving brochure for the school, printed in 1923; both are described as having been built with "Nine-Tenths Old Clothes Money."

These two original school buildings were built on the north side of Crossnore Drive on a small campus assembled through the purchase of four adjoining tracts of land in 1916. The first known purchase, on 21 April 1916, was a one-acre tract conveyed by Burt and Ida (McKinney) Aldridge to the Crossnore School trustees, Dr. Eustace Sloop, Potter Maclay Brown, and Alexander A. Johnson (Avery Deeds, 5/506). Five days later on 26 April, the trustees purchased an adjoining one-acre tract from W. C. Clark and his wife (Avery Deeds, 5/507). Another small purchase was made of H. V. Clark and his wife on 19 June 1916 (Avery Deeds, 5/536). The consideration of those deeds was \$1 each. The fourth acquisition, a tract of eighteen acres for \$15, was bought of Edgar Garfield Aldridge (1887-1952) and his wife on 21 August 1916 (Avery Deeds, 8/243). This assembled holding of just over twenty acres comprised the original Crossnore School campus.

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The acquisition of a campus was one important step in the history of Crossnore School. Another came on 16 April 1917 when Crossnore School was incorporated with Dr. Eustace Henry Sloop and Messrs. Brown and Johnson as trustees. The objects of the incorporation were "To promote the cause of Christian Education" and "To maintain and operate a school or schools in which students may obtain a classical, mathematical, scientific, technical, agricultural, vocational or general education free of tuition," in addition to the right to acquire and sell property, receive donations and gifts, etc. Doctor Eustace Sloop was the founding chairman of the board of trustees, and he would hold that position until his death in 1961.

The early history of Crossnore School, from its founding in 1913, through the purchase of lands for its campus in 1916, its incorporation in 1917, through the 1920s, and into the 1930s remains incomplete. The broad outlines of this period, including the construction of the D.A.R. Dormitory for big girls in 1933 is dependent on a few surviving documents. These were gathered in a conscious effort following a fire on 12 April 1946 that destroyed the school's administration building and all the records contained therein. Aside from the records of land purchases, and the letter of incorporation, the earliest account of the school is a four-page broadside "Right Now, At Crossnore: What We Are Doing and How We Are Doing It," written by Mrs. Sloop. It is said to have been written in 1917. The opening paragraphs contain a long discussion of the Sunday school program operated by the town's Baptist Church and its smaller Presbyterian chapel.

Next comes the School. That opened on July 2nd, with one hundred and twenty-one scholars; new ones have been coming in constantly since then, and when the Compulsory Term begins, there will be a big addition of those whose parents will not let them come to school except when the law makes them. . . . We have five school rooms in daily use now, and five first-class teachers are teaching nine grades. These grades conform to the requirements of the State Public Schools for the first seven grades, and for our High School work we have chosen the Latin-Scientific Curriculum of the State High School. . . . In addition to this Academic work, we are teaching Sewing, Cooking, Manual Training, Agriculture, Basketry and Bible.

Because of our connection with the County, a connection that we value very much, because of the greater influence it gives us among the neighboring schools, our Bible Course must be elective, but the "election" has been unanimous, and our teacher is very enthusiastic over the interest they are taking in it.

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The tenor of this broadside is similar to that of the “Crossnore School Bulletin” that Mary Martin Sloop launched in 1934 and wrote until incapacitated in 1959. As a strong advocate for public education, an energetic Presbyterian laywoman, and as the director of the Crossnore School, she conflated these intertwined activities in her energetic prose reporting on progress in the school and community, reflecting her view that the building up of one bespoke improvements for the other. At the time of her writing, presumably in the late summer or fall of 1917, Crossnore School comprised three buildings: the five-room school, “Treasure Island,” and a small teacherage. There were as yet no accommodations for boarding students.

The next building project on the Crossnore campus, the construction of a modern two-story hip roof frame school in 1919-1920, was a major accomplishment. It was described in a promotional piece of 1921 as a building with “Fourteen rooms, steam heat, drinking fountains, sewerage, electric lights and bells, individual desks, recitation benches and laboratory equipment.” The new school building was erected on the site now occupied by the E. H. Sloop Chapel (#5) on a three-acre tract conveyed by Crossnore School, Incorporated, to the Avery County Board of Education (Avery Deeds, 16/558-60, also 22/193-95).⁴ Between 1921 and 1923, further construction occurred on the Crossnore School campus. A 1923 promotional pamphlet included photographs of the 1913 school building, “Treasure Island,” the first teacherage, and the fourteen-room “Big School,” together with those of a new two-story teacherage, the weaving building, and a two-story “Girls’ Dormitory” described as unfinished.

Another promotional broadside, undated but of about 1924, expands on the operation of the school and the construction of the “new teacherage,” a two-story concrete-block building that would soon be described as “our first permanent building.”

Maybe you know about our educational work. How we found a little dilapidated, one-teacher school in a sparsely settled cove, and by boosting and supplementing the work of the County Board of Education, it has now become the Consolidated State High School of the Township. Besides the regular teaching force which the State and county provide for a school having the average daily attendance of ours, we have nine salaried workers, broadening the curriculum to meet the needs of the section, and providing a school plat that will enable a few boys and girls, living out of reach of the school truck, to come here and work out as nearly as possibly their living expenses while at school. Slowly too, we are providing much needed buildings for such a school. One half the cost of the main school building of fourteen rooms, equipped with all modern conveniences, and the necessary laboratories, was paid by the county, but

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the other buildings have been put up wholly by the gifts of money or the proceeds of the sales. Some of these were temporary and must soon be replaced by such permanent structures as our splendid new teacherage of thirty rooms, which is nearly completed but progresses very slowly for lack of money, and the furnishings for it are still to be provided. The earnest hope is that we will occupy this by the time school opens in July, and leave the old teacherage for a home for girls, and a dining room for both girls and boys. This building is quite substantial and will do duty for many years yet. Not so the old Industrial Building, the upstairs of which has been occupied by teachers for a year, being known in school circles as "Treasure Island." It will be inhabited by boys this year, and may need a new name! We may also have to house boys above the grist mill, for the old (twice expanded 1913) school house, where they lived last year, must be used for recitation rooms, for the Primary grades, for a Dentist's office, a Nurse's office and Mack's Barber Shop. . . . This old school house cannot be used much longer, but must give way to the new Community House as soon as the money is available.

The fortunes of Crossnore School and the village had greatly improved in the decade of the 1920s. In 1921 its first graduating class comprised two students: Gurney Franklin (1898-1997) and Nell Johnson (1901-1998). Nell Johnson's commencement address, "The Art of Handweaving," was based on the writings of Candace Wheeler and on Miss Johnson's experience as a student at Berea College where she had studied weaving under Edith Matheny. Miss Johnson's address was timely. A weaving department had been launched at Crossnore during the 1920-1921 school year under the direction of Miss Clara Lowrance (18__-1958), a teacher at Crossnore School who had also studied weaving at Berea College. She had charge of the Crossnore weaving program, with the assistance of Miss Zada Benfield, until 1926 when she was succeeded by the long-time weaving director Mrs. Newbern "Newbie" (Lillie May Clark) Johnson (1894-1982), who had studied weaving at Crossnore. The Crossnore weaving program occupied rooms in at least two buildings, including a concrete-block building, until 1929 when it relocated to a large log building noted in *Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands*. It was erected expressly for the Weaving Room, as it came to be known, and housed the looms and weavers, and their wares for sale, until 1935 when it burned. The log building was replaced, on campus, by the stone Craftsman-style building that was known both as the Homespun House and Weaving Room (See NR Nomination, 2001).

It was also in the 1920s, that the first improvised housing arrangements for boarding students saw improvement. The ability to house students through the school year had been a pressing need at

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Crossnore through the 1910s, however, Mrs. Sloop had not moved ahead with the boarding program during that period, focusing instead on hiring good teachers, building the school house, and seeing to the continued upgrading of the curriculum. With the building placed in service, and teachers on staff, she turned in 1920 to the boarding program that remains in place at Crossnore School to the present. The first boarding students to live at Crossnore lived in awkward circumstances. The first group of girls, eight in number, slept in an unheated attic in the home of an unnamed teacher and her family, while five boys are said to have had very rudimentary housing in the grist mill that stood near the center of Crossnore (Sloop, 141-43). In the mid-1920s a simple frame building was erected for the boarding boys, in part with the labor of those students who had studied carpentry. Mary Martin Sloop described it as “a long building with a partition down the middle and stalls, as it were, on either side, with a door opening out” (Sloop, 143). Its residents called it the “donkey barn.” The resident girls fared better in their first dormitory. Mrs. Sloop turned to a wealthy former Davidson College student and fellow Presbyterian, Charles Worth Johnson (1861-1941), president of the Johnston Mills Company and the Highland Park Manufacturing Company in Charlotte, among other concerns, for financial support. The two-story-with-attic frame building, completed ca. 1925, was the first building erected at Crossnore School to bear the name of its donor and remained in use into the 1950s.

Individual philanthropy was one important source of support for Crossnore School, and in the 1920s institutional support began to have a strong impact on the progress of the school. In *Miracle in the Hills*, Mary Martin Sloop credits Betty Bailey, a young girl from Illinois, with the idea of turning to the Daughters of the American Revolution for support. In about 1920 she was visiting Avery County with her father and staying at a lodge in Pineola. She came to visit the school. Mrs. Sloop, who was a member of the DAR, attended the national annual meeting in Washington and pressed the case of Crossnore School and its need of support. In 1922 she gained the inclusion of Crossnore School on the DAR’s list of approved schools. Inclusion on the list did not guarantee support from the national society, but it was a strong endorsement for personal, chapter, and state society support. As an “approved school,” Crossnore School joined a small roster of schools long and widely recognized for serving the underprivileged, mainly in the eastern United States, and mostly in the South, which included Berea College in Kentucky, the Berry Schools, and Blue Ridge School in Virginia. Support from Daughters of the American Revolution came in several forms. The two principal ones being cash gifts and the donation of clothing and goods for the resale shop. The effect of being an approved school was immediate; in 1926 the sales shop realized a profit of \$17,300, a sum unequalled for many years.

The growing physical presence of Crossnore School in the 1920s had its parallel in other important developments. In 1925 the town was formally incorporated and Milligan Shuford Wise (1893-1974), a teacher at Crossnore School and a long-time trustee, was named its first mayor. In 1926 he and his

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family occupied a spacious new Craftsman-style bungalow on Dellinger Road (NR, 2008). That same year the town's young Presbyterian congregation, organized in 1918, moved from a small frame chapel into a Craftsman-style church whose stone masonry and chestnut bark finish were the inspired work of William Ervin Franklin (NR, 1996). The next year, 1927, Mr. Wise completed a Craftsman-style bark-covered house, nearby on the west side of Dellinger Road, for Theron Colbert Dellinger and his family (NR, 2008). Mr. Franklin's work on the church captured the interest of Dr. Eustace Sloop, one of the church's principal benefactors, and he was soon engaged by the doctor to undertake the masonry work on the town's proposed twenty-bed hospital. Garrett Memorial Hospital (#7) was completed in 1928 on a hillside two-acre lot at the south edge of the campus, overlooking the town center and today's Crossnore Drive, that was conveyed that same year by the school to the hospital corporation (Avery Deeds, 23/343-345). The hospital, a pendant institution to the like-sized Grace Hospital at Banner Elk, in northern Avery County, answered a desperate need in the southern part of Avery County and northern Burke County for an advanced-care facility and it served that purpose until 1999.

The up-building of Crossnore School effectively ended in the 1920s with the construction of new quarters for the Weaving Room in 1929.⁵ DAR chapters in Charlotte contributed funds for the acquisition of two log buildings, at least one of which is said to have been a barn, that were moved to Crossnore and re-erected as a two-block, two-story building. The building housed the looms, the sewing department, the hooked rug works, and a sales area for both woven products and rugs. Its rustic appearance enhanced the school's efforts to promote native crafts and mountain traditions and was built coincident with Mary Martin Sloop's important participation in gatherings in December 1928 and again on 28 December 1929 at which the Southern Mountain Handicraft Guild was organized. The association was later renamed the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild, the name by which it operates to the present. On 10-11 October 1934, Dr. Sloop welcomed members of the guild to Avery County for its fall meeting, which included a demonstration session in the Homespun House. Dr. Sloop's support of the weaving program at Crossnore provided girls, women, and occasionally young men an opportunity to practice traditional weaving skills and exercise their artistic talents while supplementing their income. The weaving program continues at Crossnore and remains one of the great legacies of the institution.⁶

The 1930s was also an auspicious decade for Crossnore School with the construction of three stone or partial-stone buildings that reflected a greater investment in facilities and generous financial support. The DAR Dormitory for Girls (#1), now known as the Cooper Building, was erected in 1933 as a gift to Crossnore from the North Carolina Chapter, DAR, under the supervision of Mrs. Ralph Van Landingham (1852-1937), state chairman of approved schools, of Charlotte. The two-story building is arguably the first "permanent" school building erected on the campus and it survives today as the oldest building on the campus erected for educational purposes. Like Garrett Memorial Hospital, it was

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built by skilled craftsmen. It stands on a river-rock foundation with a handsome pattern of larger stones laid in a generally coursed field that is not unlike the masonry of both the Crossnore Presbyterian Church and Garrett Memorial Hospital that was laid up by William Erwin Franklin (1861-1936). His association with the building is possible, even at an advanced age, since his son Christopher McCoy Franklin (1889-1979) was then serving as a school administrator. The two-story frame elevations of the dormitory were sheathed in chestnut bark shingles, and it became one of several buildings in Crossnore that incorporated both native stone and bark sheathing. The building was given in honor of Mrs. Sydney Perry Cooper, State Regent, DAR, while the stone entrance porch honored Mrs. Russell William Magna, President General, National Society, DAR. The dormitory was dedicated in December 1933.

The loss of the log Weaving Room to fire on 9 October 1935 prompted the construction of both a new Weaving Room (NR, 2001, #4 in this district) and auxiliary, adjacent building that was first known as the Bullard-Sloan Building and later known as the Sewing Room. The Weaving Room was then known as the "Homespun House," and its construction was the gift of the Charlotte DAR and their friends. The second building was erected as a carpentry and woodworking shop for boys with lumber storage in the basement and a five-room apartment in the upper half-story. Both of these buildings continued the combination of stone and chestnut bark shingles seen on the 1933 DAR Dormitory; however, the identity of their builder(s) is not now known.⁷

These three buildings were the most imposing of several buildings erected in the 1930s on the campus; the others are lost or otherwise replaced. In the "Crossnore School Bulletin" for April-June 1937, Mrs. Sloop wrote that the Weaving Room is one of three buildings "given us—in whole or large part" by the DAR. The other two were Reed Dormitory for little boys, given by Mrs. George Negley Reed, and the Mina Pepper Fleshman Dormitory for little girls, which was given by Mrs. Stewart Camden Pratt in honor of her mother. Documentary photographs show both of the now lost dormitories to be one-story frame buildings covered by gable on hip roofs. The Reed Dormitory stands on a river rock foundation with wood shingle sheathing while the Fleshman Dormitory is sheathed with chestnut bark shingles. The Weaving Room and the two dormitories were dedicated on 29 March 1937 in the presence of a large contingent of DAR members. The ceremonies on that day also included the laying of the cornerstone of a new public high school, where "our dormitory children (will) go for their academic work," which was funded by the WPA. The new high school was a one-story Craftsman-style building with a gable-front stone center block and flanking wings sheathed with chestnut bark shingles. It stood a short distance southeast of Garrett Memorial Hospital, on the hillside overlooking today's Crossnore Drive, until it was pulled down following consolidation with the county's other high schools. When the high school grades relocated to the new building in 1937-1938, the earlier 1920 building was used as

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classrooms for grades four through eight. Classrooms for grades one through three were housed in a small primary schoolhouse that stood northeast of the 1920 building. These buildings are all lost.

It was also in the 1930s that Mary Martin Sloop launched the "Crossnore School Bulletin," a single-fold newsletter printed four times a year and mailed to friends of the school throughout the United States. By 1935 its circulation reached 14,000. The earliest surviving issue in the Crossnore School archives is Number One, Volume Four, for July-September 1934. The bulletin was the chief instrument of conveying news of the school, the needs and accomplishments of its students, gratitude for gifts, and solicitations for contributions, scholarships for individual students, and donations for the sales shop. Virtually every issue of the newsletter was written by Mary Martin Sloop up to her incapacitation in fall 1959.

At the near-end of the decade, in the quarterly newsletter for April-June 1939, Mrs. Sloop included a list of the buildings at Crossnore School, with notes on their condition. The school comprised thirteen buildings, of which two survive (#1, 4) in the district, together with Garrett Memorial Hospital (#7), and the school dairy farm which provided milk for the students under a lease arrangement. These were the facilities which housed about 200 boarding students during the 1938-1939 school year. While the number of students in any year fluctuated for many reasons, the number was not appreciably larger than the 190 students residing at Crossnore in 1934-1935. In that year sixty-one students were supported by scholarships of fifty dollars each. Forty-four of that number were gifts of DAR members.

Two other events of note occurred in 1939. When the new WPA-supported public school was completed it bore the name "Crossnore High School" rather than the old name "Altamont" for the township in which Crossnore was located and by which the 1920 building was known. Apparently some degree of confusion arose, either in regard to financial or legal matters, and in 1939 the legal name of the entity operating the boarding school was changed to Crossnore, Incorporated. On 8 August 1940 the campus and real estate holdings of Crossnore School, Incorporated, were conveyed to Crossnore, Incorporated (Avery Deeds, 36/73-75). In December 1939 the United States Treasury Department recognized Crossnore School as an educational charity, and thereafter, as Mary Martin Sloop noted, gifts to the school could be "discounted on the donors' income tax returns."

The pattern of activity at Crossnore School seen in the 1930s continued in the 1940s, even to the degree that another fire destroyed an important building.⁸ A new dining room and kitchen building, that included sixteen dormitory rooms on its second level, whose construction had started in the late 1930s, was finished in 1941. It was built on the site now occupied by the Bayles Administration Building (#3). It stood on a rock veneer foundation and was finished with a stone entrance porch at one corner, which was laid by the students in a masonry/building class. In 1942 the boys' carpentry and

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woodworking shop was moved from the Bullard-Sloan Building into new quarters, and the girls' sewing classes were relocated there from the Weaving Room (#4), freeing space for both weaving and rug making. By 1946, as the school infirmary was nearing completion, a new gable-front frame sales store was built on a rise at the entrance to the campus off Crossnore Drive and northwest of Garrett Memorial Hospital (#7). A handmade sign identified it as "Aunt Pop's and Uncle Gilmer's Sales Store" in honor of the almost legendary couple Poppie Jane "Pop" (1874-1949) and Gilmer Malone (1871-1962) Johnson who had operated the sales store almost since its inception.

On 12 April 1946 the Crossnore School administration building caught fire and burned to the ground. In the "Crossnore School Bulletin" of July-September 1946, Mrs. Sloop lamented its loss.

(It was) a great big building that served for administrative purposes and as a dormitory too. It was big and it was full. Everyday we think of something else valuable or useful that was burned. It must be rebuilt, though probably not quite so big. . . . The same site will do, and a pretty one it was. It was the center, or the heart, of the campus. All the others seemed to gather around it.

Mary Martin Sloop had many reasons to regret the loss of the administration building. Among the "valuable or useful" materials that were lost were the records of the school from its inception in 1913 into 1946. Because of the fire, the decision was made to rebuild using cinder blocks, a fore-runner of present-day concrete blocks. Construction on the new two-story building coincided with the construction of a music building, also of cinder blocks, and a gymnasium that was a memorial for David Anderson Allen, a Charlotte native who died during World War II. Because the gymnasium was an outright gift to the school, rather than a building whose construction and finishing was dependent on Mrs. Sloop's solicitations, it was finished first and dedicated on 22 May 1948. When the administration building was rebuilt it again combined offices in the center and dormitory accommodations for fifteen boys and fifteen girls in respective wings of the H-shaped two-story-with-attic building. Eight small apartments for workers were installed in the attic level. The building was built with gifts from DAR members, as was the small music building. Both buildings were dedicated on 22 October 1948 in the presence of the President General of the National Society, DAR, and other officials of the society. The administration building was named in honor of Kate Bitting Reynolds, the wife of tobacconist William Neal Reynolds. The buildings erected in the 1940s, including the new Kate Bitting Reynolds Administration Building, have all been lost or replaced except for the David Allen Gymnasium, which stands to the northeast of the district and has been subsumed in later additions.

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The groundbreaking for a dormitory for big boys at Crossnore School occurred in the late winter or spring of 1949 and work advanced but slowly, a real part of it completed by those who would occupy it. Located at the northwest edge of the campus, it was scheduled for completion by November 1950. Writing in the "Crossnore School Bulletin" for October-December 1950, Mary Martin Sloop described it as "the 23rd building now standing on the campus, and the 32nd one that we have built—some little, some big—and we must remember that during this time we have been given a small dairy farm where there are now a barn, a well-equipped milk house and a comfortable two-story cottage for the farmer, built by our own school boys with lumber taken from the old farm house." Today, only four of those twenty-three buildings survive on the campus, three (#s 1, 4, and 7) of which stand in this district.⁹

The decade of the 1950s was effectively the last in which Mary Martin Sloop, the founder of Crossnore School, would oversee the fortunes of the school; in October 1959 she suffered a debilitating stroke (or heart attack) from which she never recovered. Dr. Eustace Henry Sloop would remain chairman of the school's board until his death in 1961; however, he attended and presided over his last meeting on 14 October 1960. Even in their advanced age, neither of the Doctors Sloop slowed in their work for Crossnore School. During the 1950s at least seven important buildings were added to the campus of which three, the E. H. Sloop Chapel (#5), the DAR Chapter House (#6), and the Bell Tower (#2) stand in the district.

The realization of Mrs. Sloop's desire for a bell tower on the campus, expressed time and again in the "Crossnore School Bulletin" proved to be a long time in coming, and fortunately it did not include a chimney for an incinerator as originally proposed. In the July-September 1950 number she advised her readers "We aim to make the bell tower artistic as well as useful. We will build it of river rock, put it in a prominent spot on the campus, landscape around it and keep it all clean as a pin, . . ." When the bell tower (#2) was dedicated on 26 October 1951 it was a tall concrete-block structure, square-in plan, with three tall arch-headed openings at ground level, circular openings in the elevations above, and rectangular openings in the belfry at the top of the structure. It was the gift of Edith C. Reichardt in memory of her husband Otis N. Reichardt. The river rock veneer, which now distinguishes the buildings, was not added until 1960 when a bequest by Mrs. Reichardt provided funds for the work. In effect, it was the substructure of the bell tower that was dedicated in 1951.

In the event, 1951 was an important year in the history of Crossnore School for yet another reason. In the January-March 1951 school bulletin Mrs. Sloop announced the proposed construction of a major educational building.

A wonderful gift has become ours. Crossnore is to have a new
Elementary School Building which has been a great need for many

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years. We have long had the poorest buildings in Avery County for these Elementary students, and we paid for more than one-half the cost of what we have, in addition to deeding to the County Board of Education the lots on which they . . . stand.

This new building, the first brick classroom building erected at Crossnore, was located beside the 1937 WPA-supported high school, generally east of Garrett Memorial Hospital (#7). These two schools remained in use for most of the second half of the century, and were attended by Crossnore School students, until it established the Crossnore Academy for its boarding students in 1999. The Avery County Board of Education consolidated Crossnore High school with other county high schools in a new Avery County High School which was built near Newland and opened in 1967. Elementary school students remained in the 1951 building into late winter/early spring 2001 when the new Crossnore Elementary School, built on acreage adjoining the Crossnore School campus on its east side, was placed in service. Both of the older buildings have since been demolished and their sites grassed over. After students vacated the 1920 frame schoolhouse for the new elementary school, the 1920 building stood unused for a year or so and was then pulled down. Its site was reserved for a second Crossnore School landmark, the proposed chapel (#5).

Three residential facilities were erected on the campus in the 1950s. Roadman Dormitory for middle boys was constructed in the early 1950s and followed by Atwell Dormitory, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Atwell of Port Arthur, Texas, for young boys, which was occupied on 28 October 1955 and dedicated two days later. Belk Cottage, the gift of Mrs. William Henry Belk Sr., was completed late in 1957 with landscaping work continuing into 1958. John R. Weaver, who worked for the school for some eight years as a construction superintendent, oversaw the Atwell and Belk building projects.

Two other projects, a book and a building, brought honor to Mary Martin and Eustace Henry Sloop. The publication of Mary Martin Sloop's memoir in 1953 came on the heels of her selection as "American Mother of the Year" in 1951, and it appears likely that the award and the celebrity attending it prompted the idea of the book. The book was a cooperative effort between Mrs. Sloop and William LeGette Blythe (1900-1993), a Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, writer and historian. The two had never met prior to his engagement as an editor. He was probably recommended to Mrs. Sloop by Mrs. Belk. Mr. Blythe's biography of William Henry Belk (1862-1952) had been published in 1950.

The E. H. Sloop Chapel (#5), like the administration building, was located at the front center of the Crossnore campus, and it was built on the site formerly occupied by the public graded school building completed in 1920. The matter of when Mary Martin Sloop began her campaign for the construction of

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a chapel, an effort probably dating to the early 1950s, is unclear. However, she expressed one of the early extended pleas for the building in the January-March 1954 number of the "Crossnore School Bulletin."

We have so long wanted and needed one—a real Chapel for the week day and Sunday afternoon and evening inspirational activities for our boys and girls,—activities that develop character, change hearts, and teach our youngsters to go home and do likewise. O, yes—There are two churches here, one very nearby, but it's a small church, and its own congregation fills it. The other is a long half mile away, down one hill and right up another. During that long stretch that is "up" it grows steeper and steeper, the winds stronger and stronger, the snow deeper and deeper or the rain wetter and more wet! At least, that's the way it seems to the many kiddies who do not have rain protection, that really protects against such odds. Do you wonder that we can't make that trip more than once on Sunday? And don't you think we do need a Chapel in our midst, for our young folks are of all ages and their groups are varied and active.

Mrs. Sloop's requests for chapel funding proved successful and in spring 1956 construction began. She reported on its progress in the newsletter for January-March 1956.

We wish you could watch the speedy growth of our Campus Chapel. It did not take any twelve years to collect money for that. We talked about it a lot, but it didn't bring big results. Then a legacy came from an elderly man whose wife had been an interested friend. . . . He left us enough to make a start on the Chapel. We also had some smaller gifts which had been accumulating in the savings account, and a young man sent us money to pay for a beautiful window in honor of his mother. So we said, "Why not begin building?" Those donors had faith, and believed the Chapel was needed and could be built, and why should we be "of little faith." So the Chapel was begun. It has grown rapidly and uninterruptedly because the weather has been remarkably mild for our climate at this season. We have almost reached the point where the workmen are completely protected from the winds which so accentuate the low temperature. . . . The workmen are doing a good and faithful work, and we believe it will be a beautiful addition to our campus and valuable in more ways than one.

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John R. Weaver, the school construction superintendent described by Mrs. Sloop as “our head builder,” quickly advanced the chapel building and in the April-June 1956 number she provided another progress report.

We have so long talked about our need of a Campus Chapel, and every little while some money has come in designated for “Chapel”; so the amount has grown. We chose our plan, working it out in detail, using special woods, till we think we have an interesting as well as beautiful result. We began building as soon as we felt safe about the money, and as we spent carefully, more came in until we are soon to have a finished Chapel, all except the veneer of river rock, which will not only add to the beauty of the building but will tie it up with many of the old buildings whose beauty lies in river rock with chestnut bark for weather-boarding. The Chapel will have the river rock—not yet put on the building because it is too cold at this season to wade into the water to get it. That will have to wait for April weather. The roof is on, and it is the kind that most closely resembles the old chestnut bark. Chestnut lumber is almost off the market now—to be found only in small quantities in out of the way places, and extremely high priced. We were getting uneasy for fear our dream might not come true, when we had a message from this rather far away neighbor saying he had a little, but no way to get it to market, and if we wanted it bad enough to come for it, we could have it; and the price was so reasonable. We were very thankful and you will be too, when you come to see it!

These words were her last known writing on the subject. In the summer of 1956 rock was gathered from the Linville River, laid up, and the chapel was dedicated on 21 October 1956 in honor of Eustace Henry Sloop, a co-founder of Crossnore School and the chairman of its board of trustees since 1917.

The DAR Chapter Houser (#7) was the last important building added to the Crossnore School campus during the lifetime of the Sloops and the period of significance. The idea for the building originated in 1956 when members of the Crossnore Chapter, DAR, were driving to the annual Continental Congress in Washington, admired log buildings along the highway in Virginia, and decided they wanted one for their chapter house. The idea of placing the building on the grounds of Crossnore School was broached with Mary Martin Sloop, who endorsed the idea as a reflection and physical reminder of the close relationship between the school and the patriotic organization whose members were its most loyal, important supporters. The search for an old log building in Avery County came to an end on 9 December 1957, when the chapter settled on the purchase of a dogtrot-plan log house built on Little

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Plumtree Creek by Noah Webb and his son Thomas Jefferson Webb (1880-1956). Said to date to about 1900, it was probably built about 1904 when Thomas Webb married Sara Lola Potter (1889-1935). John R. Weaver and his work crew dismantled the log house and its chimney, brought the logs and stones to the campus, and erected the Chapter House in 1958-1959. The board roof was crafted by Obie Johnson, who is also credited with the construction of the porch. The Crossnore Chapter, DAR, held its first meeting in the Chapter House on 12 October 1959.

The loss of the school records in the fire that destroyed the administration building in 1946 effectively precludes a systematic accounting of the growth of the school in its critical, earliest decades. The attempt to rebuild the records, while laudable, was successful only insofar as its trustees and the Sloops had retained copies of minutes, reports, etc. that they could contribute. While yearly financial reports were surely compiled, the earliest in the school archives is for the year of 1 June 1951-31 May 1952. The total receipts of \$98,213.45 and cash balance of \$3,372.32 added up to \$101,585.77. The disbursements for student support of \$66,522.37 and capital expenditures of \$34,722.85 totaled \$101,245.22, leaving a cash balance at the end of the year of \$340.55. This near-even budget was probably representative of those for many previous years, even while the actual figures on each side of the balance sheet were probably lower prior to 1951 and increased as the school grew.

At the end of the 1950s two important staff changes anticipated the greater change that came in 1961-1962 with the deaths of the Sloops. On 10 July 1959 the board of trustees approved hiring Robert E. Woodside to assist Mary Martin Sloop in the management of the school. Mr. Woodside was a graduate of Davidson College and had been on the faculty of Crossnore High School for twenty-five years. In April 1960 Mrs. Newbern Winfield Johnson retired as head of the Weaving Room, having supervised its operations since 1924. These staff changes accompanied various improvements to the campus at Crossnore in the late 1950s when Obie Johnson was in charge of buildings and grounds. Among the most appreciated of these were the continuing efforts to pave the campus roads and the addition of asphalt walks. Another change in the legal status of the school came in 1954, when the school charter was revised and Crossnore School, Incorporated, was reclaimed as the name of the governing body.

Eustace Henry Sloop presided as chairman at the meeting of the Crossnore School Board of Trustees on 22 July 1960 for the last time. He attended a fall meeting of the board on 14 October 1960; however, Miss Martha Guy (b. 1922), who had succeeded her late father as a trustee in 1956, presided. On 6 February 1961, Dr. Sloop died and was interred in the cemetery at Crossnore Presbyterian Church. At its next meeting, on 14 July 1961, the trustees endorsed a tribute to Dr. Sloop for forty-four years of service on the board of trustees of Crossnore School. While Mary Martin Sloop was the acknowledged founder and director of Crossnore School, the role of her husband had been critical to its fortunes throughout its history. In effect he was a co-founder. At this meeting the board, acting with

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the cooperation of then vice-chairman Milligan Shuford Wise, elected Martha Guy as chairman; Mr. Wise was re-elected vice-chairman. The board elected Dr. Emma Beattie (Sloop) Fink (1909-2001) to succeed her father on the school's board of trustees. The board also revised Mr. Woodside's status and named him executive director of Crossnore School.

Mary Martin Sloop who had been confined to her room in the Garrett Memorial Hospital since suffering a stroke/heart attack in October 1959, died at the hospital during the evening of 13 January 1962. She was eighty-eight years of age and had long enjoyed the appellation "Mother of the Blue Ridge." Her body was buried beside that of her husband in the Crossnore Presbyterian Church cemetery. The "Crossnore School Bulletin" for April-June 1962 was devoted to her life and its good works. The issue noted four institutions that "bear enduring witness to the vision, faith and work of Mary Martin Sloop and her husband." The Crossnore School was at the head of the quartet, and it was followed by the Crossnore Presbyterian Church, the Crossnore High School, and the Garrett Memorial Hospital.

The deaths of Drs. Eustace Henry and Mary Martin Sloop, within the space of a year at the beginning of the 1960s, marked the end of a remarkable era in the history of Crossnore School and the region it served. Through the course of the mid-twentieth century, the client base of the school evolved, and this change accelerated through the 1960s and 1970s. In its earliest decades, Crossnore School provided accommodations and a nurturing support for students for whom transportation, family finances, and single or inadequate parentage precluded their school attendance. As social and economic circumstances improved in Avery County and the region after World War II, the Crossnore School increasingly served students whose home life was even more challenged and whose care had become the concern of governmental social service agencies and like child-care advocates. Through this process, two factors remained tantamount. Crossnore School maintained its primary commitment to the health, education, and welfare of disadvantaged students, and its staff evolved and grew to address their special circumstances.

Mary Martin Sloop and Crossnore School succeeded because of the firmness of her vision, "the support of the thousands of friends of Crossnore whom she had recruited in a long lifetime" (CSB, April-June 1962), the circumstances of her life that included the model of her father as a college educator, her husband as a committed help-mate, the counsel of her brother William Joseph Martin Jr. (1868-1943) who was president of Davidson College from 1912 to 1929, the loyal respect of the several thousands of students who attended Crossnore School between 1913 and 1961, and the critical support of individual members and chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In retrospect, Mary Martin Sloop was also favored by fortune with a long professional life. She was able to guide Crossnore School from infancy through generations of growth and a succession of facilities

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that improved through the decades. She had that advantage over Edgar Tufts, the Presbyterian minister and educator, who established the school at Banner Elk, Avery County, which became Lees-McRae College in 1929. He also founded Grace Hospital at Banner Elk (later renamed Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial), with which Sloop Memorial Hospital merged in 1998 and in 1914 an orphanage which became the Grandfather Home for Children. Likewise, she also outlived Edgar Hall Tufts (1899-1942) who succeeded his father as head of the three institutions under the Edgar Tufts Memorial Association.

A trait which went unacknowledged in the memorial issue of the "Crossnore School Bulletin" was her brilliance as a tactician. Her creation of the Sales Shop, where donated clothing and household furnishings were sold to a large local, if not also regional, group of customers, generated important financial support for Crossnore School but also enabled mountain people to acquire clothing and furnishings for their homes of a quality they otherwise could not have afforded. Pride and increased self-respect were by-products of this venture. There was also a degree of genius in keeping Aunt Pop and Uncle Gilmer Johnson as the long-time proprietors of the shop. The enterprise continues today as the Blair Fraley Sales Store, at an entrance to the Crossnore campus, a few yards from the store operated by the Johnsons. The second stroke of genius was her effort to see Crossnore School added to the DAR's list of Approved Schools. The contributions of members of the DAR, at every level of participation from that of individual members, that of local chapters, state societies, and the National Society, produced important cash gifts to the school as well as individual buildings and untold tens of thousands of dollars in donations for the sales shop. While the Sloops' many friends were able to contribute goods to the shop, the affluence enjoyed by DAR members enabled generous donations.

The decade of the 1960s, following on the deaths of the Sloops, was a period of self-evaluation and important decision-making on several fronts for Crossnore School. Robert E. Whiteside remained in place as executive director until retiring in 1967. He was succeeded by John W. Gatling who held the office until 1971. Links with the past and a real degree of stability were represented in the person of Miss Martha Guy, president of the Avery County Bank, who has served on the board of trustees since 1956 and as chairman from 1961 until 1973. Her business experience and long association with the school, through her father and in her own right, were critical in guiding the school through a period of administrative adjustment. Certain informal arrangements of the Sloop period, guaranteed by their personality and community presence, were put on a more structured, business-like footing. In 1965 Miss Guy appointed a Long Range Planning and School Evaluation Committee; she served as chairman with Thomas Milburn Belk, James J. Harris and Jordan Brown as committee members. Mr. Belk had succeeded his mother on the board; he and Mr. Harris, the son-in-law of Governor Cameron Morrison, were wealthy Charlotte businessmen.

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Whatever recommendations the Long Range Planning Committee might have made are now unclear; however, a 1966 fire damaged the Sewing Room and the deteriorated (unusable) condition of the Fleshman Dormitory, which had caused enrollment that year to be limited to 160 students, prompted further discussion. A new factor for consideration was a statement, reported by Miss Guy "that the Duke Endowment advised putting no more money into renovating old buildings" (Trustee Minutes, 22 July 1966). This had come as a result of an intensive study of Crossnore School completed in 1965-1966 by Robert A. Mayer II, field representative of the Hospital and Orphans Sections of the Duke Endowment. Between meetings of the trustees in 1966 and 1967, Grayson Annas, a Lenoir-based architect, was engaged to evaluate the buildings and grounds of Crossnore School. The content of his "Survey Findings and Recommendations for Crossnore School," reported at the July 1967 board meeting are not known; however, they appear to have been made in consideration of the reported recommendation of the Child Care Institute that children in child care institutions such as Crossnore be housed in cottage-style residences rather than large dormitories as had been the practice at Crossnore up to the erection of the Belk Cottage in 1957. The board engaged Mr. Annas "to prepare an over-all campus plan and to start plans for the first new building"; however, he died before completing this work.

In the period between Mr. Annas' death and the board meeting of 19 July 1968, the Asheville architectural firm headed by Joseph Bertram King (b. 1924) was engaged to do a study of the Crossnore campus and its buildings. Mr. King and an associate, Dick Webster, attended the July meeting and presented their findings, which must have been a painful, sobering experience for the board. At the outset "They said that we have no buildings which comply with today's building codes and that if the State should inspect our buildings, they would probably close us down. A very bad situation was described . . ."

Their list of recommendations, most of which were listed in the minutes, was long, and two bear note here as they affected the survival of historical buildings on the school grounds. Mr. King "Did not recommend the use of any building beside Belk, since renovations are so costly and not much worthwhile." He suggested "that six new buildings be built from the start, of which four could be built without disturbing any already here. Belk could possibly remain as it is" Interestingly enough, the Belk Cottage had been designed by the design staff of the Belk stores architectural department.

The report was an ironic echo of words Mary Martin Sloop had written in the 1950s. When faced with the decision of spending money for architectural plans and skilled construction or using money for the needs of the school children, Mrs. Sloop invariably opted for the latter. In the "Crossnore School Bulletin" for July-September 1952 she had written, in an appeal for dormitory funds, "But our original buildings on the campus, 25 to 30 years ago were quickly and cheaply built, and were badly in need of

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replacement. We have repaired incessantly. As time went on we occasionally built a better one, but the replacement need became imperative." Later, in the bulletin of January-March 1956, she wrote in regard to the building of Atwell Dormitory and the request of Mr. Atwell, a retired engineer, for a blueprint.

Alas, We never spend money on blue prints. That much money would almost finance the foundations. So we used our pencil and ruler, and built by that.

We put our heads together, getting suggestions from many sources, and made a careful sketch of our needs and sent it to the husband with apologies and explanations. He studied it, made a few suggestions, and sent us ten thousand dollars! How the hammers did fly and the men step about.

Both Atwell Dormitory and Belk Cottage were retained, refitted, and remain in use as residences today. The fire-damaged Bullard-Sloan Building/Sewing Room was refitted as the residence of the school's executive director and probably first occupied by John Gatling.

At the next trustees meeting, on 1 November 1968, the Asheville firm was requested to prepare plans for both a girls and a boys' dormitory. A building consultation committee was formed to work with the architects on the plans. One ominous sentence in the minutes of the meeting reads "Of course, no money has been or will be invested in the DAR or Reed, which are to be replaced." Reed Dormitory was replaced; however, some unknown intervention saved the DAR Dormitory ((#1), now the oldest surviving building in the district erected for the school. The Asheville firm oversaw the construction of two dormitories, Carolina and a new DAR building, which were completed in 1969; however, those two buildings represented the extent of a rebuilding scheme at Crossnore. There was no further major building until Gilchrist Cottage was erected and occupied in 1978 while Robert Lee Martin (b. 1921) was executive director.

The attention of the Crossnore staff and the school trustees was focused on two more pressing matters, the character of the boarding student population and the school finances, respectively. At the trustees meeting of 7 November 1970 Mr. Gatling report that "55% of our referrals were from the Social Service agencies and many of the cases were not simple . . ." He cited examples. Mr. Mayer, a representative of the Duke Endowment who appears to have continued advising the board in this period of transition, noted that "if we did not want the bad children along with the good we would have to change our whole way of running things." Another board member, who was not identified in the minutes, is said to have reminded the board "that our job was to help deprived children," a reminder also that the school had been licensed recently as "a child care institution."

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The matter of the school's finances was an equally complicated matter. The school had incurred a sizable debt at a time when contributions and other revenue were not keeping pace with expenses. Mrs. Sloop's once-favored practice of asking for a dollar in an envelope from many donors was no longer sufficient. The reality was the school needed an enlarged donor base which was capable also of larger gifts. This goal was pursued. The school also sought and received important support from the Duke Endowment. Crossnore School was also undergoing changes in its administration. John W. Gatling retired in 1970 and was succeeded by Anderson Green as acting director. He remained in charge of the school until February 1973 when Robert L. Martin became executive director.

Crossnore School's transition from a boarding school for the educationally disadvantaged to a child care institution, which advanced steadily through the 1960s and early 1970s, had pronounced results in the mid-1970s. In 1973 the trustees seriously discussed the matter of amending the school's charter to reflect the new reality of its student population and the services it was providing to them. After extended discussion the charter was revised and the amendments to the charter were approved by the Secretary of State on 12 November 1975. The two key provisions of the amendment appeared as paragraphs A and B of the corporation's purposes.

A. To maintain an institution which shall be dedicated to the provision of rooming and boarding facilities throughout the year for orphaned, abandoned, or dependent children, or children with one or both parents living, but with unsatisfactory home conditions. The institution shall offer such children a homelike atmosphere while they are attending local public elementary and secondary schools.

B. To maintain an institution, which will offer these children direction and guidance which would otherwise not be available to them, and which will establish an environment in which these children can derive the greatest possible benefit from their elementary and secondary education.

The educational component of this care was addressed in paragraph C. The geographical field of service interests remained "for children primarily from the mountains and piedmont areas of North Carolina and surrounding states."

The background of the school's resident boarding students was defined at the trustees meeting in May 1975, when James Efstation, the school's director of social services, reported on the makeup of the student population. He stated "85% of them are placed through Departments of Social Services, and

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15% are privately placed.” Those percentages have held approximately proportional to the present. In 2007 ninety percent of the children at Crossnore School were placed with the school through county departments of social services while ten percent (or space for that number) were privately placed at the school by parents or guardians.

Except for the construction of Gilchrist Cottage in 1977-78, the construction of a new dining hall and kitchen in 1979-80, the building of a multi-purpose Gymnasium in 1984, and repairs and small refitting projects, Mr. Martin’s tenure as director, into 1982, and that of this successor H. Dean Bare (1982-1986), primarily addressed the children at Crossnore and their service. The efforts of directors Martin and Bare in the areas of staffing and child services went far in creating the framework for the child care arrangements and procedures that were built upon and refined during the terms of Mr. Bare’s successor Joseph H. Mitchell (1986-1999) and that of Dr. Phyllis Horne Crain, who succeeded Mr. Mitchell and now serves as executive director. During this period Crossnore School enjoyed the publicity surrounding the publication of *The Suitcases*, a moving memoir by Anne Hall Whitt who had been a student living in the DAR Dormitory (#1) at Crossnore in the mid 1940s.

Beginning in 1986, a series of building projects, including a rear shed addition to the Weaving Room in that year, has contributed seven important buildings to the campus of Crossnore School. The first of these to be built are the Bayles Administration Building (#3), erected through the bequest of Rhoda Brakeley Bayles (d. 1955), and a residence for the executive director, both completed in 1988. The administration building, a two-story frame building erected on the site of the former dining hall, continued the use of mortared stone veneer in deference to the historic buildings on campus. The long outdated sales shop operated by the Johnsons and their successors was replaced in 1998 by the Blair Fraley Sales Store, a large utilitarian building located approximately due west of its predecessor, in the northwest corner of Crossnore Drive and Johnson Lane. The largest project of the period was the construction of a building for the Crossnore Academy, known as the Wayne Densch Building, where Crossnore School children attend day classes, and an associated day-care program is housed. It was completed in 2001. In 2002-04, three new cottages, Arthur, Crain, and Edwards, were erected for children and their houseparent counselors. The final project of this period was the restoration and refitting of the former Garrett Memorial Hospital as the Edwin Guy Building. In 2004 Crossnore School acquired the former hospital building and its grounds (Avery Deeds, 384/1775-77). Supported by Martha Guy, a long-time trustee and former chairman, the Edwin Guy Building was dedicated on 1 June 2007 and houses the school’s adoption placement program. Except for the Bayles Administration Building (#3) and the former Garrett Memorial Hospital (#7), the new buildings stand with others on the east, north, and west sides of the historic district which occupies the historic heart of Crossnore School.

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Crossnore School today, forty-six years after the death of Mary Martin Sloop, continues to address the needs of the disadvantaged, the underprivileged, and the deprived children of the region and of counties at a far distance who seek its services. The hand-to-mouth financial circumstances which attended the school for so long have been greatly eased. While the growth of the school's annual budget from 1913 to the early 1950s reached \$100,000, the increase in the half-century to 2006, when the operating budget was \$7.8 million dollars, reflects the tremendous challenges of child care today at the institution whose foundation was laid by the Sloops over the course of nearly fifty years. Mary Martin Sloop's dream of an endowment for the school, which had its institutional origins in the memorial fund established in 1961 following Eustace Henry Sloop's death, has also been accomplished. In 2006 the endowment, which more than doubled in 2005 with two major bequests among other gifts, reach \$13.2 million dollars. In 2007 the school had eighty children in residence in ten residential cottages, and all of its children attend the Crossnore Academy, a charter school that also accepts students from the community.

Health/Medicine Significance

The medical history of Avery County, formed in 1911 from parts of Mitchell, Watauga, and Caldwell counties, and the delivery of medical services to its citizens and those living in the adjoining counties, near its borders, is closely related to the history of two allied educational individuals who nurtured them. These pioneering figures were Edgar Tufts and his son Edgar Hall Tufts and a married couple, who were both medical doctors, Eustace Henry and Mary Turpin (Martin) Sloop, who established both educational and medical institutions in Banner Elk and Crossnore, respectively. At present very little is known of those who provided medical services in what became Avery County prior to the arrival of the Tufts and the Sloops. However, one such man who practiced medicine in today's Avery County was Dr. Ebenezer Childs (1784-1862), a native of Shelburne, Massachusetts, who was a resident there in the 1850s until his death (Hardy, 75). In the years around the turn of the twentieth century, when members of both the Tufts and Sloop families first came to this remote part of Western North Carolina, the region was in real need of local medical services and educational initiatives. In turn, members of both families, who also were members of the Presbyterian Church, saw to the provision of both needs in the northern and southern parts of Avery County where they settled. At the end of the twentieth century the hospitals founded and long guided by both families were merged as the Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital, and in 1999 the two occupied a newly-built facility of the same name centrally located in Linville. Today it provides medical and health services to the residents of Avery County. The former Garrett Memorial Hospital, placed in service in 1928, is the oldest surviving medical facility of the five successively built in Avery County and occupied prior to the merger.¹¹

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Edgar Tufts (1869-1923) was the first of the quartet to come to today's Avery County, and he did so as a seminarian in 1895 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Home Missions Board. That first visit to Banner Elk and the region, in the summer of 1895, was followed by another posting in summer 1896, when he oversaw the construction of a frame Presbyterian church in Banner Elk. Having been ordained a minister in 1897, he returned to Banner Elk. Except for a brief pastorate in Georgia in 1901-1902, the Reverend Edgar Tufts' life would be given to the three institutions he founded in Banner Elk and directed until his death. The first of the trio was the Elizabeth McRae Institute, a girls boarding school, which opened in 1900 and survives today as Lees-McRae College. While a hospital such as Garrett Memorial did not prove to be possible in Avery County until the 1920s, Mr. Tufts decided that the best means of securing a doctor for the Banner Elk area was to build a commodious building that would provide a residence for a doctor and his family and offices for his practice. Mr. Tufts, like the Sloops in turn, had sought the support of philanthropists and other wealthy benefactors, such as Mrs. James (Susannah Preston) Lees of New York, whose name was added to the school in 1903 making it the Lees-McRae Institute. In 1907, another New Yorker, Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins (18__-1934), donated \$1,000 of the expected \$2,000 cost of the proposed medical building. The two-and-a-half story frame residence/clinic, with rooms for about six patients, was completed in 1908 and known, in time, as Grace Hospital, in honor of Mrs. Jenkins sister, Grace Hartley Stokes. It stood on the ridge where the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church and the massive stone North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia buildings would be erected. The new building was first occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Reed, newly returned from Presbyterian-sponsored missionary work in China. Ill health forced Dr. Reed to give up his work in 1910, and his departure provided an opening for a doctor who, like Dr. Eustace Sloop, would make his career in Avery County.

Dr. William Cummings Tate (1886-1960) came to Banner Elk in October 1910 and served his adopted community until retiring in 1951, a period parallel to that of Dr. Sloop at Crossnore, from 1911 to 1961. Both doctors, Tate and Sloop, saw patients in their home offices and more often made home visits on horseback or by cart. They also preformed surgeries in improvised operating rooms, or as recorded in a documentary photograph of Dr. Eustace Sloop assisted by his wife, out of doors (Hardy, 93). In 1914, Edgar Tufts established an orphanage that survives today as the Grandfather Home for Children, and Dr. Tate provided medical services to its children.

In the event, the first modern hospital in Avery County was not Garrett Memorial but a new brick hospital in Banner Elk. In about 1922 Edgar Tufts and Dr. Tate turned to Donald Richard Beeson (1881-1983), a Johnson City, Tennessee, architect who had designed the North Carolina Building under construction at Lees-McRae Institute, for the plans of a new twenty-bed hospital. Mr. Beeson designed an imposing two-and-a-half story Georgian Revival-style brick building, with a stone entrance pavilion, that was completed in 1924 on the site of the demolished 1908 residence/clinic on

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the ridge near the North Carolina Building. Meanwhile, a new residence had been built for Dr. Tate beside the old hospital, prior to its demolition, and he probably practiced out of it until the new hospital opened in May 1924. A pendant dwelling, flanking the hospital on the other side, was built and occupied in 1925 by Dr. Ronda Horton Hardin (1892-1937). Following the death of Edgar Tufts in January 1923, the three institutions he founded were organized under the Edgar Tufts Memorial Association and his son Edgar Hall Tufts (1899-1942) was named head of the new organization. The new Grace Hospital, erected at a cost of about \$30,000, equipped at about \$6,000 and enhanced with x-ray equipment costing another \$5,000 in 1925, represented a great advancement in medical service in Banner Elk and the region of Avery County it served. On the opposite side of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the prosperity of the 1920s would soon support the construction of a second twenty-bed hospital to serve Crossnore, lower Avery County, and the region.

When the Sloops relocated to Crossnore in 1911 from Plumtree, they built a one-story frame house and a small adjoining frame medical office on their property south of the village center. The two buildings were linked by an exterior stairway (Gilmer, 17). This small clinic contained an examining room where patients were said to be accommodated overnight. Much of Dr. Eustace Sloop's practice, however, involved travel to his patients on outlying farms around Crossnore. In the mid-1920s, with the example of newly-opened Grace Hospital in Banner Elk, Eustace and Mary Martin Sloop began raising funds to erect a hospital at Crossnore. It, too, would have a principal donor, Mrs. E. N. Williams/McWilliams, and it would be named in honor of her mother, Mrs. Garrett.¹² At present an architect for the one-and-a-half story rock-veneer building has not been identified, however, it appears possible that Leonard White Jr. (189__-1928), a kinsman of Mrs. Sloop's and an associate in the office of Greensboro architect Harry Barton with whom he collaborated on the design of the World War Memorial Stadium (NR, 2001), might have been involved. According to local tradition he drew the plans for Crossnore Presbyterian Church (NR, 1996) which was built by William Ervin/Erwin Franklin between 1924 and 1926. Mary Martin Sloop was greatly pleased with "Uncle Will's" craftsmanship at the church and devoted seven pages to her account of its construction in her 1953 memoir, *Miracle in the Hills*. There is another local tradition that attributes the very similar stone masonry of Garrett Memorial Hospital to Uncle Will Franklin. The hospital was built on a terraced hillside, at the edge of the Crossnore School campus, overlooking Crossnore Drive (then the route of NC 194) and the village center, on a two-acre tract conveyed by the school to the hospital (Avery Deeds, 23/343-345). The building contained rooms for twenty beds, ten bassinets for newborns, an office for Eustace Sloop which doubled as the operating room for a time, and rooms for the x-ray equipment and nurses on the main level and sleeping quarters for staff on the second level (Gilmer, 23). When constructed, the hospital did not have the usual kitchen facilities; patients were provided meals from the Crossnore School kitchen.

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Garrett Memorial Hospital would serve the Crossnore community and lower Avery County for seventy years, with expansions and additional staffing over time, until 1999. During its first ten years, Dr. Sloop was the single physician in residence and had the assistance of a registered nurse and nursing assistants. He called upon the assistance of Mary Martin Sloop when needed; however, her primary object remained the school. In 1937 the couple's son, Dr. William Martin Sloop (1912-1994), the area's first professional dentist, joined the hospital staff. At that time a one-story ell was added onto the southeast side of the hospital, on the terrace overlooking Crossnore Drive. It included examination and treatment rooms and an in-house pharmacy. This addition also provided office space for the Sloop's daughter, Emma Beattie (Sloop) Fink (1909-2001), who joined the hospital staff in 1938 as a general practitioner specializing in obstetrics, and who remained in practice with her father at the hospital through his retirement in 1960.¹³ By 1945 a substantial rectangular addition was built on the southeast end of the ell, giving it the architectural appearance of a hyphen linking the 1928 hospital with the new block. In 1951 another member of the family joined the hospital staff. Dr. Eustace Henry Smith (1920-2008) was the namesake of his "Uncle Doctor." These doctors, with the support of the nursing staff remained in place through the period of significance, and at the hospital into the 1960s, when Garrett Memorial Hospital, like Crossnore School, both bereft of their founders, saw its business operations reorganized and a full-time hospital administrator was hired. The longest serving of these men and women was Fred Blair, who came to Garrett Memorial from the Banner Elk hospital in 1968 and remained in his position until 1999. In 1972, "the first of many modern additions" was made to the building which was enlarged for the last time when ground was broken in March 1990 for a new surgical wing costing in excess of three million dollars (Gilmer, 50-54). Mr. Blair oversaw the renaming of the hospital to Sloop Memorial Hospital in 1983, in memory of the contributions of its founders, Eustace Henry and Mary Martin Sloop, to the institution and the greater Crossnore community.

With the completion of Garrett Memorial Hospital, Avery County boasted two hospitals that were up-to-date for their period and place, and positioned to serve the respective portions of the county. But the medical situation in Avery County was changing quickly. With two on-staff physicians, as of 1925, Grace Hospital at Banner Elk experienced a dramatic increase in patients and the need for additional beds, which was met in an ad hoc fashion for a period. In about 1930, a drive was mounted by Edgar Hall Tufts to raise funds for a new, much larger hospital and medical facility. Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins, who had financially supported the two previous buildings, came forward yet again and her gift joined that of the Duke Endowment. Mr. Tufts turned once again to Donald Richard Beeson for the design of a new sixty-bed hospital and additional facilities. Mr. Beeson prepared plans for a four-story stone masonry hospital which was erected in the large greensward, which was in effect the common of what had become Lees-McRae College in 1929, stretching from the ridge where the three main college

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buildings stood, flanked by the Presbyterian church at one end and the second Grace Hospital and physicians' residences at the other, down to the public road (NC 194).

The new building was dedicated on 22 May 1932 as Grace Hartley Memorial Hospital, to distinguish it from Grace Hospital in Morganton, and it remained in use as a hospital until 1961. Meanwhile, the second building that housed Grace Hospital from 1924 to 1932, was adapted for dormitory use by the nursing school established in 1928, served as a kitchen and laundry facility in the 1950s, and ended its existence as college housing before being pulled down in the late 1960s (Gilmer, 77). By that time, the 1932 stone hospital had been replaced by a new 100-bed four-story brick hospital. Unlike its three preceding hospital buildings, it was erected off-campus, on the east side of NC 184 and at the south edge of Banner Elk, thereby ending the physical relationship between the college and its sister medical institution. The name of Grace Hartley, which had been borne by those three facilities, was replaced by that of another, Charles A. Cannon Jr. His sister Mariam Cannon Hayes and her husband Robert G. Hayes were important donors to the \$2 million dollar building as well as benefactors to the Grandfather Home for Children. After the Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital was occupied in January 1961, the 1932 stone hospital, standing at the front of the Lees-McRae College campus, was adapted as a college dormitory and renamed Tate Hall, in honor of Dr. Tate. It housed female students until fall 2007 when it became a male dormitory.

The construction of the Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital reflected a milestone in the medical history of Avery County, a major event not unlike the opening of the two earlier hospitals in the space of four years in the 1920s. However, advancements in medical technology and treatments, evolving perspectives on patient care and therapy, and related issues, including the cost of acquiring and operating expensive new equipment soon combined and by the early 1990s, both the Banner Elk and Crossnore hospitals were considering the idea of cooperative operations. In 1994 the boards of the two hospitals were combined into one, that of the Avery Health Care System, and the respective administrators were named co-presidents of the new entity. On 1 October 1998 Sloop Memorial Hospital, Incorporated, was merged into Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital, Incorporated (Avery Deeds, 379/1174). The new hospital retained the Cannon name, preserving its association with the wealthy Cannon family benefactors. The adjoining medical office building was named the Sloop Medical Office Plaza.

The history of the two facilities, abandoned for medical use in 1999, has been very different. The multi-story 1961 brick hospital at Banner Elk remains vacant and for sale to the present. In November 2004 the former Sloop Memorial Hospital was acquired by Crossnore School and adaptive reuse plans were developed by the school and its architects. The long series of additions, made between 1937 and 1990, which had virtually engulfed the original 1928 building, were taken down. The decision was

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made to restore the exterior of the building to its original appearance, and to fit up the interior, which had seen continued remodeling over six decades, as quarters for Crossnore School's adoption placement service. With work completed in spring 2007, the hospital was dedicated on 1 June 2007 as the Edwin Guy Building in honor of the founding president of the Avery County Bank and long-time trustee of Crossnore School.

Today the building completed in 1928 stands visible again in Crossnore and in the medical history of Avery County. Dedicated as Garrett Memorial Hospital in 1928, renamed Sloop Memorial Hospital in 1983, and rehabilitated and rededicated as the Edwin Guy Building in 2007, this building is both the original hospital and the core of an expanded medical complex that alone served Crossnore and lower Avery County as a medical facility for seventy-one years.

In length of service to its community it is a medical building without equal in Avery County. It is significant, as well, as the oldest surviving building in Avery County erected as a health care facility. And it is the single structure in Avery County with the strongest associations with the pioneering career of Dr. Eustace Henry Sloop whose practice of medicine from his arrival in Plumtree in 1908 until his retirement in 1960, a few months before his death, was always far more about his humanitarian drive to improve the lives of all those in his adopted home, than ever the instinct for profit or personal advancement.

Architectural Significance

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The local architectural significance of the Crossnore School Historic District, including five contributing buildings and one contributing structure, of which five are either stone, stone veneer, or feature important stone enhancements, derives from its strong associations with the development of the Craftsman-style in Avery County and the continued importance of stonemasonry as an important local craft in the twentieth century. The resources in the district span a period of thirty-two years, beginning in 1928 with the completion of Garrett Memorial Hospital (#7), whose stone elevations are attributed to William Erwin Franklin, a celebrated crafter of stone and bark, and continuing to 1960, when a crew of Crossnore School students laid up the long-delayed stone veneer on the school bell tower (#2). Three of the buildings in the district are also associated with another example of local craftsmanship utilizing indigenous materials, which figured prominently in the regional expression of the Craftsman style. The two-story elevations of the DAR Dormitory (#1) were originally sheathed with chestnut bark, an architectural practice that enjoyed great popularity in this part of Southern Appalachia from the turn of the twentieth century through the 1930s. The gable ends and other frame parts of the former Garrett Memorial Hospital (#7) and the Homespun House/Weaving Room (#4) were also finished with chestnut bark. Today, however, chestnut bark remains only on the Homespun House (#4); the bark sheathing on the DAR Dormitory decayed, ceased to be weather tight, and was replaced with other siding in 1960, while the bark sheathing on the hospital was lost during a series of expansions, from 1937 to 1990, that enlarged and encased the original 1928 building.¹⁴

The architectural history of Avery County, prior to its formation in 1911 as one of the two youngest counties among a hundred in North Carolina, is associated with that of its parts, Mitchell, Watauga, and Caldwell counties. At its formation Avery County was almost entirely rural, peopled with the descendants of settlers who had traveled into this remote part of North Carolina in the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and established farmsteads along its waters, including the Linville River, and in its sheltered coves. Log construction remained the principal construction method through the nineteenth century. Log houses of one story, a story and loft or two stories, together with double-pen dogtrot-plan log houses formed the housing stock. Chimneys built of stone gathered from the land, cleared for cultivation, or the mountainside outcroppings, stood on the gable ends of these houses. Over time, men in the region honed their skill as masons, and the craft of stonemasonry would become an important architectural link between nineteenth and twentieth-century building practices.

In "The Log Cabin and Its Furnishings," the second chapter of his seminal work, *Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands*, Allen H. Eaton offered an analysis of the log cabin as a type of folk housing uniquely important to his field of study. "No one traveling through the country can fail to note the harmonious relation of this type of architecture to its environment, and the good judgment and taste generally shown by the builders in their selection of sites." His appreciation concluded that "Of all the handicraft expressions in the Southern Highlands the log cabin, or folk house, is the oldest and to this

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day one of the most important” (Eaton, 47). His discussion of the types of cabins was followed by an appraisal of “The Fireplace and the Chimney,” noting “the fireplace is the dominant feature of the log cabin” (Eaton, 51). He concluded that as “Comfortable, cheerful, and attractive as the fireplace usually is, sometimes a more esthetic feature from an architectural point of view is the chimney, which in its relation to the main lines and mass of the cabin offers great beauty” (Eaton, 51). To those interested in domestic architecture, whether “he be professional or amateur, the stone chimney of the Highlands will appeal for its mass, its line, its texture, and often its color. In these combinations many an unknown mountaineer has wrought a masterpiece” (Eaton, 52). The stonemasons of early-twentieth century Avery County were descendants of these “unknown mountaineers” and like them, they often remained anonymous. Others, such as William Erwin Franklin, and his kinsmen, and Finley Jerome Townsend, among others, are known. The Craftsman style, which featured an extensive use of stonework, allowed these men to move beyond the chimney and to practice their artistry on stone foundations, porches, frontispieces, walls, and other architectural features that so distinguish buildings of the Craftsmen era and those of the Crossnore School Historic District.

After the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad connected Johnson City, Tennessee, with Cranberry, a small mining town a few miles inside the North Carolina/ Tennessee border in today’s Avery County, in 1882, and sawmills were more widely established, frame construction co-existed with log construction through the century’s last decades and into the twentieth century. By about 1910-1915 frame construction appears to have largely replaced log building in the local vocabulary except, probably, in the most isolated portions of the county. These new frame houses, mostly of two stories, represented a certain increase in status among the descendant generations, and they were embellished with sawn and turned ornament, principally applied to their porches, gables, and eaves, which was either produced locally in planing mills or brought into the area by the railroad. In 1911, when Avery County was formed, Cranberry was the largest community in the new county and even, then, it was essentially a sizable village rather than a town in the modern sense. Its designation as the North Carolina terminus of the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad owed not to its size but the existence of the Cranberry Iron Works at the surface iron mines which are believed to have been utilized by the Cherokee Indians and were profitably worked, more extensively, from about 1865 to 1930. Banner Elk, Linville, Pineola, Crossnore, and Plumtree were villages of varying size, of which none could be described as towns. Minneapolis, Linville Falls, and Ingalls were smaller. Newland, the county seat whose name was designated in the legislation forming the county, was simply acreage in the near center of the county that had been the site of eighteenth-century musters. Each of these places had come into being for various, and sometimes combined reasons. Their existence derived from four principal considerations: as regional trading sites, as locations of extractive industry, as refreshing mountain resorts, and as the site of philanthropic and humanitarian initiatives.

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In the event it was summer colonists, from coastal North Carolina and other points, including Howard C. Marmon (1876-1943), the automotive pioneer who entertained Henry Ford, Thomas Alva Edison, and Harvey Firestone at Hemlocks, his summer residence in Pineola, who introduced nationally popular architectural styles to Avery County. These people were attracted to Avery County by its scenic beauty and cool summer climate, and beginning in the 1880s, they established a summer colony at Linville and smaller resort enclaves at Banner Elk and Pineola. Their arrival parallel the rising influence of the Arts and Crafts movement and an increasing interest in native materials and craftsmanship. Here in Avery County, in the period coincident with the county's founding, outside money, brought in by summer residents and social reformers such as the doctors Sloop and Edgar Tufts, the influence of the nationally popular Arts and Crafts movement and the emerging appeal of native materials, including stone from cleared fields, outcroppings, and the Linville River and the bark of the region's once vast stands of chestnut trees, and the skills of local stonemasons and other artisans combined to produce a body of important Craftsman-style buildings, including houses, churches, and institutional buildings that are exceptional in the region. The primary buildings in the Crossnore Historic District, the Garrett Memorial Hospital, the DAR Dormitory, the Homespun House/Weaving Room (already individually listed in the National Register), and the E. H. Sloop Chapel, together with the Bell Tower are important products of this aesthetic synthesis. The former Garrett Memorial Hospital of 1928, the DAR Dormitory of 1933, and the Homespun House/Weaving Room of 1936 are associated with the original period of the Craftsman style that began in the early twentieth century and persisted to the end of the interwar period. The E. H. Sloop Memorial Chapel of 1956 and the Bell Tower, whose stone veneer was added in 1960, reflect the continuing local influence of the Craftsman style, and a high regard for the craftsmanship of stonemasonry and indigenous materials that had characterized construction at the beginning of the century.

In Avery County the Craftsman style made its first and most dramatic appearance in the opening decades of the twentieth century in Linville where the one- and two-story frame cottages of a wealthy summer colony were clad in the region's chestnut bark by their designer Henry Bacon (see Linville Historic District, NR, 1979). The landmark among this small cohesive group, whose construction continued through the 1920s, is All Saints Episcopal Church, designed by Mr. Bacon and completed in 1913. Allen Eaton also remarked on these cottages in *Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands*. "These are numerous instances of the use of native barks. . .for home use or decoration that may be worthwhile to note. Chestnut, poplar, and other barks are employed quite extensively for covering houses in the vicinity of Crossnore and Linville, Avery County, North Carolina" (Eaton, 232). While stone was plentiful in the Linville area, near the foot of Grandfather Mountain, which was owned by the MacRae family, the developers of Linville, it was little used except for the foundations of buildings and their chimneys.

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The use of local stone, which characterizes another group of important Craftsman-style buildings of the early-twentieth century in Avery County, first occurred not in Linville, nor in Crossnore, where it would later appear in landmarks, but in Banner Elk. The original buildings which Edgar Tufts saw through construction to accommodate the church, the school, the hospital, and the orphanage he founded at Banner Elk, beginning in 1896, were all frame buildings. When the time came to erect permanent buildings, and means were available, Mr. Tufts initiated the construction of an important group of Craftsman-style stone buildings that are the immediate antecedents of the Crossnore Presbyterian Church (NR, 1996) and the buildings in the Crossnore School Historic District, most particularly the Garrett Memorial Hospital and the E. H. Sloop Chapel. The Banner Elk Presbyterian Church was begun in 1912 and completed in 1915. Its construction was likely influenced by the Ruple Memorial Presbyterian Church, completed in 1912 in Blowing Rock, Watauga County, which is possibly the first of the stone Craftsman-style churches in this part of Western North Carolina.

Edgar Tufts next addressed the erection of stone buildings to house Lees-McRae Institute and he turned to Donald Richard Beeson (1881-1983), a Johnson City, Tennessee, architect, for the design of the towered, multi-storied North Carolina Building and the flanking Tennessee and Virginia dormitories. Ground was broken for the North Carolina Building in 1921 and it was completed in 1923 and followed by the Tennessee Dormitory in 1925 and the Virginia Dormitory in 1927. These three college buildings, with the church at their east end, are aligned on a ridge and all face north to Beech Mountain. Coincident with the planning for the North Carolina Building, Mr. Tufts asked Mr. Beeson to design a replacement building for the original Grace Hospital, a 1908 frame building. The new (second) Grace Hospital was a two-and-a-half story brick building, Georgian Revival in style, completed in 1924 on the west part of the ridge, essentially as a pendant to the church at the east end of the institute complex. Its one-story stone frontispiece/porch is the earliest known local example of an architectural feature which would reappear a decade later on the DAR Dormitory at Crossnore and on other buildings. This second Grace Hospital served its intended use only until 1932 when it was succeeded by a new, larger four-story Craftsman-influenced stone hospital building, also designed by Mr. Beeson, on the lawn in front of the trio of college buildings.

The Lees-McRae Institute buildings, together with a contemporary 1920s stone water tower, the Banner Elk Presbyterian Hospital, and the (third) Grace Hartley Hospital are, with the Crossnore stone buildings, one of two important Craftsman-style groups of stone buildings in Avery County. Dating from 1912 to 1932, they were laid up with accumulated stones cleared from fields and meadows and from outcroppings in the Banner Elk area. The three college buildings and the water tower were erected under the superintendent of Finley Jerome Townsend (1871-1952) who also worked as the chief mason on their construction (Neal, 114). Little else is known of his career as a stonemason—his occupation is given as “farmer” on his death certificate—except that he tutored and trained his son-in-

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law Lawrence Berry Ramsey (1901-1976) in stonework. Mr. Ramsey was one of the stonemasons for the 1932 Grace Hartley Hospital.

The stone and stone-enhanced buildings in the Crossnore Historic District, together with the Crossnore Presbyterian Church (NR, 1996) and the Theron Colbert Dellinger House (NR, 2008) comprise a like sub-set of Craftsman-style buildings. However, they are markedly different in one very important respect. They are laid up in variously sized stones, rounded and smoothed over untold years in the bed of the Linville River. And their masonry is composed often with stones of like size or character laid up in patterns that are discernibly similar but with degrees of variance that almost preclude attribution. William Erwin Franklin (1861-1936), a masterful local stonemason and the dean of a small, talented group of Franklin family masons, erected Crossnore Presbyterian Church, in 1924-1926. In *Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands*, Mr. Eaton lavished praise on the Crossnore church describing it as "one of the most interesting and attractive churches in the mountains" (Eaton, 232). The similarity of the masonry of Garrett Memorial Hospital, the clearly expressed appreciation for his work at the church given voice by Mary Martin Sloop in *Miracle in the Hills*, and the fact that her husband Dr. Eustace Henry Sloop was the client for Garrett Memorial Hospital lend strong credence to the local tradition attributing the hospital to him as well. The identity of the mason for the DAR Dormitory of 1933 and the Homespun House/Weaving Room of 1936 remains to be confirmed as does the possibility that "Uncle Will" Franklin might have had some supervisory role in their construction. While their architects are likewise unknown, the use of the two most important local materials, Linville River rock and chestnut bark, in their original construction mark them as important expressions of the Craftsman style in Avery County, although only the Homespun House retains its integrity.

The E. H. Sloop Chapel, completed in 1956, stands as the third in a progression of three important rustic Craftsman-style stone churches in Avery County that began with the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church. And, like that first building, its stonemasons remain anonymous. In several instances John R. Weaver (188__-1964) is identified as the construction superintendent of the church, however, in writings when those who laid up its elevations could have been made known they were not. In 1956 good quality chestnut bark was no longer available, and the gables rising above its porch and main block are sheathed with brown stained weatherboards, an alternative Craftsman-era material seen nearby on the elevations of the Milligan Shuford Wise House of 1926.

The Crossnore School Bell Tower, the last completed historic resource in the historic district, holds important associations with both the Craftsman style, despite its late completion date of 1960, and the craft of stonemasonry in Avery County. In the founding of Crossnore School Mary Martin Sloop had two primary goals; to improve the fundamentals of education for all its children to a high standard, and to provide the school's students with training in domestic arts, agriculture, and manual skills so that

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their lives would be enriched and their standard of living, and that of their families, enhanced. Sewing, weaving, rug-making classes, along with others in home economics were available for girls; on occasion boys also participated in the rug-making classes and operations at Crossnore. Classes in carpentry and woodworking, agriculture, and horticulture, for a time, were provided for male students. These classes allowed students to develop skills for practical use, educated others for work as adults, while providing practicum on campus that enabled students to participate in the actual construction and finishing of school buildings.

One of the earliest known mentions of student masonry work appears in the April-June 1940 number of the "Crossnore School Bulletin" and concerns the completion of the dining room and kitchen building, which stood on the site now occupied by the Bayles Administration Building (#3). Mary Martin Sloop wrote "The rock veneer that our boys have done so beautifully so far, will require about \$200, maybe a little more. To finish the bark that is to weatherboard the part that is not veneered will take \$100." Documentary photographs of the building show a handsomely-crafted two-story stone entrance porch at a front corner of its bark sheathed façade. Its patterning, with large irregularly-shaped stones inset in a field of smaller stones, is not unlike that which appears on most of the school's surviving buildings.

Fifteen years later, in the January-March 1955 school bulletin, she wrote again of the work of the student carpenters and masons.

Visitors to Crossnore are always interested when we point out to them the buildings that our boys have built, both on the campus and at the dairy farm. We invite you to come see them. See how useful they are and how well they have weathered the years. . . .

Now we want you to think about this, and about another project, too. Its another thing we have longed for many a day—a little Chapel on our campus. . . . We all agree that it will fit into our campus best, and satisfy our love of the beautiful more, if we can use a rock veneer.

In the early days of Crossnore, it was a simple thing to take a bunch of our eager youngsters out to the river and just below the dam, which is one mile from here, find ample rock, smoothed by time and beautiful for building. These they piled up, ready for the truck, and we used them freely.

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Work on the chapel advanced and Mrs. Sloop wrote again of it in the April-June 1956 "Crossnore School Bulletin."

"We began building as soon as we felt safe about the money, and . . . we are soon to have a finished Chapel, all except the veneer of river rock, which will not only add to the beauty of the building but will tie it up with many of the old buildings whose beauty lies in river rock with chestnut bark for weatherboarding. The Chapel will have the river rock—not yet put on the building because it is too cold at this season to wade into the water to get it. That will have to wait for April weather.

In the summer of 1956 rock was gathered from the Linville River, laid up, and the completed building was dedicated in October 1956. Then, it stood on a campus that included the bark-sheathed DAR Dormitory, the Homespun House, the adjoining Sewing Room, the school kitchen and dining room, and the WPA-supported public school.

Nearly four years would pass, before Crossnore School enjoyed the bell tower Mrs. Sloop expressed her longing for in the July-September 1950 number of the "Crossnore School Bulletin."

We can do without a Bell Tower, but we ought not to. . . . We aim to make the bell tower artistic as well as useful. We will build it of river rock, put it in a prominent spot on the campus, landscape around it, and keep it all as clean as a pin.

In the event a donation was forthcoming for the bell tower. Whether the amount was insufficient to add the Linville River rock veneer is uncertain. The brick-trimmed concrete-block substructure was dedicated as a bell tower in 1951. In the late spring of 1960 a crew of Crossnore School boys, led by Coach Reese, gathered rock from the Linville River and laid up the long-awaited rock facing on the bell tower. Confined to her room in Garrett Memorial Hospital, Mrs. Sloop apparently never saw the "artistic" building she envisioned. However, a band of unidentified boys, following in the footsteps of earlier boy masons at Crossnore and those of their ancestors, whose work was so much admired for its craftsmanship by Allen Eaton in *Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands*, completed her wish and the last Craftsman-style structure of the campus.

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ENDNOTES

1. The principal sources for the preparation of this nomination are *Miracle in the Hills*, the surviving copies of the "Crossnore School Bulletin," and the minutes of the board of trustees and the executive committee of Crossnore School, together with the Avery County public records. The fire on 12 April 1946 that destroyed the school administration building also destroyed the records of the school that had accumulated in the building for the period from 1913 to 1946. After the fire an effort was made to re-create the school records, drawing on the personal files of Mary Martin Sloop, her husband, and members of the board of trustees. The first three issues of the "Crossnore School Bulletin" are missing, and the nearly complete run of the newsletter begins with Vol. I, No. 4 of July-September 1934. The surviving minutes of the board of trustees begin with the meeting held on 21 June 1932. The first issue is believed to cover the fall months of 1933, which was mailed in January 1934. These newsletters and minutes survive with other materials in the Crossnore School archives housed in the Bayles Administration Building (#3). The archives include a number of broadsides and other publicity pieces, also used in this nomination, some of which are undated. Minor discrepancies occur throughout these documents, most often in regard to the construction and completion of buildings. Efforts have been made to reconcile them, and the information represented in this nomination is believed to be true; however, some mistakes may survive.

2. William Joseph Martin (1830-1896), her father, was a graduate of the University of Virginia, and he had taught at Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pennsylvania, and at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he succeeded Dr. Elisa Mitchell (1793-1857) as professor of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology. After a short tenure (1867-1870) in Tennessee, he was back in North Carolina and professor of chemistry, geology, and natural history at Davidson College in March 1873 when his daughter was born. See also a sketch of his life in the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*.

3. One indication of the longstanding relationship between the private and public schools is the fact that from 1920 into the 1990s, the local public school buildings were located on in-holdings on the Crossnore School campus. On 28 April 1920 the Crossnore School trustees conveyed a three-acre tract to the Avery County Board of Education on which the two-story, fourteen-room Altamont Consolidated High School was built. From 1920-1921 until 1937, (when a new high school was built and the elementary and high school students were thereafter educated in separate buildings), students of all grades in the public school and the Crossnore School attended school together in the same, single building.

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4. On 13 April 1955 the Avery County Board of Education conveyed the three-acre tract back to Crossnore School, Incorporated, together with a separate three-acre tract.
5. The 1920s was also a period of important physical expansion of the Crossnore School campus. The original grounds consolidated in 1916 had been expanded by 1918 with the purchase of about thirty acres from A. D. and Mattie Wiseman for \$2,800 (Avery Deeds, 10/40). The deed for the Wiseman property in 1918 had been made to Crossnore School, Incorporated. On 28 November 1921, the school trustees, who held the property acquired in 1916, conveyed it to Crossnore School, Incorporated (Avery Deeds, 14/461-63). The school further expanded its grounds with purchases between 1922 and 1926. On 29 March Edgar Garfield and Maggie Aldridge sold the school a 7.75-acre tract for \$1,000 (Avery Deeds, 13/454). On 15 June 1922 Milligan Shuford and Mamie Wise conveyed two small tracts comprising three acres adjoining the school grounds (Avery Deeds, 15/314). On 28 December 1923 Mack and Vivian Dellinger conveyed a small tract of just over one-fourth of an acre to the school (Avery Deeds, 19/419-20). The last two acquisitions of the 1920s were for larger parcels. On 31 December 1925 Bob and Gertrude Edwards sold the school a five-acre tract for \$375 (Avery Deeds, 19/417-18). On 4 March 1926 Thomas P. and Carrie Dellinger sold a 12.125-acre tract for \$1,212.50 to Crossnore School, Incorporated (Avery Deeds, 29/84).
6. Allen H. Eaton, who attended the 28 December 1929 organizational meeting with Dr. Mary Martin Sloop and other representatives of important Southern craft associations and institutions, included a chapter-length account of the early history of the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild in *Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands* (Eaton, 237-254). See also the National Register nomination for the Weaving Room at Crossnore School, entered in 2001.
7. The Bullard-Sloan Building was damaged by fire in February 1966. When rebuilt as a residence for the school administrator, the original upper frame portion of the building was refashioned. It stands at 179 Johnson Lane, outside the district.
8. The school enrollment remained steady through the 1940s, fluctuating around 200 for the decade; however, the composition of the school's board of directors changed. As of 1948 two of the four directors of Crossnore School, Eustace Henry Sloop and Alexander A. Johnson, had served continuously as directors since incorporation in 1917. Milligan S. Wise and R. Q. Bault, residents of Crossnore, had served for shorter periods. In 1948 the board decided that it would be in the best long-term interests of the school to increase the board to ten persons who would both reflect a broader geographic distribution and increase the potential for fund raising. The motion passed on 18 January 1948 also stated that six of the directors must be men and four must be women with two permanent directors in each category. The two proposed male members did not join the board; however, Mrs.

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William Henry (Mary Irwin) Belk (1882-1968) of Charlotte and Mrs. John S. Welborn of High Point did attend the next meeting in 1949. Mrs. Belk, the wife of the chairman of the Belk Stores chain, was an important addition to the board and she would be a strong supporter of the school until her death. In effect Dr. Sloop and Messrs. Bault, Johnson, and Wise were also permanent members of the board as well. Mr. Johnson died on 13 May 1948 and he was succeeded by his son S. Lambert Johnson, who had moved the Sloops to Crossnore in 1911. Another important addition to the board was Edwin Cochran Guy (1884-1955) of Newland, the founding president of the Avery County Bank.

9. The changes in appearance to the Bullard-Sloan Building of 1936-1937, made in the refitting of the building as a residence after the fire of 1966, compromised the integrity of the building and its possible status as a contributing building in this district.

10. In 1964, the school farm was discontinued as an agricultural operation and converted to a tree farm with the planting of some 5,000 white pine and balsam seedlings. The next year, the school sold its water system, which might also have been providing water to the public school (and perhaps other users), to the Town of Crossnore. The school also conveyed a tract of land to the town as the site of a municipal sewage treatment plant.

11. The principal source for the history of medicine in Avery County is Mary Dudley Gilmer's *Panorama of Caring: The Story of Two Hospitals in Avery County, North Carolina, 1908-1999*. It was written to commemorate the opening of the new Charles A. Cannon Jr. Memorial Hospital at Linville on 16-17 October 1999. Ms. Gilmer provided additional information in telephone conversations with this author in June 2008.

12. At present nothing more is known of the donor to the hospital than her name and the fact that her mother was a Mrs. Garrett. In one mention the surname is spelled "Williams," and as "McWilliams" in another.

13. Dr. Fink was a graduate of Duke University and Vanderbilt University Medical School. In 1935 she married Dwight Augustus Fink who served as principal of the Crossnore Public School for many years.

14. In the January-March 1956 number of the "Crossnore School Bulletin" Mary Martin Sloop reflected on the deteriorating bark on school buildings.

The old buildings for Big Girls, Little Girls, and Little Boys were doing fine, save for exterior finish on the Little Boys' home; that was in bad

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shape, and still is. The weather boarding we used on that in the '30s was chestnut bark, and it had been injured by the universal siege of blight that eventually rendered all chestnut wood useless, the bark particularly so. This did not show up for some years, and then the bark began to fall to pieces.

So, in perfect confidence, we continued to use the beautiful bark, and that on the Little Boys Dormitory was tainted and didn't last. It was especially sensitive when struck or bruised, for soon rot showed, that fell out and a hole appeared.

Visitors often say, "Why don't you replace the bark"? There's only one answer, "Insul board is the one sure thing that would last," and Insul costs money.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Crossnore School Historic District is shown as the solid black line on the accompanying map entitled "Crossnore School Historic District" prepared at a scale of one inch equals 200 feet by James Seaberg of the Avery County Mapping Department.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the surviving historic buildings erected on the campus of Crossnore School, and Garrett Memorial Hospital on an adjoining tract, which were associated with the school during the period of significance, 1928 to 1958, and maintain historic integrity. The boundary is drawn to include the site of these buildings and to provide an appropriate setting within the larger campus while excluding newer buildings and facilities are now located on the campus.