

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic E. B. Hamrick Hall

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Gardner-Webb College Campus not for publication

city, town Boiling Springs vicinity of congressional district Tenth

state North Carolina code 37 county Cleveland code 045

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Dr. Craven Williams, President, Gardner-Webb College

street & number Box 897

city, town Boiling Springs vicinity of state North Carolina 28017

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cleveland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Shelby state North Carolina 28150

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

E. B. Hamrick Hall is a straightforward institutional building with simple Colonial Revival overtones located at the geographic center of the small Cleveland County community of Boiling Springs. The structure is the oldest building on the campus of Gardner-Webb College, which otherwise consists almost entirely of post-World War II Colonial Revival type buildings.

The two-story brick structure is built on a T-plan on a raised foundation; the slope of the ground to the rear gives a full three-story height to the rear wing, which is formed by the stem of the T. A cast-stone water table carries around all sides of the building between the main floor and the basement level. The front section of the building contains offices and classrooms and is covered with a low-pitched hip roof; the rear auditorium wing is under a gable roof.

The structure is of modest Colonial Revival derivation, with the only stylistic embellishment appearing on the projecting five-bay entrance pavilion centered on the nine-bay front (east) elevation. The main floor is reached by a long flight of concrete stairs. The central three bays are defined by an engaged tetrastyle centerpiece of white cast stone that contrasts with the red brick of the building. Tapered, rectangular-in-section pilasters with Ionic capitals rise two stories and support a simple entablature. The building's name is applied in raised metal letters across the frieze. A dentiled cornice carries beneath the shallow pediment, which rises above the top of the facade wall and completes the composition.

Double-leaf, glazed doors of ten lights per leaf, each pair under a deep transom of five horizontal lights, open between the pilasters on the main floor level. Above the doors are paired casement windows of nine lights each under semicircular fanlights. All other windows in the building are of six-over-six sash, occurring singly on the front block, and in pairs on all three levels along the first five bays of the seven-bay deep rear wing.

At the four-bay west gable end of the rear wing the two central bays project forward slightly, and contain an interior rear stair hall. The exterior door from the basement level is sheltered by a modern flat roof porch cover, supported by iron posts. A wide brick and concrete platform, also recent, is used as an outdoor stage area for activities on the campus green behind Hamrick Hall.

The interior was completely rebuilt after the 1937 fire gutted the building, and is of standard mid-twentieth century quality and finish, with plastered walls, linoleum floors and horizontal panel doors set in metal casements with transoms. Offices, classrooms, and storage rooms open off the transverse hall on all three floors of the front block, with open, metal stairways at both ends of the hall. The upper two floors of the rear wing contain the large auditorium. Seats are the typical institutional type of wood with metal arm rests and fold-up seats. The basement floor of the rear wing contains classrooms, language labs, and computer rooms.

Today the building houses the offices, classrooms, and labs of the school's language department, the drama department, and the campus computer center.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1920-1925; 1943      **Builder/Architect** Original building unknown; renovation by Junius McAllister

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

E. B. Hamrick Hall is the oldest building remaining on the campus of Gardner-Webb College. The building was originally called the Memorial Building when it was completed in 1925. Partially gutted by fire in 1937, it was rebuilt and renamed for Elijah Bly Hamrick (1858-1946), a Boiling Springs businessman who gave generously to the school on a number of occasions and who served on the school's Board of Trustees for over four decades. Gardner-Webb College, once characterized by Governor O. Max Gardner as the school that "refused to die," was founded in 1905 as Boiling Springs High School, in Cleveland County. Supported by the King's Mountain and Sandy Run Baptist associations, the denominational school became a Junior College in 1928. In 1942 it became Gardner-Webb Junior College, and in 1971 it became a four year college. The school was plagued by financial problems throughout its early days, particularly in the Great Depression, but survived, largely through the generosity of patrons like Hamrick. Today it is a thriving member of the state's family of Baptist educational institutions, and Hamrick Hall is one of the school's busiest buildings. The building symbolizes for many alumni and local citizens the dedication and resiliency of the early leaders of the school.

**Criteria Assessment:**

A. Associated with founding and difficult early years of Gardner-Webb College, a Baptist institution significant in the educational development of the southwestern North Carolina Piedmont.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet      HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE      Item number      8

Page 1

The E. B. Hamrick Building is the oldest building on the campus of Gardner-Webb College, which is located in the Cleveland County town of Boiling Springs. The Hamrick Building was completed in 1925, and was rebuilt in the 1940s following its partial destruction by fire. It has been used for a variety of educational, administrative, and extra-curricular activities during its history.

Gardner-Webb College was founded in 1905 as Boiling Springs High School. In that year the Kings Mountain Baptist Association had been interested in higher education since shortly after the Civil War, and had supported a number of Baptist institutions, including Wake Forest College, Meredith College, and an unsuccessful female college in Shelby in the 1880s.<sup>1</sup> The town of Boiling Springs was picked as the site of this denominational high school largely because "Boiling Springs was a community long interested in the education of its youth" as evidenced by its support of a number of post Civil War Academies, the most notable of which was the Boiling Springs Academy, founded by B. H. Bridges.<sup>2</sup>

Boiling Springs High School opened for classes in October, 1907, with a student body of 135 and five faculty members. The first commencement was held in 1910. By 1920 the school's enrollement totaled 335.<sup>3</sup> As enrollment increased the small school's space problems became acute. In 1919 the Board of Trustees began to raise money for the construction of an all-purpose building. The building was planned as a memorial to the soldiers and sailors from the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run associations who served in the World War, especially the three former students of the school who were killed in the war. The board raised \$40,000 and construction was begun in the spring of 1920, with an anticipated completion date in the fall. The construction of the building was plagued by cost overruns and tight money. The building lay partly completed for several years. It was not finished until 1925, at a final cost of \$65,000, and then only after the Board of Trustees floated a \$40,000 bond secured by a mortgage of school property, and after the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina aided the project financially.<sup>3</sup>

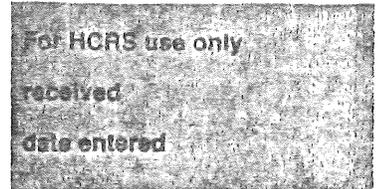
Boiling Springs High School began to feel the competition of public high schools in the middle 1920s and suffered major losses in enrollment. The school had 272 students in 1925, when the Memorial Building was completed, 214 in 1926, 184 in 1927, and only 138 in 1928. In the fall of 1928 the school became a Junior College.<sup>5</sup>

The first decade of life as a Junior College for the school was perilous. The Depression aggravated an already chronic financial problem, while diminishing the pool of potential students. Other problems, such as lack of accreditation, and an inadequate physical plant, plagued the school. One account writes: "The combination of deficiencies created a serious financial dilemma that darkened the campus throughout the 1930s."<sup>6</sup> In spite of this adversity the college continued to make strides in its academic program. By 1930 the school was able to tell its supporters that "every Department was headed by a teacher holding a Master's degree from a standard college or its equivalent."<sup>7</sup>

The school suffered a major setback in 1937. Shortly after midnight on November 12 the Memorial Building was seriously damaged by fire. The interior of the building was gutted, leaving only the walls standing. The college managed to carry on classes with difficulty. It was determined that the portion of the walls still standing was sturdy

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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



Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 2

enough that the building could be rebuilt. However, this was not accomplished for some time. The school used the insurance money obtained for the Memorial Building to pay off outstanding debts.<sup>8</sup>

The restored building was not completed until 1943. Junius McAllister, a student, was the foreman of the project. Money was raised for the project by the donations of a number of area Baptist churches and individuals, including former Governor O. Max Gardner, who donated \$10,000 and Charles and John Dover who matched that donation.<sup>9</sup>

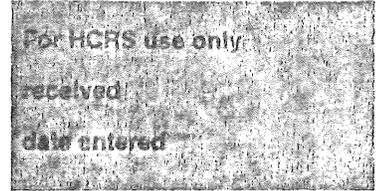
The building was renamed the E. B. Hamrick Building. Elijah Hamrick (1858-1946) was a Boiling Springs businessman who had contributed generously to the school for many years. Hamrick was a member of a number of school committees and boards and was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1905 until his death. According to the school's history: "Had it not been for E. B. Hamrick . . . the school surely would have closed. At one time he marked \$4,000 off his books which the College owed him, and for almost one year he fed the student body free of charge."<sup>10</sup> On May 30, 1943 a dedication service was held as part of commencement and the old Memorial Building was formally renamed the E. B. Hamrick Building. Former Governor Gardner presided at commencement, while prominent Cleveland County minister John W. Suttle made the presentation of the Hamrick Building. Then Governor J. Melville Broughton made the dedicatory address.<sup>11</sup>

Boiling Springs College entered a new age of prosperity in the 1940s. A massive fund raising effort in the early part of the decade was spearheaded by Horace Easom of Shelby's First Baptist Church. The success of this Greater Boiling Springs Junior College Campaign put the school on sound financial footing. In 1942 the school's name was changed to Gardner-Webb, to honor two of Cleveland County's outstanding families.<sup>12</sup> Philip Lovin Elliot, who became president of the school in 1943 instituted a community involvement program at the school through which he "shaped the college's programs to meet the vocational, vicia and religious needs of the community."<sup>13</sup> Enrollment increased from 164 in 1943 to 420 in 1946, spurred by the postwar education boom. In 1948 Gardner-Webb was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In the same year Gardner-Webb was accepted as a member of the family of Baptist Colleges by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.<sup>14</sup>

Gardner-Webb has continued to expand. In 1971 it became a four year college and was granted accreditation as such. The campus has many new facilities.<sup>15</sup> Nonetheless the Hamrick Building is still an important part of the school's life. The Hamrick Building currently houses the foreign language laboratories, an auditorium used for campus dramatic productions, faculty office space, and storage space. To many Gardner-Webb alumni, students, and faculty the building symbolizes the years of struggle for the small school and the sacrifices made by its many supporters which enabled the school to survive and eventually prosper.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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



Continuation sheet      HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE      Item number 8

Page

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Lee B. Weathers, The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History (Shelby: Star Publishing Company, 1956), 104, hereinafter cited as Weathers, The Living Past of Cleveland County; Francis B. Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows: A History of Gardner-Webb College, 1907-1956 (Boiling Springs: Gardner-Webb College, 1957), 17-21, hereinafter cited as Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows.

<sup>2</sup>Weathers, The Living Past of Cleveland County, 104; Our Heritage: A History of Cleveland County (Shelby: Shelby Daily Star, 1976), 201, hereinafter cited as Our Heritage.

<sup>3</sup>Our Heritage, 202.

<sup>4</sup>Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 55-56, 59-61. When finished the Memorial Building was the main administration building, contained all classrooms, and had the school's main auditorium.

<sup>5</sup>Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 55-61; Our Heritage, 190, 202; Weathers, The Living Past of Cleveland County, 105-106.

<sup>6</sup>Our Heritage, 202.

<sup>7</sup>Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 202.

<sup>8</sup>Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 82-84.

<sup>9</sup>Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 97-98.

<sup>10</sup>Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 74-75, 206.

<sup>11</sup>Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 98; News and Observer (Raleigh), June 1, 1943.

<sup>12</sup>Our Heritage, 202.

<sup>13</sup>Our Heritage, 2-3.

<sup>14</sup>Our Heritage, 203-204; Dedmond, Lengthened Shadows, 127-136.

<sup>15</sup>Our Heritage, 204.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.7 acre

Quadrangle name Boiling Springs South, N.C.-S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	4	3	9	2	3	0	3	9	0	0	7	1	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property includes the building and its immediate landscaping, a 0.7 acre parcel bounded by the sidewalks that encircle the building and separate the building from the later twentieth century campus development.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Statement of Significance by Jim Sumner, Researcher  
Property description by Michael Southern, Survey Specialist

organization Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section  
N. C. Division of Archives and History date January 8, 1981

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919-733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

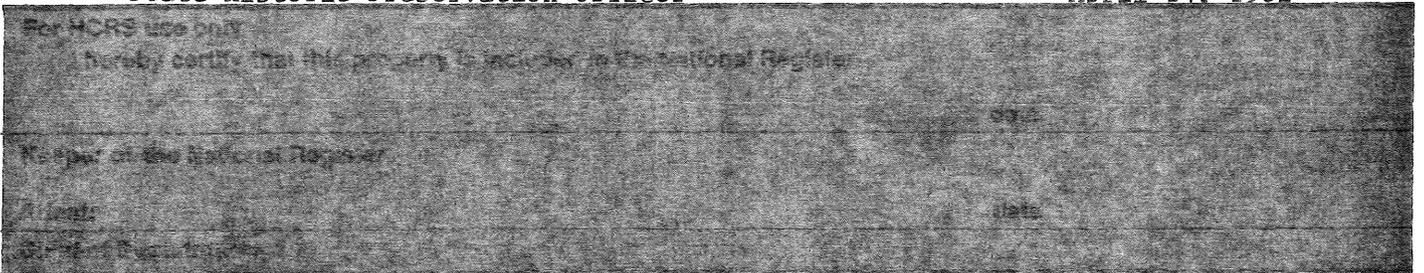
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

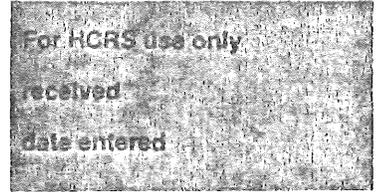
national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 14, 1982



United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

Page 1

Demond, Francis B. Lengthened Shadows: A History of Gardner-Webb College. Boiling Springs: Gardner-Webb College, 1907-1956.

News and Observer (Raleigh). June 1, 1943.

Our Heritage: A History of Cleveland County. Shelby: Shelby Star, 1976.

Weathers, Lee B. The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History. Shelby: Shelby Daily Star, 1976.

E.B. Hamrick Hall 0.7 acre  
Boiling Springs, NC  
Boiling Springs South Quad  
Scale: 1:24,000 Zone 17

Easting 439230  
Northing 3900710

