

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 (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 177 Erwin Hills Road N/A
 not for publication

city or town Asheville vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code BN zip code _____

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 forth 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.)

Jeffrey J. Cross 8/27/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 commenting 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 _____

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National
Register
- other (explain) _____

(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School Buncombe County, N.C.
Name of Property 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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	2	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility
EDUCATION: Educational-related Housing
DOMESTIC: Institutional Housing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE: Military Facility
DOMESTIC: Institutional Housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

TUDOR REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls brick
stone
roof slate
other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- X 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.
X 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 a birthplace or grave.
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)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1927-1945

Significant Dates

1927

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Greene, Ronald, architect

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 Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

N.C. National Guard

(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School Buncombe County, N.C.
Name of Property County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.79

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 353000 3942880
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
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 Frances Alexander and Richard Mattson

organization Mattson, Alexander & Associates, Inc. date 3 February 1997

street & number 2228 Winter Street telephone (704) 376-0985

city or town Charlotte state N.C. zip code 28205

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 State of North Carolina, N.C. National Guard, Attn: AGE0 (LTC Dowling)

street & number 4105 Reedy Creek Road telephone (919) 664-6114

city or town Raleigh state N.C. zip code 27607

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 listings. 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 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7. Page 1.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

7. Narrative Description

The imposing (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School is located in rural Buncombe County, North Carolina, west of the French Broad River and downtown Asheville, the county seat. Facing southwest, the former school occupies a dramatic hilltop setting at the junction of S.R. 1367 (Erwin Hills Road) and S.R. 1368. A fire department training facility abuts the training school property to the rear (northeast), a juvenile mental health evaluation center is located to the northwest, and a high school campus sits opposite, on the west side of S.R. 1368. Originally, the boys' school was part of a large farm, but the present residual tract (2.79 acres) includes only the main school building and two modern outbuildings: a ca. 1950 meat house/cannery and a modern, frame storage building.

The monumental, two-story, granite and brick main building sits at the crest of a long, steep hill with a grassy lawn extending down to the junction of S.R. 1367 and S.R. 1368. The 2.79 acre parcel which now encompasses this facility is not defined by this junction of roads, however, and part of the original lawn lies outside the current tax parcel. A row of dogwood trees has been planted across the lawn and roughly marks the border of the current property line. Mature magnolia and hemlock trees dot the broad lawn while pine trees cover the rear hillside separating the two outbuildings from the fire department property. A stream and woodland delineate the northwestern boundary of the property. A stone terrace extends across the facade (southwest elevation) of the main building, which is encircled by a paved driveway. A stone retaining wall lines portions of the driveway, and the outbuildings are positioned on the northeast side of the drive across from the kitchen wing of the principal building.

Constructed in 1927 and 1928 as a loose interpretation of Tudor Revival architecture, the main building is an assemblage of three principal sections with a two-story, rear ell containing the kitchen and other service areas. A broad, stone terrace extends across the entire front elevation, unifying the three massings. Each section is two stories tall, except for a portion of the west wing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7. Page 2.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

where a drop in terrain permits a full basement. The focus of the building is the central block which housed the public, or formal, areas on the first floor and some of the boys' dormitories on the second. The central block has a boxy massing; a high hip, slate roof; a conical roofed turret; brick exterior walls; and a round arched entrance with brick reveals. The walls are ornamented by a bold, brick cornice and heavy, brick quoins. Positioned between the doorway and the west wing is the turret which juts out from the main block onto the terrace. Housing the stairwell, the turret has brick exterior walls; heavy, stone quoins; a bold, denticulated cornice; and narrow, round arched windows with stone surrounds.

The central block is flanked by substantial side wings, both of which open onto the stone terrace. Now housing classrooms, the west wing originally contained staff bedrooms while the east wing continues to house administrative offices. The west wing contains both a two story, side gable section and a massive, front gable end bay. The side gable section is distinguished by a round arched, stone arcade on the first story (now infilled with windows and one door); a half-timbered upper story (to which a balcony has been added); and front gable dormers. Because of a drop in slope along the west side of the property, the front gable, end section stands two and one-half stories tall, accommodating a full basement. This portion of the west wing has buttressed, rock-faced, granite walls and a steeply pitched, slate roof. Recessed from the central block, the two story east wing repeats the rock-faced, granite walls and steeply pitched gable roof of the west wing. The east section has a single doorway with brick surrounds. A two-story, service wing, with a one-story, brick ell and enclosed porch, extends from the rear of the central block. This rear wing has a flat roof, hidden behind a flat parapet, and brick walls. Throughout the building, the original steel sash, casement windows have been replaced with new casement windows.

The interior retains its original floor plan. On the main floor, the lobby (originally the lounge), entrance foyer, and an alcove (designed as a combination library and chapel) occupy the central block, while administrative offices and the manager's quarters comprise the east wing and classrooms

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7. Page 3.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

(originally staff bedrooms) the western sections. The stairwell is located within the turret, and the dining room and kitchen occupy the rear service wings. The second floor is comprised of dormitory bedrooms, bathrooms, and janitors' closets while the boiler room, supply closets, and drying room are located within the basement.

Throughout the main floor, there are stucco walls, linoleum floors, molded door surrounds, ogee and round arched openings, and a variety of original door types, including six-panelled doors, three-panelled doors, and wood and glass doors, as well as a few modern fire doors. The lobby contains the original, corner fireplace with heavy, stone surrounds and a massive, bracketed mantel. The dining room opens off the rear of the lobby while the alcove opens off the front lobby, next to the entrance hall. The alcove is separated from the lobby by paired wood and glass doors. A short hall off the west side of the lobby leads to the stairwell and the classroom wing. Reached by a corridor created by the infill of the arcade, the classrooms and bathrooms are largely intact with original stucco walls, tile floors, bathroom fixtures, and partitions. A short hall and staircase off the east side of the lobby leads to the administrative offices and manager's quarters. Reached either from the office wing or from the dining room, the kitchen has replacement sheet rock walls, and a sheet rock ceiling has been added to the dining room. The stairwell within the turret has a rubberized floor, steel pipe railing, and modern fire doors.

The upper story has a T-shaped plan with central halls extending into the side wings and the rear ell from a small lobby, or landing area, at the top of the stairwell. Each hall is lined with dormitory bedrooms, bathrooms, and supply closets. The bedrooms have simple, rectangular plans, stucco walls, linoleum floors, and six-panelled doors. The bedrooms retain their original ceilings although an acoustic tile ceiling has been added in the hallway. A few fire doors also have been added on this floor. With a long hall running the width (northwest to southeast) of the building, the basement contains several service and storage rooms, including a drying room, a boiler room, a washroom, and several auxiliary staff bedrooms.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7. Page 4.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

The (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School retains its exterior and interior integrity although a few alterations have been made in recent years. The steel sash, casement windows have been replaced with new divided light, casement windows which replicate the original. A small porch off the rear (northeast) wing has been enclosed, while the stone arcade on the west side of the building has been infilled with windows and a door. A balcony has been added above the arcade. The basement windows on the west elevation have been infilled. The interior has undergone only minor modifications including the addition of a dropped acoustic tile ceiling in some areas, the installation of linoleum floors, and the installation of sheet rock walls in the kitchen and a sheet rock ceiling in the dining room. Other modifications, specifically the infill of an interior boiler room door and the addition of several fire doors, were required for compliance with modern building codes.

Outbuildings

2. Meat House/Cannery. ca. 1950. Noncontributing. Standing northeast of the rear service wing, across the driveway, this two-story outbuilding has a pyramidal roof, stucco walls, and a hip roofed, side garage wing. The cannery has two exterior doors, one of which leads to an upper story.
3. Storage Building. ca. 1940/ca. 1970. Noncontributing. North of the cannery is a gable roofed, frame storage building which has been extensively modernized.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8. Page 1.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

8. Statement of Significance

The (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for Social History and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance is 1927 to 1945. This 1927-1928 facility was established in response to new approaches to the rehabilitation of delinquent youths that were changing the penal system nationwide in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In contrast to the traditional incarceration of youths with adult criminals, the training school system was created to separate juvenile offenders from adult prisoners, and to emphasize rehabilitation through academic, vocational, and moral training. In North Carolina, this shift in public policy regarding juvenile corrections led to the founding of the 1907 Stonewall Jackson Training School for Boys in Concord, North Carolina. While the training school at Concord was the main state-run reformatory, the Buncombe County Boys' Training School was the only such county-operated institution in North Carolina. Although the historically associated farmland and principal agricultural buildings that helped support the Buncombe County facility no longer remain, the existing 2.79-acre parcel retains the main training school building. Sited on a knoll five and one-half miles west of downtown Asheville, this well-preserved Tudor Revival building was designed by renowned Asheville architect Ronald Greene. It stands as a striking example of Greene's civic projects in and around Asheville, which included the Municipal Building (1925-26), Stephens-Lee High School (1921, razed 1975), and the Claxton School (1922) (NR 1991). From its opening in 1928 until 1941, the training school was under the supervision of Robert B. Edwards. Edwards, an Asheville educator for forty years, cultivated an environment of trust and encouragement that was instrumental in the school's success. The school was permanently closed in 1945, and the building was reopened in 1947 as the new County Home for the Aged. The property was subsequently leased as a private home for the elderly, and since 1983 the building has housed the Army National Guard training center serving western North Carolina.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 3. Page 2.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

8. Historical Background and Social History Context

The Buncombe County Boys' Training School was built in 1927-1928 on county-owned property five and one-half miles west of downtown Asheville, North Carolina. This rural tract also included the 1906 Buncombe County Home for the Aged (no longer extant), and surrounding farmland that helped support these public institutions. The new training school was part of an ambitious, five-year public building campaign in Buncombe County. This campaign had begun in 1925 during a period of unprecedented growth around Asheville. Situated on major train and automobile routes through the Blue Ridge, Asheville emerged in the early twentieth century as the region's premier tourist and health center, its population soaring from 18,000 in 1910 to 50,000 by 1930 (Swaim 1981: 42-44; 77-96; Brendel 1978). Writes historian Susanne Brendel,

The city and county felt that they needed to plan far ahead for the city's growth as one of the major resort areas in the country. In addition to road and water projects, the city built a municipal garage, a new incinerator, a new high school, and a tunnel through Beaucatcher Mountain. Recreation parks, baseball parks, a football stadium, a golf course and tennis courts were all created. Not the least of the city's ambitions was the building a new civic government center with a new city hall and courthouse (Brendel 1978: 13).

The Boys' Training School reflected public efforts to address the growing social strains that accompanied Asheville's dramatic growth. The presence of a large number of youthful offenders in the penal system was a new development in North Carolina and throughout the South in the early twentieth century. Their growing numbers were closely tied to the rapid growth of southern cities and towns that led to unprecedented social and cultural tensions. In contrast to the relatively insular and controlled environment of the countryside, city life, in the view of contemporary observers, created a new atmosphere where temptation and parental neglect bred youthful criminals (Platt 1969: 37-39, 43-44; Kaplan and Brown 1984: 8.1).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8. Page 3.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

The Buncombe County Boys' Training School reflected modern trends in rehabilitation that were transforming the penal system nationwide. In North Carolina, the establishment of the Stonewall Jackson Training School (NR 1984) in Concord in 1907 marked the beginning of this reform movement. Instead of incarcerating delinquent youths in prisons with adult criminals, the state established a separate juvenile training facility that emphasized rehabilitation. The mission of the training school was to reform the youths by combining scholastic and moral training with vocational skills (Platt 1969: 43-44; Kaplan and Brown 1984: 8.1-8.2). As articulated by James P. Cook, the first board chairman, the guiding philosophy at the Stonewall Jackson Training School was "to protect (a boy) against himself for a period, hold up to him good and tried ideals, teach him a beauty of order, system of frankness, give him a taste of that which strikes at the soul, meet him always as a young brother. . .

Youths ("students") at the facility became part of a highly structured communal environment that included a full schedule of school classes, church services, trades training, and labor in the surrounding school farm (Hawfield 1946; Kaplan and Brown 1984: 8.3-8.4). Although this reform program was revolutionary and a significant improvement over the earlier penal system, emphasis at Stonewall Jackson was placed on obedience, regimentation, and production (Kaplan and Brown 1984: 8.3).

Other state-operated correctional training schools for girls as well as boys followed the Stonewall Jackson facility. In 1918, the State Home and Industrial School for Girls (also called Samarcand Manor) was opened at Eagle Springs in Moore County. Another girls' institution, the State Training School for Girls (Dobbs Farm), was established at Kinston. Other state training schools for boys included the Eastern North Carolina Training School at Rocky Mount, the Leon Training School at McCain, and the Morrison Training School at Hoffman (N.C. Board of Corrections and Training, 1958-1960).

The Buncombe County Boys' Training School was the only such county juvenile reformatory in North Carolina (Vertical File, Pack Memorial Public Library). This school was the inspiration of Judge Carl B. Hyatt of the Buncombe County Juvenile Court who realized the pressing need for a "home-like" environment for boys between the ages of 10 and 16 who had committed minor delinquencies, as well as for neglected and dependent children. Boys convicted of more serious crimes were sent to Stonewall Jackson. According to Judge

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8. Page 4.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

Hyatt's vision, expressed in an interview conducted during the school's construction, the county institution was not to be run as a prison or a work house, but as a school and a farm operated by the boys under the supervision of compassionate directors (*Asheville Citizen*, July 10, 1927). Ronald Greene, a prominent architect in Asheville, was selected to design the new reformatory (see Architecture Context). Built with prison labor at a cost of approximately \$100,000, the two-story Tudor Revival building was described as "a castle of hope" by an Asheville Citizen reporter. This phrase reflected both the distinctive feudal architecture of the place and the reform philosophy that put a premium on moral uplift and education and vocational training instead of incarceration and punishment (*Asheville Citizen*, March 5, 1933; Swain 1981: 124).

From its opening in 1928 until 1941, the training school was under the supervision of Robert B. Edwards. According to newspaper articles, Superintendent Edwards was ideally suited for this leadership role, cultivating an environment of trust and encouragement that was in keeping with Judge Hyatt's original goals. Edwards, according to his 1941 obituary in the Asheville Times, "provided a remarkable example of the way in which a truly great teacher and leader of youth can triumph over the limitations of a correctional institution for boys requiring special care and discipline." Edwards had devoted forty years of his sixty-four years to teaching, first in the county school system and then at the training school. His wife served as assistant superintendent (*Asheville Times*, July 21, 1941). In a 1933 article about the training school, Edwards's empathy for the youths was clearly expressed. "Most of the boys we have had. . . were better than I was at their age," he observed. "I find that boys here are easier to manage than the same number of boys would be from the varying influences of separate homes. They are just regular, everyday American boys" (*Asheville Citizen*, March 5, 1933).

The institution had a capacity of sixty youths, though no more than forty-eight were ever in residence at one time. The school carried seven grades taught by accredited instructors, and when students completed these grades they were placed at West Buncombe High School. The building was designed with two large classrooms, a library, a dining hall, a kitchen, an office, washrooms equipped with showers, quarters for the instructors, and twenty dormitory rooms (accommodating three occupants per room). As Judge Hyatt explained,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8. Page 5.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

the dormitory system was preferred over wards as it afforded the youths some privacy and more closely resembled a domestic environment. The training school property also contained a modern dairy farm with approximately thirty cows, three dairy barns sited about 300 yards from the school, and an adjacent poultry house and hog pens (*Asheville Citizen*, July 10, 1927). The boys at the school followed a daily routine that did not vary except on Saturday nights and on Sundays. They arose at six a.m. and ate breakfast at seven a.m. After breakfast came chores such as cleaning rooms, washing dishes, and paring potatoes for the next meal. School opened at 8:45 a.m. and classes were dismissed at 4:20 p.m. Chores and recreation followed, and supper was served at 6:30 p.m. There was an additional evening lecture at 7:30 p.m., followed by an hour of free time. The boys were in bed at nine p.m.. Saturday evening included a special period of radio programs, while on Sunday members of various Asheville churches conducted religious services in the afternoon (*Asheville Citizen*, March 5, 1933).

Many of the chores centered around the school farm, which provided much of the food for the school. The boys took care of the cows, hogs, and chickens, and raised corn, wheat, oats, hay, grapes, and assorted vegetables. Consequently, noted one reporter in 1933, "A variety of meats and vegetables form the basis of most of the meals. The boys eat more than 50 pounds of butter each week. Each boy gets a quart and a half of sweet milk daily. Eggs are served several times each week. Breads, cakes and sweets take their proper places at each meal" (*Asheville Citizen*, March 5, 1933). Farm surpluses were sold for profit. Superintendent Edwards declared, "Nothing is ever 'hired done.' Either the boys or attendants and officials do all work. The institution is self-supporting, with the exception of clothing and such incidentals" (*Asheville Citizen*, March 5, 1933).

By the early 1940s, the number of youths at the training school had dropped to fourteen or fifteen and public officials began making plans to shut down the facility. With the rise of federal and state dollars for aid to dependent children and foster care, the role of this training school had been diminished (*Asheville Citizen*, July 2, 1941). In March, 1945 the school was permanently closed.

In 1947, following \$15,000 worth of repairs and renovations, including new plumbing and kitchen equipment, the building was reopened as the new

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8. Page 6.

(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School Buncombe County, N.C.

County Home for the Aged. The former 1906 county home was in deteriorated condition and was eventually razed. In its new capacity, the former training school housed fifty-seven residents between the ages of forty and ninety-nine, among them seventeen mentally disabled patients (*Asheville Citizen*, June 22, 1947). The county home staff included supervisors George and Lillian Laster, nurse Rose Felden, and farm manager Rex Cole. As before, the farm, comprised of 462 acres, continued to produce dairy and beef herds and a variety of fruits and vegetables. In the early 1950s, the existing two-story meat house was constructed behind the home for storing meat as well as half-gallon containers of tomatoes, beets, corn, beans, and apple sauce for personal consumption and sale (*Asheville Citizen*, September 28, 1951).

A local newspaper writer who toured the building in 1951 described it this way:

During the visit to the home this reporter went through the kitchen and dining room as well as through the various wings which have 28 rooms in all. The floors are asphalt tile or plastic tile and are waxed and polished as if in a hospital, except that the pastel colors are bright and attractive. The same is true of the walls and woodwork which have just been freshly painted. The whole place has an air of cleanliness about it and the general atmosphere is that of rest and quiet. The one down-beat touch in the whole business is the presence of those unfortunate mental cases who tremendously complicate the matter of operation of the institution (*Asheville Citizen*, September 28, 1951).

The property was subsequently leased as a private home for the elderly known as Pine Haven Rest Home. In 1977, Pine Haven was closed, and the building stood unoccupied for five years until it was leased by the State of North Carolina from Buncombe County for use as the training center for the Army National Guard. On July 6, 1983, the county gave the state a 2.79-acre tract that included the former training school building, a storage building, and the masonry meat house. The main building currently houses the North Carolina Military Academy-West, a National Guard training center serving the western part of the state. It is a satellite facility for the North Carolina Academy located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina (North Carolina Military Academy-West, Files).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8. Page 7.

(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School Buncombe County, N.C.

The storage building and meat house are used for all-purpose storage. No other farm buildings associated with the operation of the school survive.

Although the specific historical functions of the training school building have changed, many of the building's rooms continue to function as they did originally. The dining room, the kitchen, the classrooms on the main floor, and the upstairs sleeping quarters still perform their original uses. While portions of the surrounding tract have been subdivided in recent years for a variety of public and private land uses, the environs remain largely rural, with rolling open space and woodlands to the north and east.

Architecture Context

The 1927-1928 (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School is significant architecturally as a striking example of the work of noted Asheville architect, Ronald Greene. Born May 11, 1891, in Coldwater, Michigan, Greene received his architectural training from the Pratt School of Architecture, Columbia University, and the Beaux Arts Atelier in Cleveland, Ohio. At the beginning of World War I, he worked at Hampton Roads Naval Base in Newport News, Virginia, as architect in charge of erecting eighty new buildings (N.C. Division of Archives and History, Files). Greene worked briefly in Asheville in the 1910s and then returned in 1920 to establish his architectural practice. While he chose the monumental Neo-Classical Revival style for some of his major civic and commercial projects, he was fluent also in numerous other architectural styles of this period. The Tudor Revival design for the (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School clearly demonstrates Greene's versatility.

Greene contributed significantly to the architectural development of Asheville during the 1920s. His work includes the Jackson Building (1924), recognized as a downtown landmark, the Westall Building (1925), the Municipal Building (1925-26), Stephens-Lee High School (1921, razed 1975), Longchamps Apartments (1925) in Grove Park, the Claxton School (1922)(NR 1991), and a host of residences (Swaim 1981: 88-91; 202: Black 1979: 36-37; Fullington and Austin 1991).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8. Page 8.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

In 1940, Greene was elected a full member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, in recognition of his record for structural design. At that time, he was the only architect in the South to receive this honor. He maintained his interest in the Beaux Arts and served on the Beaux Arts Jury of Awards. During World War II, Greene was executive field engineer at the Holsten Ordinance plant in Kingsport, Tennessee, and he also designed public housing projects in South Carolina and Georgia (N.C. Division of Archives and History, Files). Around 1951, Greene moved to Gastonia, North Carolina, where he designed a number of major public buildings, such as the Gaston County Y.M.C.A., the Gaston County Nature Museum, and the Gaston County Center for Handicapped Children. He died in Gastonia on October 11, 1961 (*Asheville Citizen*, October 12, 1961).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9. Page 1.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

9. Bibliography

Asheville Citizen. July 10, 1927; March 5, 1933; July 2, 1941; June 22, 1947;
September 28, 1951; October 12, 1961.

Asheville Times. July 21, 1941.

Black, David. *Historic Architectural Resources of Downtown Asheville, North Carolina.* Asheville, North Carolina: City of Asheville, 1979.

Brendel, Susanne. "Urban Asheville." *North Carolina Architect.* July/August 1978: 1-15.

Buncombe County Records, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds.

Fullington, Martha and Andrea Austin. National Register Nomination for Claxton School, Asheville, North Carolina. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1991.

Hawfield, S.C. *History of the Stonewall Jackson Manual Training and Industrial School.* Concord, North Carolina: S.C. Hawfield, 1946.

Kaplan, Peter R. and David William Brown. *National Register Nomination for the Stonewall Jackson Training School Historic District, Concord, North Carolina.* Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1984.

North Carolina Board of Corrections and Training. Biennial Report, 1958-1960. Raleigh, North Carolina: State Printing Office, 1960.

North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Western Office. Files. Asheville, North Carolina.

North Carolina Military Academy-West. Files. Asheville, North Carolina.

Pack Public Library. Vertical Files. Asheville, North Carolina.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9. Page 2.

**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

Platt, Anthony M. *The Child Savers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969.

Sumner, C.R. "Improvements Are Made at County Home for Aged." *Asheville Times-Citizen*. Undated article on file at the North Carolina National Guard Military Academy-West. Asheville, North Carolina.

Swaim, Douglas, ed. *Cabins and Castles: The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina*. Asheville, N.C.: Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981.

Weiss, Harry. Director, Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, Asheville, North Carolina.

Wright, Ann. Reference Librarian, Pack Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10. Page 1.

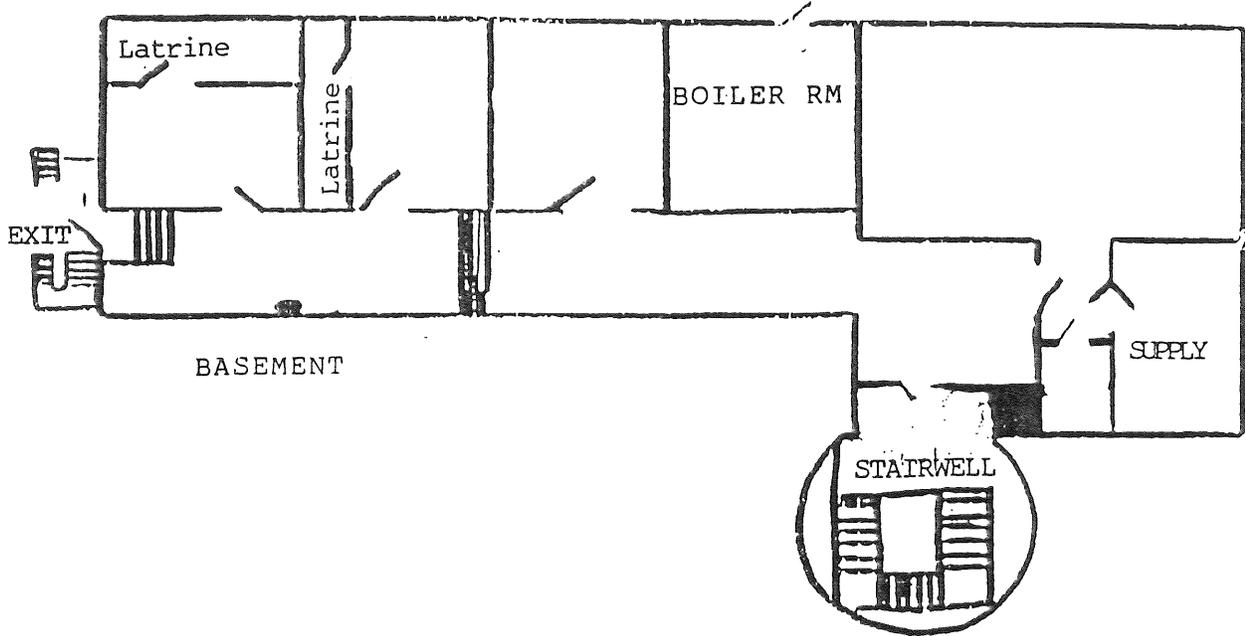
**(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
Buncombe County, N.C.**

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School property follow the current 2.79 acre tax parcel as shown on the accompanying Buncombe County tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated tract is the residual acreage of a former 462 acre farm. The boundaries encompass the main building of the (former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School in its dramatic hillside setting. The main building is the only contributing resource associated with this property, and the two noncontributing outbuildings, which stand immediately behind the main building, are unobtrusive elements of the setting.

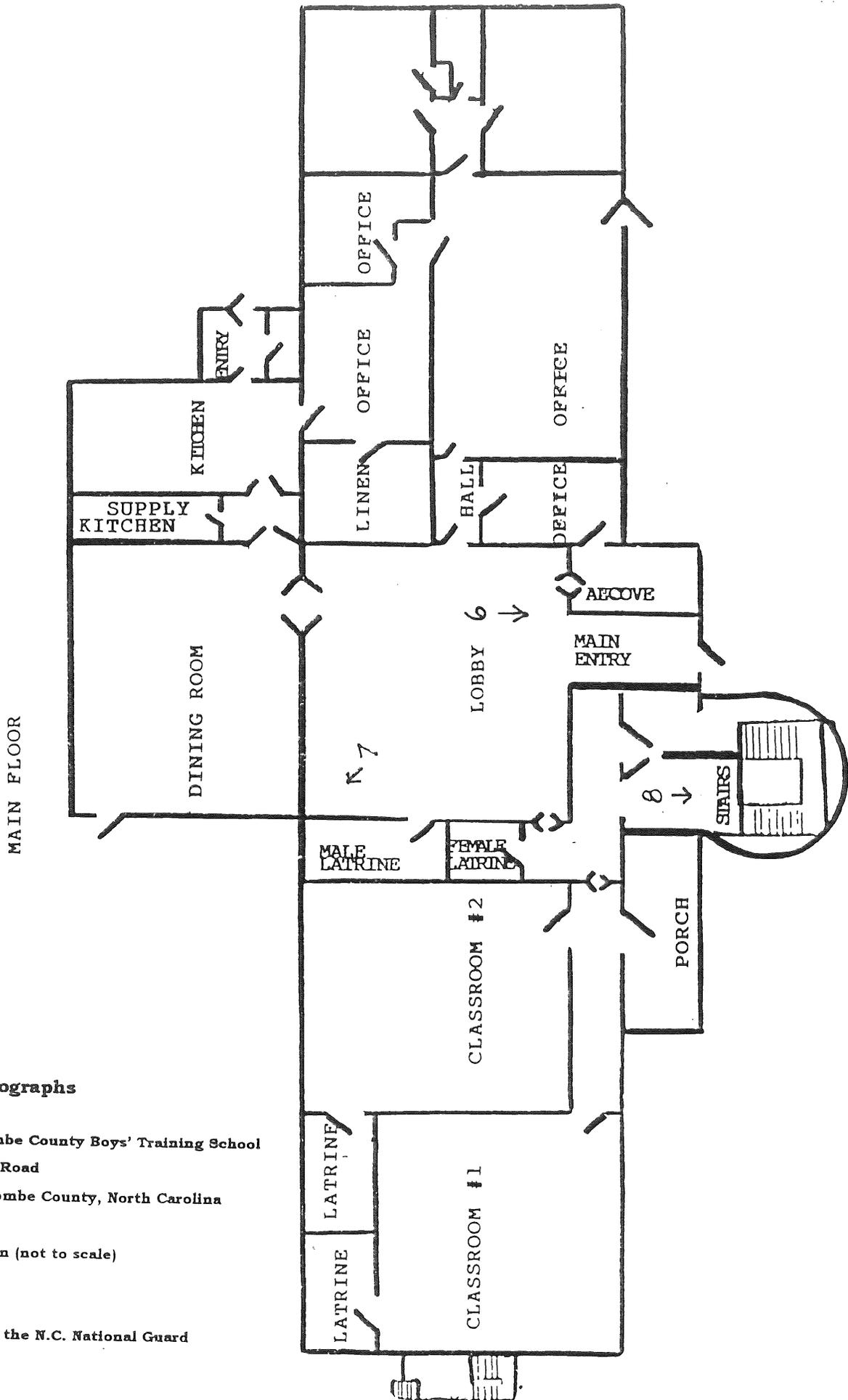


(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
177 Erwin Hills Road
Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

Sketch Floor Plan (not to scale)
Basement

Map prepared by the N.C. National Guard



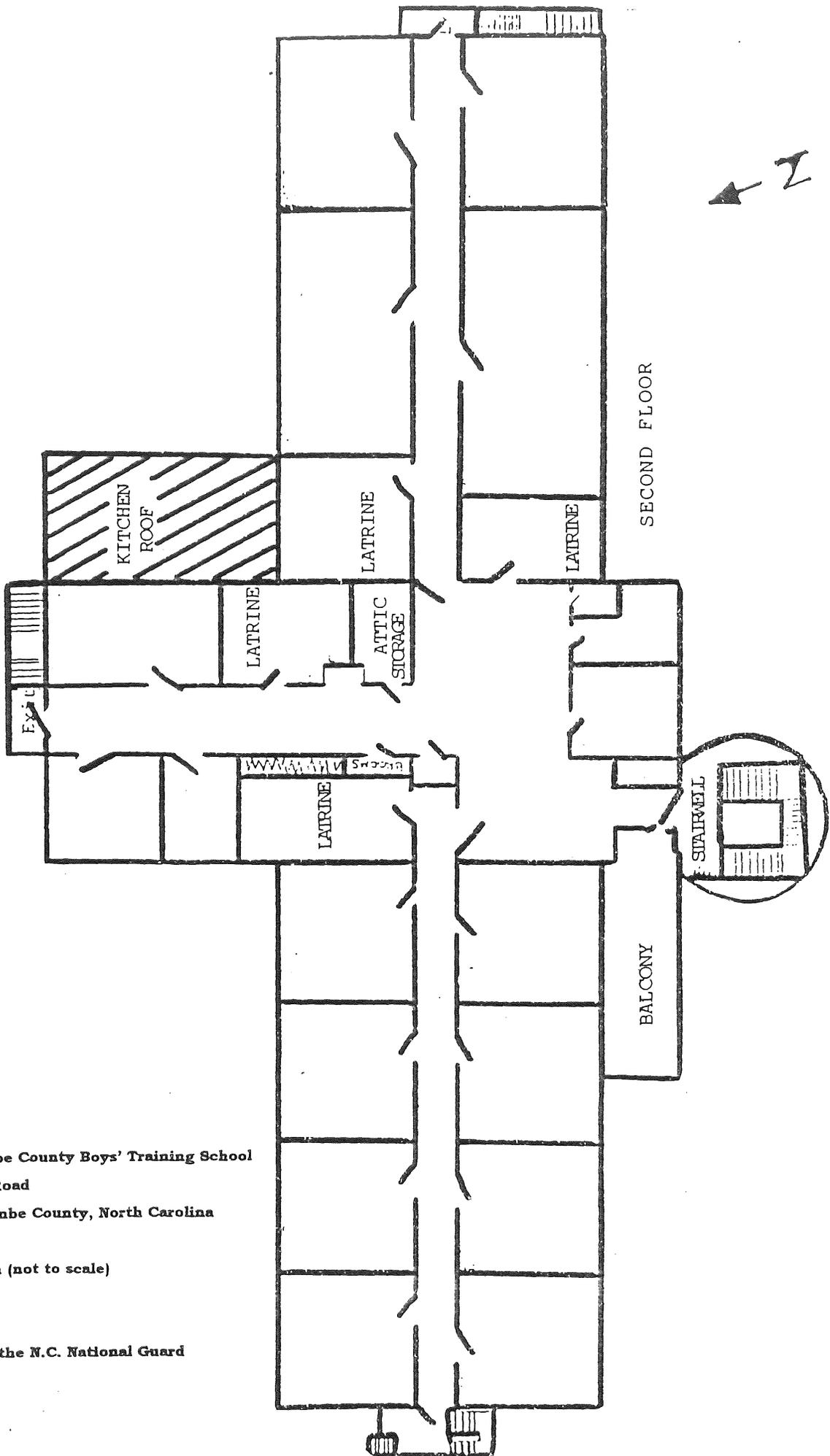


Key to Photographs

(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
 177 Erwin Hills Road
 Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

Sketch Floor Plan (not to scale)
 Ground Floor

Map prepared by the N.C. National Guard



(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
 177 Erwin Hills Road
 Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

Sketch Floor Plan (not to scale)
 Second Floor

Map prepared by the N.C. National Guard

LAND DIAGRAM

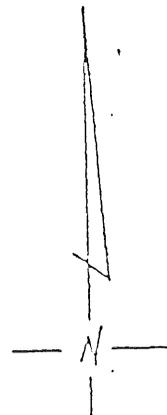
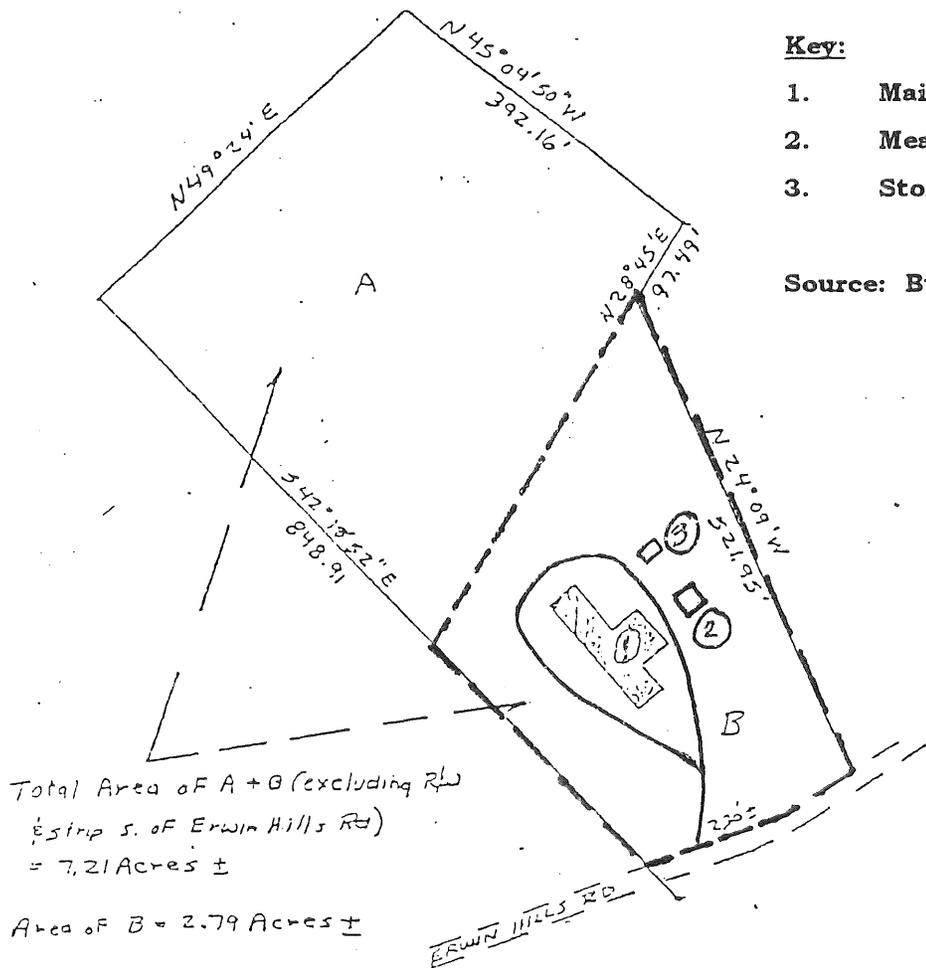
PROPERTY OF BUNCOMBE CO.

(former) Buncombe County Boys' Training School
 177 Erwin Hills Road
 Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

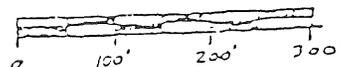
Key:

- 1. Main Building
- 2. Meat House/Cannery
- 3. Storage Building

Source: Buncombe County Tax Map



SCALE = 1" = 200'



ADDRESS: 177 ERWIN HILLS ROAD, ASHEVILLE, NC

