

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 Patterson School Historic District

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Along both sides of NC 268 at the junction with SR 1504 N/A  not for publication

city or town Legerwood N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Caldwell code 027 Zip code 28661

### 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 Crow SHPO 10/27/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State of 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:)	_____	_____

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	
13	26	buildings
2	0	sites
3	9	structures
0	0	objects
18	35	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EDUCATION/school
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- RELIGION/religious facility
- FUNERARY/cemetery
- AGRICULTURE/agriculture field
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- LANDSCAPE/forest
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EDUCATION/school
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- EDUCATION/education related
- FUNERARY/cemetery
- AGRICULTURE/agriculture field
- AGRICULTURE/ animal facility
- LANDSCAPE/forest
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- walls BRICK
- WOOD
- roof ASPHALT
- other WOOD

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912-1954

Significant Dates

1912

1918

1920s

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, etc.

Name of repository:



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**FUNCTION OR USE**

**Historic Functions, cont'd.**

INDUSTRY/energy facility  
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/storage

**Current Functions, cont'd.**

DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding  
RECREATION/sports facility

**DESCRIPTION**

**Architectural Classification, cont'd.**

Late Gothic Revival  
Other: Ranch

**Materials, cont'd.**

walls: STONE  
CONCRETE

**Summary and Setting**

Patterson School Historic District is a rural district composed of approximately 1695 acres containing fifty-three resources. Located in the Yadkin River Valley of western North Carolina's Caldwell County, the district possesses land elevations that rise more than 1000 feet, ranging from the broad bottom lands of the river to the 2,200-foot-high ridge of Ripshin Mountain—a distance of approximately 1.7 miles. The Yadkin River forms the southeast boundary of the district, Buffalo Creek forms much of the east boundary, the ridge of Ripshin Mountain forms the north boundary, and Church

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Branch forms a portion of the southwest boundary. Within this area are dramatic vistas of rich agricultural lands and mountains. The district is composed of agricultural fields, hilly school and residential sites, and mountainside timber land. Highway NC 268 follows a curving path of approximately 1.45 miles through the southern part of the district paralleling the Yadkin River, and SR 1504 (Buffalo Cove Road) runs approximately 1.25 miles north from NC 268, paralleling Buffalo Creek near the eastern edge of the district.

In the Patterson School Historic District, the landscape (1) is nearly as important as the built resources. Land within the district was originally part of the holdings of area patriarch General William Lenoir, and most of it was later the seat of the Palmyra plantation of the Jones and Patterson families that became Patterson School. This land remained central to the existence of the school, with the numerous acres of cultivated fields and timber serving both as an educational tool and as a source of food and income for the institution. The remaining land was owned in the twentieth century by the Dobbin family, who played a prominent role at Patterson School and then farmed the land west of the school. Much of the Dobbin land remains under cultivation or in timber.

The focal point of the district is Patterson School (2), established in 1909, which comprises 1,439 acres, or eighty-five percent of the district's total acreage, and thirty-four resources, or sixty-four percent of all resources in the district. Historically an agricultural school, it retains cultivated land, timber land, agricultural buildings, and a campus of academic, residential, recreational, and service resources. Somewhat removed from the center of the campus to the southwest is the Chapel of Rest (2-Z) and the Jones-Patterson Cemetery (2-AA) immediately behind it.

Beyond the school property to the southwest, the district includes properties primarily associated with the family and descendants of Hugh and Emma Dobbin, who were closely tied to Patterson School for many years. These properties include three houses of three generations of the Dobbin family, related outbuildings, and agricultural and timber lands that are and/or were a part of the family's holdings from the early to mid-twentieth century. In addition, the district includes three late-twentieth-century houses that are unrelated to the school or to the Dobbin family.

The buildings themselves illustrate much of the history of the school and related Dobbin family resources through their chronology, building types, and styles. Brick and frame buildings predominate, but there are also buildings constructed of stone and a variety of modern materials. Most are one or two stories in height. The oldest building in the district is the Patterson School Headmaster's House (2-L), a handsome wood-shingled bungalow located on a hill at the rear of the collection of buildings that make up the core campus. It was built with the help of student labor in 1912, three years after the school opened.

During the 1920s, three academic buildings were erected in a row at the front of the Patterson School campus. All are brick and all reflect to some extent the popular and stately Colonial Revival

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style. The first was Gard Hall (2-C), built in 1920-21. Originally used as a combined dormitory, daily chapel, dining room, and kitchen, it is a large, three-story building with a hipped roof, paired and tripled windows on the facade, and front and side classical entrance porches that originally wrapped around the southeast and southwest sides of the building. Next to Gard Hall on the southwest is the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library (2-B), built immediately after Gard Hall in 1922. It is a one-story building with a front-gable roof with wood-shingled gable end and an engaged, classical, front porch. In 1951 the library was enlarged and remodeled on the interior for new use as the school chapel. At the southwest end of the row stands Palmyra Hall (2-A). It was built in 1927 to replace Palmyra, home throughout the nineteenth century of the Jones and Patterson families, and after 1909 the school's original multi-purpose building until it burned in 1924. Palmyra Hall was built as a fireproof structure. It is three stories in height, with a flat, parapeted roof and a one-story classical porch that shelters the center five bays of the facade. Now the school's administration building, Palmyra Hall was used originally for recitation rooms, dormitory space, social halls, and the school's infirmary.

Across NC 268 and southwest of the central campus are the school's agricultural buildings, including a 1920s barn (2-U), a 1945 barn (2-W) and a 1945 milk house (2-T), along with a separate silo (2-V), a riding ring (2-X), and a horse show arena (2-Y). The 1920s barn has a poured concrete lower half, a German-sided upper half, and a broad gable roof that shelters a center passage with four stalls on either side and a hay loft above. An attached concrete silo rises on the south side of this barn, while an unattached silo rises on the north side. Located southwest of the 1920s barn, the 1945 barn is similar in construction—with a concrete base and German-siding above—to its predecessor, but is much larger, capable of housing eighty-five cows. The 1945 barn has a gambrel roof that covers a large, open interior with a south-side passage. The milk house, located northeast of the 1920s barn, is the smallest of the three buildings. Like the 1920s barn, it continues the use of a concrete lower half with a German-sided upper half, topped by a gable roof.

Located southwest of the central campus on a wooded hill overlooking the bottomland of the Yadkin River, the Chapel of Rest (2-Z) dates from 1918, when it was erected to replace the original 1886 chapel that had burned in 1916. Intended to replicate as closely as possible the original building, the chapel is a frame Carpenter Gothic-style church with a combination of board-and-batten and weatherboard exterior siding and a steep roof with a decorated gable and a belfry at the west end. The interior features unpainted beaded boarding and exposed wood ceiling trusses. The Chapel of Rest is one of the best preserved of the small country churches in Caldwell County.

Southwest of Patterson School are the three Dobbin houses, ranging in date from the early 1930s to 1950. At the far southwest end of the district is the Edgar Dobbin House (8), the oldest and architecturally finest of the three. Built of cut fieldstone, it is a remarkably intact Tudor Revival house representative of its early 1930s period of construction. Defining features include an asymmetrical form,

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front gables whose ridges flare upward, a large front chimney, an arched entry with a heavy round-arched batten door, diamond-paned casement windows, and a similarly stylish interior. Across the road and northeast of the Edgar Dobbin House is the Hugh Dobbin House (7), built by Edgar for his parents around 1939. It is a simple frame bungalow with German siding, a side-gable roof, paired and tripled windows, and a bungalow porch across part of the facade. Its interior is similarly modest, but retains a noteworthy period kitchen. Northeast of the Hugh Dobbin House, and separated from it by an unrelated late-twentieth-century house (6), is the dwelling (5) built in 1950 by Charles E. Dobbin, grandson of Hugh. It is a large, brick veneered, ranch-style house with a hipped roof and a large rear chimney. The Charles Dobbin House is representative of the early wave of dwellings built in the ranch style, coming after the bungalows and period houses of the pre-war era.

The most recent buildings in the district were built primarily during the 1960s and 1970s. They include a group of dormitories, classroom buildings, and other buildings erected on the Patterson School campus during a period of heavy building activity that began around 1960 (2-D-K, M, N). Located behind the front row of 1920s buildings, these are one- and two-story, brick-veneered structures with Colonial Revival decorative features. Also included in this period are three houses along the eastern edge of the central campus (2-O, P, Q), and three residences southwest of the school property (3, 4, 6).

The district also contains a number of secondary campus utility buildings and domestic outbuildings. Most of these are small and are of frame or concrete block construction. They consist mostly of pump houses, sheds, and garages. Except for the 1930s stone garage at the Edgar Dobbin House, these buildings and structures date primarily from after 1960.

Other resources in the district that are as significant as the buildings are the dam on Buffalo Creek and the cemetery behind the Chapel of Rest. The Buffalo Creek Dam (2-R) is all that remains of a site that was important to the functioning of the school. During the early twentieth century, the school operated a mill here that ground the school's corn and wheat. Later, a power plant that generated electricity for the school stood at the site. Behind the Chapel of Rest is a stone-walled Jones-Patterson Cemetery (2-AA) that dates from 1856, well before the first chapel was erected in 1886. It was first the burial ground for members of the interrelated Jones and Patterson families and later was expanded to include others from the vicinity. The Jones and Patterson families were owners of Palmyra plantation on which Patterson School was established and were prominent in nineteenth-century life in Happy Valley.

### Integrity

Even though the majority of the district's resources do not contribute to its historic character, the Patterson School Historic District retains sufficient historic integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association in its contributing resources for listing in the National Register.

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The eighteen contributing resources—both natural and man-made—are of a scale and level of significance that clearly assert both a visual and an historical dominance over the non-contributing resources. Although the central core of the Patterson School campus has more non-contributing than contributing resources, the non-contributing resources do not significantly diminish the historic character of the school. This is because three of the primary contributing resources—Palmyra Hall (2-A), the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library (2-B), and Gard Hall (2-C)—are on the front row of buildings facing NC 268 and thereby provide passersby with their first visual impression of the historic school. Two of those buildings—Palmyra Hall and Gard Hall—are three stories in height, physically dominating the smaller buildings to their rear. Tucked behind the front row of buildings and less visible from NC 268 are the dormitories, classroom buildings, dining hall, and infirmary. These buildings were not erected until the 1960s, and thereby are categorized as non-contributing, but all are red brick and, except for the infirmary, reflect Colonial Revival styling, so that they are similar in style and materials to the contributing Palmyra Hall, Sarah Joyce Lenoir Library, and Gard Hall. Scattered behind the second row of buildings are a 1960s brick faculty duplex (2-J), the 1970 Stoney Gymnasium (2-I), and a variety of small service buildings (2-M, N), along with the contributing Equipment Barn (2-K), and 1912 Headmaster's House (2-L). Southwest of the core campus of Patterson School, the most prominent features of the district, in addition to the landscape itself, are the school barns (2-U, W) and milk house (2-T), the Chapel of Rest (2-Z), and the Charles E. Dobbin House (5), the Hugh Dobbin House (7), and the Edgar Dobbin House (8) and its garage, all contributing resources and all highly visible from NC 268. The three noncontributing houses southwest of the Patterson School campus and their outbuildings are largely unseen from NC 268, and most of the noncontributing outbuildings associated with the Dobbin houses—excepting the recently built but sensitively designed garage adjacent to the Hugh Dobbin House—are either difficult to see or not visible at all from the road.

### Inventory List

The following inventory lists all resources within the Patterson School Historic District. The primary resources are numbered. The sub-resources that make up Patterson School are lettered. Outbuildings associated with individual houses are listed, but not given separate letters or numbers. The district's resources are keyed by their number or letter to the accompanying district maps. Each resource listing is accompanied by its associated date of construction or period of significance and its contributing or non-contributing status. A contributing resource adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because: it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity, or is capable of yielding important information about the period; or it

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meets the National Register criteria. A noncontributing resource does not add to the historic architectural qualities, historic associations, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because: it was not present during the period of significance or does not relate to the documented significance of the property; due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period; or it does not independently meet the National Register criteria. Following each resource heading is a summary of the physical character and, when known, the history of the resource. Research notes and sources are included in the district inventory files held by the State Historic Preservation Office.

## 1. Landscape

Roughly north of Yadkin River, west of Buffalo Creek, east of Church Branch, and south of ridge of Ripshin Mountain  
Contributing site

The Patterson School Historic District is composed of approximately 1695 acres, 1,439 of which are the property of Patterson School. The majority of the district's acreage is timber land, which extends from the hills on the north side of NC 268 to the Ripshin Mountain ridge, the primary north boundary of the district. Most of this timber land is owned by Patterson School. However, additional timber land—approximately 141 acres north of NC 268 and the Dobbin family houses and southwest of the Patterson School property—was owned during much of the twentieth century by Hugh and Edgar Dobbin and remains in the ownership of their descendants. Between NC 268 and the Yadkin River and between SR 1504 and Buffalo Creek, spread the broad bottom lands of the Yadkin River and Buffalo Creek flood plains. In all, the lands of the Patterson School Historic District rise more than 1,000 feet from the Yadkin River to the Ripshin Mountain ridge.

The Yadkin River, flowing roughly from west to east, and Buffalo Creek, flowing from north to south until it enters the Yadkin River, are the two primary water courses that help to define the landscape of the district. In addition, several small branches—among which are Church Branch and Barnett Branch that flow into the Yadkin River and Sarrett Branch that flows into Buffalo Creek—help keep the landscape lush. There are also two ponds in the district: one on the Patterson School campus near the gymnasium and tennis courts, and the other in front of the Charles E. Dobbin House (5).

Two roads traverse the Patterson School Historic District. NC 268 runs parallel to the Yadkin

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River near the southern edge of the district, and SR 1504 parallels Buffalo Creek near the eastern edge of the district. In addition, SR 1505 cuts eastward from SR 1504 near the eastern boundary of the district below Buffalo Creek Dam (2-R), crossing Buffalo Creek by way of a low-water bridge with concrete pylons, steel beams, and an asphalt-covered wood deck. Private lanes provide direct access the district's buildings. For the district's houses, these lanes take the form of driveways, including a shared driveway leading from NC 268 to the Raby Woods House (3), the Miller House (4), and the Charles E. Dobbin House (5). A steep, winding drive leads north from a sharp curve in NC 268 to the Chapel of Rest (2-Z) and the Jones-Patterson Cemetery (2-AA).

Most pronounced in the district is the system of lanes that leads to the various buildings on the core campus of Patterson School. Most of these lanes are gravel. The first row of buildings on the core campus are set back from NC 268, leaving a broad expanse of lawn fronting the school. From NC 268, two lanes enter the core campus. At the east end of the core campus, a lane leads northward from NC 268 to serve a Faculty Duplex (2-O), the 1960s Headmaster's House (2-P), and the Chaplain's House (2-Q). However, the primary lane leading to the core campus buildings runs northward from NC 268 west of most of the buildings. As the primary lane heads northward into the campus, it branches off to form an east-west, tree-lined lane that runs along the front of Palmyra Hall (2-A), the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library (2-B), Gard Hall (2-C), and M. George Henry Hall (2-D) before joining the north-south lane at the east end of campus. As the primary north-south lane continues northward past the west side of Palmyra Hall, it branches off to the west, forming a secondary lane leading to the Stoney Gymnasium (2-I). The primary lane then continues in a northeastward direction until it passes the second east-west row of campus buildings, after which it turns east, continuing until it joins the north-south lane at the east end of campus. In this way, campus roads encircle the two main rows of buildings, but do not interfere with the interior landscape between the buildings, leaving that area entirely pedestrian with sidewalks connecting the buildings. This area is landscaped with grassy lawns, trees, boxwoods and other shrubs. At the point where the primary campus lane turns eastward behind (north of) the second row of buildings, it branches northward three times: first to access a Faculty Duplex (2-J), secondly to reach the Equipment Barn (2-K), and lastly to form a circular drive leading to and around the 1912 Headmaster's House (2-L).

During the early and mid twentieth century, the bottom lands of the district were used for the cultivation of such crops as corn, wheat, potatoes, beans, and a variety of garden vegetables and for the raising of cattle, hogs, and poultry. Today, some of the bottom land continues to be

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planted in corn. However, much more of it—especially near the west end of the district on lands once owned by the Dobbins family—is used for the commercial cultivation of trees and shrubs, while the area immediately southwest of the central core of Patterson School is used for the stabling, exercising, and grazing of horses. On the north side of NC 268, immediately west of most of the core campus buildings at Patterson School, the landscape includes athletic fields and tennis courts associated with the school. The landscape also provides the immediate settings for the buildings of Patterson School and the houses located west of the school.

### 2. **Patterson School**

Both sides NC 268, 0.5 mi SW of jct w/SR 1504  
1909-1954

The following is an overall introduction to Patterson School and is not a counted resource. The counted resources that make up Patterson School are listed alphabetically following the introduction.

Patterson School is located on a tract of land consisting of approximately 1439 acres composed of bottom lands along the Yadkin River, now used primarily for the cultivation of crops such as corn and for pastures, rolling hills for the core campus, and mountainous timber land on the north side of the school. In addition to its extensive lands, Patterson School includes athletic fields, a pond, and a collection of academic, agricultural, residential, and service buildings. The first row of buildings includes three 1920s buildings and a 1960s dormitory that face a tree-lined lane running parallel to NC 268. A second row of buildings, dating from the 1960s and early 1970s, is arranged parallel to and behind the 1920s buildings. Other buildings, including the 1912 Headmaster's House (2-L), spread outward behind the first two rows of buildings. The school barns (2-U, V) are located in the bottom land across (on the south side of) NC 268, while the Chapel of Rest (2-Z) and the Jones-Patterson Cemetery (2-AA) are on a hill west of the main body of the campus.

Historically, Patterson School was part of the extensive lands owned by Happy Valley patriarch General William Lenoir (1751-1839) and given to his daughter, Ann, and her husband, General Edmund Jones (1771-1839), upon their marriage. Until the death of the Joneses in the late 1830s, the property was their home and plantation known as Palmyra. It then became the plantation of their daughter, Phebe Caroline (1806-1869), and her husband, General Samuel Finley Patterson (1799-1874). Upon the Pattersons' deaths, Palmyra was inherited by their

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youngest son, Samuel Legerwood Patterson (1850-1908). He was the state's first commissioner of agriculture, and when he died in 1908, he left all of his Palmyra property to the Episcopal Church to be developed as an agricultural school for mountain boys. Thus Patterson School was established in 1909 and for half a century continued its emphasis on an agricultural education. Throughout its period as an agricultural school, the property's agricultural and timber lands remained a vital part of the school—both for educational purposes and as a source of income. In the 1950s, the focus of the school changed, and since that time it has served primarily as a college preparatory school.

**A. Palmyra Hall**

1927

Contributing building

In 1924 Palmyra, the nineteenth-century home of the Jones and Patterson families and Patterson School's primary building in the early twentieth century, burned. It was replaced in 1927 by Palmyra Hall, a three-story, five-to-one common bond red-brick building with a flat, parapeted roof crowned by a ceramic tile coping. The T-shaped building is nine bays wide across the facade and two bays deep, while the rear wing is three bays wide and three bays deep. Single and paired windows are six-over-six sash, and vertical-brick string courses wrap the building above each row of windows. Stylistically, Palmetto Hall is very plain, except for the front porch, which exhibits influences of the Colonial Revival style. The one-story porch across the center five bays of the facade has classical, paneled posts and a central entrance whose round-arched marble tympanum proclaims the name and date of the building. Originally, the flat-roofed porch was topped by a wood balustrade with crossed railings set between short wood posts, but this was removed sometime after 1960. Palmyra Hall was erected with the help of student labor. Originally, it was used for recitation rooms, dormitory space, an infirmary, and social halls. Today it is used primarily for administrative offices.

**B. Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library (now Chapel)**

1922; 1951

Contributing building

The Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library was erected in 1922, its construction funded largely by a bequest to the school in Sarah Joyce Lenoir's will and by gifts from other

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members of the interrelated Gwyn and Lenoir families and friends of the school. In 1951 it was determined that the school's daily chapel, located in Gard Hall (2-C), was too small to comfortably accommodate the student body. Consequently, the library was transferred to Gard Hall, and the former library building was enlarged and remodeled on the interior to serve as the chapel. Separated from the adjacent Palmyra Hall (2-A) by numerous boxwoods, the building is a one-story brick structure with a front-gable roof that extends beyond the front wall of the building to cover an engaged porch. The stylistically eclectic porch exhibits classicism with its square classical posts and broad pedimented gable, but the square-cut wood shingles that sheathe the pediment are more a reflection of the Craftsman style popular during the 1910s and 1920s. Four steps lead to the porch and the three-bay-wide facade with its central entrance flanked by single six-over-six sash windows. Originally the building was two bays deep with paired and tripled six-over-six sash windows on the side elevations. In 1951 it was lengthened by two bays to create the new chancel and extended slightly on either side—covered by shed roofs—to create space for the new sacristy and choir room. These rooms were dedicated in honor of the Reverend Hugh Dobbin and his wife, Emma, for their many years of service to the school. The double stained-glass window at the rear of the chancel was given by the Reverend James Sill of Tryon.

**C. Gard Hall**  
1920-1921  
Contributing building

Lenoir resident Caroline S. Gard provided \$10,000 to build Gard Hall as a memorial to her late husband, Charles. Originally the building was used for classrooms, offices, dormitory, chapel, dining room, and kitchen, but today it serves as the school library and as school offices. Gard Hall is a three-story, brick, seven-bays-wide and three-bays-deep building with a narrow, one-bay-wide, three-story wing projecting from the rear. The Colonial Revival-style building has a raised first story on the facade and is crowned by a hipped roof with hipped dormers on the facade. A single chimney rises near the center of the facade, while another one rises at the rear of the building. Single stove stacks also rise from the front and rear. The center three bays of the facade have paired and tripled sash windows with flat lintels, while the remaining windows are single and have segmental-arched heads. All have six-over-six sash. Originally a one-story classical porch wrapped around the facade and the west elevation; this has been reduced to front

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one-bay and west-side two-bay entrance porches. The clock cupola that rises from the center of the roof was added after 1968.

- D. M. George Henry Hall**  
1966  
Non-contributing building

Henry Hall is a two-story, eight-bay-wide, brick-veneer dormitory with simple Colonial Revival features, including a gable roof with corner returns and front and rear one-story classical entrance porches.

- E. George Wiese Hall**  
Ca. 1965  
Non-contributing building

Much like Henry Hall, Wiese Hall is a simple Colonial Revival-style dormitory with a gable roof, a fifteen-bay-wide facade and classical one-story entrance porches on the south facade and west elevation.

- F. Hickory Hall**  
Ca. 1965  
Non-contributing building

Hickory Hall is the school dining hall and kitchen. It is a one-story, brick-veneered, Colonial Revival-style building with a broad gable roof, gable-end chimneys, a three-bay-wide recessed Tuscan porch on the facade, and a small, pedimented entrance porch at each end of the building. A utilitarian kitchen ell extends from the rear of the building.

- G. Infirmary**  
1960s  
Non-contributing building

The infirmary is a one-story, rectangular, brick-veneered building with a low hipped roof.

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**H. Classroom Buildings (Chester Hall, Stoney Hall, Van Noppen Hall)**

Ca. 1970

Non-contributing buildings (3)

This classroom building complex is composed of a two-story center block (Stoney Hall) recessed behind a one-story block on either side (Chester Hall to the east, Van Noppen Hall to the west), the whole connected by a central brick courtyard and covered brick walks. Designed in the Colonial Revival style, each building is brick veneered with a gable roof, gable-end chimneys, and classical entrance porticos.

**I. Stoney Gymnasium**

1970

Non-contributing building

Stoney Gymnasium is a large, concrete-block and corrugated-metal building with a very low-pitched gable roof. It stands beyond the pond northwest of the central campus.

**J. Faculty Duplex**

1960s

Non-contributing building

This is a one-story brick-veneered duplex with a broad gable roof and vertical-board gable ends.

**K. Equipment Barn**

1950s

Contributing building

The equipment barn is a neat, German-sided frame building with a broad gable roof, six open bays facing west, a north-end shed, and an upper-level ramped entrance on the east side.

**L. Headmaster's House**

1912

Contributing building

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The first house built for the Patterson School headmaster was constructed with the help of student labor. Today, it survives as the oldest building on campus and in the historic district. The one-story, wood-shingled bungalow is four bays wide and five deep. It features a hipped roof, widely overhanging flared eaves, hipped dormers, a central brick chimney, and one-over-one sash, single, paired, and tripled windows. The two-bay-wide front porch has a hipped roof matching the main roof and wood-shingled corner posts and skirt. There is a shed-roofed, German-sided addition on the rear half of the west elevation and an enclosed porch on the rear northwest corner of the house.

**M. Maintenance Shop**

Post 1960

Non-contributing building

On the hill behind the headmaster's house, the maintenance shop is a one-story, German-sided building with a low gable roof and large doors and windows across the front.

**N. Utility Buildings**

Mid-twentieth century

Non-contributing structures (4)

Scattered on the open hillside north of the core campus buildings are four small well houses and sheds. Two are frame, one with a shed roof and the other with a gable roof. The other two are of concrete-block construction with gable roofs.

**O. Faculty Duplex**

1960s

Non-contributing building

At the east end of the core campus buildings, a road leads uphill from NC 268 to three widely separated houses associated with the school. The first is a one-story, brick-veneered, faculty duplex with a steep hipped roof and a hip-roofed front porch.

**P. Headmaster's House**

1960s

Non-contributing building

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In the 1960s a new headmaster's house was erected on campus. It is a modern, two-story frame dwelling with vertical board and glass-panel siding and a roof composed of multiple sheds.

### **Carport**

1960s

Non-contributing structure

Northwest of the house is a one-vehicle carport with four corner posts and a low gable roof.

### **Q. Chaplain's House**

1960s

Non-contributing building

This long, one-story, brick-veneered, ranch-style house has a broad gable roof, a large interior chimney, and a gable-front entrance porch.

### **R. Buffalo Creek Dam**

Pre-1940

Contributing structure

During Patterson School's early years, a mill at this location ground the school's wheat and corn. Later a power plant that generated electricity for the school was erected on the site. It was destroyed in western North Carolina's great flood of August, 1940, but the dam across Buffalo Creek survives, serving as an reminder of the important role of this facility in Patterson School's history.

The concrete dam crosses Buffalo Creek less than one-tenth of a mile northwest of the junction of SR1504 and SR 1505. On the east bank, it connects to a natural rock outcropping, which is utilized as part of the dam. Most of the manmade features of the dam are at its west end and run along the steep, natural embankment beneath the road. The offset T-shaped dam controls not only the flow of Buffalo Creek but also its confluence with a branch that enters the creek from the west. The east-west portion of the dam (top of T across Buffalo Creek) has battered sides; the north-south portion (the stem

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of the T, running parallel to the west bank) has straight sides. The downstream flow of Buffalo Creek is directed to the east side of the north-south stem. Just east of the stem, a gate near the bottom of the dam provides a controlled flow. Near the south end (base) of the stem and west of it, a concrete wall—approximately six feet tall and ten feet long—appears to control erosion and direct the flow of the western branch southward into Buffalo Creek. Just south of the dam, Buffalo Creek is approximately twenty yards wide. Two natural stone ledges across the creek cause two low falls in the water.

- S. Sewerage plant**  
Early 1960s  
Non-contributing structure

On the south side of NC 268 opposite the core campus is the school's sewerage plant. It consists of a small concrete-block structure with smaller attached structures, the whole surrounded by a chain link fence. The present sewerage plant replaced an earlier sand filtering system.

- T. Milk House**  
1945  
Contributing building

Located at the east end of the barn complex, the two-room milk house is a three-bays-wide and one-room-deep building constructed much like the 1920s barn. It has a poured-concrete lower half beneath the window sills, a German-sided upper half, and a metal-sheathed gable roof with a rectangular louvered vent at each gable end. Partially enclosed windows—single, paired, or tripled—have six-over-six sash.

- U. Barn**  
1920s  
Contributing building

Documentary photographs and an illustration in the 1928 school catalog suggest that this barn had been built by that time. Now used as a stable for horses, it originally housed cows. Like the milk house, it has a poured concrete lower half and a German-sided upper half. It is three bays wide and eight bays deep. A broad, metal-sheathed gable roof

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shelters a center passage with four stalls on either side and a hay loft. Large doors are found at each three-bay-wide gable end, and window openings line the eight-bay-deep sides. A small gabled wing projects from the center of the north elevation, while a similar two-bay-long wing projects from the south elevation near the east end of the barn. Connected to the south wing is a poured-concrete silo with a metal gabled covering.

- V. North Silo**  
Ca. 1920s  
Contributing structure

On the north side of the barn, opposite the south silo, is an unattached silo. Like the south silo, it is constructed of poured concrete, but unlike the south silo, it has lost its roof.

- W. Barn**  
1945  
Contributing building

A large barn—three bays and twelve bays deep—that could house eighty-five cows and hold 110 tons of hay was erected in 1945 to accommodate the school's enlarged dairy herd. It features a concrete block base with German siding above and is covered by a metal-sheathed gambrel roof with broad shed-roofed extensions at the sides and rear (east end). Although from the outside the barn appears to have a center passage flanked by sheds, it actually has one large interior area with a south-side passage. The 1945 barn is connected to the 1920s barn by a long corridor with concrete and fiberboard sides and a metal-sheathed shed roof that extends southward at the west end to create a large open shed.

- X. Riding Ring**  
1990s  
Non-contributing structure

In the pasture south of the 1920s barn stands an oval riding ring. Approximately six feet tall, it has a fence-like construction with vertical wood posts and five spaced rows of boards running horizontally around the ring.

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- Y. Arena**  
2004  
Non-contributing structure

In the pasture southwest of the 1945 barn stands a newly built horse show arena. Constructed of wood, it is similar to the riding ring, except that it is square in shape and is approximately one-and-a-half to two times the size of the riding ring.

- Z. Chapel of Rest**  
1918  
Contributing building

Located on the north side of NC 268 approximately a half-mile southwest of the Patterson School core campus, the Chapel of Rest is reached by a winding drive that leads from a curve in NC 268 to its hilltop site. The chapel faces south, overlooking a broad expanse of the fertile bottom lands of the Yadkin River and the mountains beyond. Under the leadership of Patterson School headmaster and priest Hugh A. Dobbin, the chapel was built in 1918 as a near copy of the original 1886 chapel that had burned in 1916. The original chapel had been built through the generosity of Samuel Legerwood Patterson and Rufus T. Lenoir and others and had been erected according to the plans and direction of the Reverend Johannes A. Oertel, artist and rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Lenoir. When the first church burned, the Reverend Dobbin pushed for its reconstruction, because at the time it was the only church within three miles and was used as a place of worship not only by Patterson School but also by the people of the neighborhood. For years the Chapel of Rest was used by Patterson School for Sunday church services and commencement exercises. Although it has been deconsecrated by the Episcopal Church, the chapel is still used for community Christmas and Thanksgiving eve services and for occasional weddings and concerts.

Resting on a brick pier foundation infilled with wooden slats, the small Carpenter Gothic-style frame building has board-and-batten siding on the four-bay north and south elevations and weatherboard siding on the east and west ends. Its steep gable roof with decorative west gable end is topped by a pyramidal-roofed open belfry at the west end. A weatherboarded polygonal apse projects from the east end of the rectangular chapel, while a small, board-and-batten room projects from near the east end of the north

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elevation. Connected by a breezeway to the east side of the projecting rear room is a ca. 2002 board-and-batten restroom facility whose design—on both exterior and interior—matches that of the chapel. The main entrance at the southwest corner of the chapel has a double-leaf doorway sheltered by a small, decorated, gabled porch. Seven balustraded steps lead to the entrance porch. Pointed-arched, four-over-four sash windows line each side of the church. Two pointed-arched windows and one round stained-glass window decorate the apse, while three lancet-arched stained glass windows flood the chapel with afternoon light from the one-bay-wide west end. The interior features a vertical beaded-board wainscot in alternating dark and light stains and horizontal beaded boarding on the remainder of the walls and ceiling, which is supported by exposed wood ceiling trusses. The recessed apse has a slightly raised floor.

**AA. Jones-Patterson Cemetery**  
1856-ca. 1981  
Contributing site

Behind (north of) the Chapel of Rest and hidden from view from NC 268 is the Jones-Patterson Cemetery with its approximately ninety graves. Interspersed throughout the cemetery are holly, magnolia, and Bradford pear trees and boxwood. The cemetery contains the graves of many members of the prominent and interrelated Jones and Patterson families. Among these are Edmund W. and Sophia Caroline Davenport Jones (1876 and 1860), who built Clover Hill nearby on the south side of the Yadkin River; Samuel Finley and Phebe Caroline Jones Patterson (1874 and 1869) of Palmyra plantation, and their son, Samuel Legerwood Patterson (1908), who bequeathed the Palmyra property to the Episcopal Church for the establishment of an agricultural school, and his wife, Mary Sophia Senseman Patterson (1909). Also buried here are Gen. Collett and Louisa Bryan Leventhorpe (1889 and 1908), Charles E. and Caroline S. Gard (1906 and 1930), George Frank Wiese (1981), a headmaster of Patterson School, and various members of the Cowles, Greer, Hall, Moore, Steele, and other families. A quarter of the graves date from the nineteenth century, the oldest being that of Patterson Harper Jones, son of Edmund W. and Sophia C. Jones, who died as a child in 1856. More than half of all graves date from 1925 or earlier. The marble and granite grave stones are fairly standard for their periods of installation. They include primarily segmental-arched vertical tablets, but also several obelisks, crosses, and stones laid flat on the ground.

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### Stone Wall

1930

Contributing structure

The Jones-Patterson Cemetery is surrounded by a mortared stone wall, about three feet in height, with a heavy timber gate with wrought iron hinges. It was erected by Rufus Lenoir Patterson II, nephew of Samuel Legerwood Patterson, in memory of his relatives and friends buried there.

### 3. Raby Woods House

1942 Hwy 268

Ca. 1975

Non-contributing building

Facing west on a private lane on the north side of NC 268, the Raby Woods House is a one-story, brick-veneer and frame, colonial ranch-style house with a low gable roof, a front porch, and a south-side garage.

### 4. Miller House

N side 268, 1.1 mi. SW of jct. w/SR 1504

Ca. 2002

Non-contributing building

Set back among the trees on a circular driveway off a private lane between the Raby Woods and Charles E. Dobbin houses, the recently built Miller House is a "single-wide" with a brick foundation, novelty vinyl siding, and a low gable roof.

### Storage Building

Ca. 2002

Non-contributing building

A metal storage building stands at the entrance to the circular driveway leading to the Miller House.

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### **Carport**

Ca. 2002

Non-contributing structure

A metal carport straddles the circular driveway leading to the Miller House.

### **Shed**

Ca. 2002

Non-contributing building

A small metal shed stands behind the house and the circular driveway.

### **5. Charles E. Dobbin House**

1936 Hwy 268

1950

Contributing building

Set far back from the north side of NC 268 behind a pond, this large, one-story, white-painted, brick-veneered house has a hipped roof, a large rear chimney, and a double-leaf front entrance. When built in 1950, the seven-bay-wide house was among the early examples in the area of the ranch-style house, a long, low dwelling type that was introduced after World War II and remained popular for several decades. First owner Charlie Dobbin, son of Edgar and Elizabeth Dobbin and grandson of Hugh A. and Emma Dobbin, built the house for his family on land that had been in the Dobbin family since 1919.

### **Workshop/garage**

Third quarter twentieth century

Non-contributing building

Behind the Dobbin House but not visible from the road is a large garage/workshop.

### **Shed**

Third quarter twentieth century

Non-contributing building

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Also behind the Dobbin House is a small shed.

**6. Munday House**

1918 Hwy 268

Ca. 1980

Non-contributing building

The Munday House is set back from NC 268 on a high wooded hill. It is a modern ranch-style house with a combination of vertical-board and wood-shingle siding, a gable roof, a large front chimney, and an attached carport on the east side.

**Sheds**

Late twentieth century

Non-contributing buildings (2)

Behind the Munday House are two small frame storage sheds.

**7. Hugh A. Dobbin House**

1890 Hwy 268

ca. 1939

Contributing building

The Hugh A. Dobbin House stands on a hill on the north side of NC 268 overlooking the rich bottom lands of the Yadkin River. It is a modest, one-story frame bungalow with German siding and a broad, side-gable roof pierced by an interior chimney. A gable-roofed porch with tapered wood posts set on brick plinths projects from the east half of the four-bay facade, while the northwest (rear) corner of the three-bay-deep house has an engaged porch, now enclosed with windows. Projecting from the rear of the house is a low wood deck. Sash windows are grouped primarily in twos and threes. The interior features a four-room plan, beaded-board walls, five-panel doors, a traditional post-and-lintel mantel, and an original five-bulb chandelier in the living room. It also contains original or early bathroom fixtures and a noteworthy period kitchen with original cabinets.

Hugh A. Dobbin (1866-1963) was an Episcopal priest who served as head of Patterson School from 1913 until his retirement in 1936. He came to Patterson School from Watauga County,

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where he was director of the Episcopal mission and school at Valle Crucis. After he retired, Dobbin maintained an active interest in Patterson School for many years. When the original Chapel of Rest burned in 1916, Dobbin's leadership saw to its reconstruction. In 1919 he and his son, Edgar, purchased over two hundred acres of land adjacent to the southwest boundary of the Patterson School property from the Lenoir family. When Hugh Dobbin retired, he and his wife, Emma, lived for several years with their son, Edgar, in his stone house (8) until Edgar could build his parents this bungalow ca. 1939. In the mid to late 1940s, Hugh Dobbin operated the store of his late brother, Nimrod, which stood on the property but later burned. He also raised cattle with his son, Bynum, who lived across the river at Clover Hill. The Dobbins continued to live in their bungalow until the 1960s. After being outside the Dobbin family ownership for some years, the house now is owned and occupied by a Dobbin descendent.

### **Garage**

Ca. 2002

Non-contributing building

East of the house stands a recently built garage. It is nearly square in shape, weatherboarded frame, and has a low gable roof. The west side has a single vehicle bay with a pedestrian door adjacent to it on the north. The south side, facing NC 268, has no fenestration, the east elevation has one eight-over-eight sash window, and the north elevation has an eight-over-eight sash window and a small fenced area, probably for the storage of garbage cans.

### **8. Edgar A. Dobbin House (Greystone)**

1865 Hwy 268

Early 1930s

Contributing building

The Edgar Dobbin House is a remarkably intact Tudor Revival-style dwelling. Built of grey field stones cut in a variety of sizes and shapes and held together by raised mortar joints, the three-bay-wide house has an irregular massing with both one and two-story sections. The hipped roof is enlivened by intersecting front gables whose ridges flare upward pagoda-style. The picturesque treatment of the exterior includes a large front chimney, an arched entry with a massive round-arched batten door, an engaged porch on the east end of the house, and an archway on the west side leading to the west side and rear yards. The most prominent windows are diamond-paned casements with lead muntins, while most windows on the rear of the house

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are six-over-one sash. The excellent interior exhibits plastered walls, a living room with a trussed-beam ceiling and a massive stone fireplace, both French and eight-panel doors, and stained woodwork. The wood cabinetry in the butler's pantry and kitchen and the tile work and fixtures in the upstairs bathroom remain notably intact. Located on the south side of NC 268, the house faces wooded, garden-like grounds, while behind the house, the property opens out onto the fertile bottom land of the Yadkin River.

In 1919 Edgar Dobbin (1895-1977) and his father, Hugh, bought more than 200 acres of land abutting the southwest boundary of Patterson School on which Edgar later built his own house and a bungalow for his parents. Edgar taught at Patterson School and his wife, Elizabeth (Greer), served as secretary and pianist. They were brought to the Legerwood community by Edgar's father, the Reverend Hugh A. Dobbin, who was head of Patterson School from 1913 to 1936. Edgar and Elizabeth lived on campus for several years; in the late 1920s until their own house was built, they lived across the river at Clover Hill, which was then owned by Edgar's brother, Bynum. Family tradition claims that Edgar and Elizabeth's stone house was built with ten-cents-an-hour labor—it was during the Depression—and that the Lyons brothers—Leslie McDonald, Clarence Manleth, and Earl Jones—from the Boone area were the stone masons. Several years after the house was built, Elizabeth Dobbin assigned the name "Greystone" to it, probably because so many of the other fine houses in Happy Valley had names. In 1935 Edgar Dobbin became a partner with founder G. C. McGimsey in the City Flour and Feed Company in nearby Lenoir, from which he retired in 1970. The house remains in family ownership and occupancy.

### **Garage**

Early 1930s

Contributing building

Located southwest of the house, the garage was probably built at the same time as the house or soon thereafter. It is a cut-stone building with two bays, a pair of small windows on either side, and a steep gable roof. The upper level has been converted in recent years to an art studio. For this, the north gable was modified with a large peaked window that follows the pitch of the roof, and skylights were installed on the east slope of the roof.

### **Chicken House**

ca. 1980

Non-contributing building

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Southeast of the house stands a small, frame, combined chicken house and shed with a metal-covered shed roof.

### **Barn**

ca. 1980

Non-contributing building

The barn stands southeast of the chicken house. It is a double-pen frame building with a center passage, stalls on either side, vertical-board siding, and a broad, metal-sheathed gable roof.

### **Shed**

Post 1960

Non-contributing building

Southeast of the barn is a large, overgrown, metal-sheathed frame shed with a metal shed roof.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Significant dates, cont'd.

Ca. 1950

#### Summary

The Patterson School Historic District is a rural education district of approximately 1695 acres with fifty-three resources located on the north side of the Yadkin River in an area of Caldwell County that has been known since the nineteenth century as Happy Valley. Within the district's boundaries is an important and varied landscape composed of agricultural fields, hilly school and residential sites, and mountainside timber land that was originally the site of Palmyra, the nineteenth-century plantation of the Jones and Patterson families. The district derives its history primarily from the story of Patterson School, and all resources that contribute to the historic character of the district bear strong historical associations with the school.

Samuel Legerwood Patterson (1850-1908) conceived of the idea for the school and gave the land on which it developed. As North Carolina's first commissioner of agriculture between 1893 and his death in 1908, Patterson pushed for the advancement of agricultural practices in the state. His progressive influence lasted beyond his death through Patterson School. In his will, Patterson bequeathed his Palmyra property (after the death of his wife, which occurred in 1909) to the trustees of the Episcopal Church's Missionary Jurisdiction of Asheville—which included twenty-seven counties in western North Carolina—for the purpose of erecting and maintaining an agricultural and industrial school for boys. The new school was one of three operated by the Episcopal Church in western North Carolina to offer instruction at the high school level. Patterson School opened in 1909 with twenty-two students; by 1922 the student body had grown to seventy-five. Although the school taught academic subjects as well as practical courses in farming, its primary goal was to train mountain boys, many of them poor, to be good farmers. In the process, Patterson School also became recognized as a model agricultural and mission school, and its farm operation was used by both state and federal agencies as a demonstration of sound land use and farm management. For nearly half a century, Patterson School emphasized an agricultural education. By 1950, however, more and more students were interested in going to college rather than in becoming farmers. Thus, the educational emphasis at Patterson School began to shift away from agriculture and toward college-preparatory academics. In 1959 the school was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In 1994 the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina sold the Patterson School property to the Patterson School

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Foundation, under which the school still operates. The Patterson School Historic District fulfills Criterion A for listing in the National Register because of its local significance in agricultural education in western North Carolina during the first half of the twentieth century.

Contributing buildings in the Patterson School Historic District form an ensemble of resources related to Patterson School, either by being a part of the school property or by having been built off campus by members of the Hugh A. Dobbin family, who had strong ties to the school over many years. As a group, these buildings are locally significant in representing architectural styles and building types that were popular in North Carolina from the 1910s to the mid-twentieth century. The three most prominent buildings on campus—Palmyra Hall, the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library, and Gard Hall—are all red brick institutional school buildings that are simple reflections of the Colonial Revival style. All were built in the 1920s and are unlike any others of the type and period in the Happy Valley area. The two barns at Patterson School, built in the 1920s and 1945, are also unlike others of this building type in Happy Valley, for in order to adequately serve the needs of a teaching facility, they are larger and more institutional in character than the other barns in the area. The Chapel of Rest is a good example of the fanciful Carpenter Gothic churches built by the Episcopal Church during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The only example of this church type in Happy Valley and the surrounding area, it was built in 1918 as a near replica of the original chapel that was erected in 1886 but burned in 1916. The early 1930s Edgar A. Dobbin House is a striking and remarkably intact example of the Tudor Revival style, a singular representative in the Happy Valley section of the county. The district also contains two representative examples of the bungalow style that was so popular during the early decades of the twentieth century. One, the 1912 Headmaster's House, constitutes the oldest building in the district and is a wood-shingled dwelling with a wood-shingled porch. The other bungalow, the Hugh A. Dobbin House, was erected ca. 1939 and is representative in its simplicity of the end of the bungalow's popularity. Because the Patterson School Historic District contains an interrelated group of contributing buildings that embody the distinctive characteristics of architectural styles and building types popular during the first half of the twentieth century, it meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register.

The Patterson School Historic District also fulfills Criteria Consideration A for religious properties in two ways. Patterson School, itself, was owned and operated by the Episcopal Church throughout its period of significance and, in fact, until 1994. The school's importance, however, does not rest with its religious connections, but rather with its historical significance in the field of education. The district also contains, among its primary contributing resources, the Chapel of Rest. Although the chapel has been deconsecrated by the Episcopal Church, it served throughout the district's period of significance as a place of worship. Nevertheless, its primary significance is not religious but architectural, in that the Chapel of Rest embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Carpenter Gothic

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style.

The period of significance for the Patterson School Historic District spans the years from 1912, the date of the oldest building, to 1954, the default end date that represents the National Register's fifty-year guideline. Although Patterson School continued to prosper after 1954, its significance during those later years was not exceptional in character. Additional significant dates falling within the period of significance include: 1918, the year in which the Chapel of Rest was constructed; 1920s, the decade during which Palmyra Hall, the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library, and Gard Hall were erected; and ca. 1950, when in response to changing educational needs and interests, Patterson School transformed from being primarily an agricultural school to being an academically centered, college preparatory school.

### Historical Background and Education Context

The Patterson School Historic District derives its history primarily from the story of Patterson School itself. Although the school was established not quite a century ago, in 1909, the historical background of the property extends back through most of the nineteenth century, its roots originating with the interrelated Jones and Patterson families.

The tract of land on which Patterson School (2) stands was part of the extensive lands in the Happy Valley (Yadkin River Valley) section of Caldwell County owned by area patriarch General William Lenoir (1751-1839), whose home was known as Fort Defiance (NR, 1970). Lenoir gave the land to his daughter, Ann (1778-1838), presumably as a wedding gift upon her marriage to General Edmund Jones (1771-1839). There, during the early 1810s, the Joneses built a brick house that they called Palmyra. When Ann and Edmund Jones died, their only surviving son, Edmund Walter, inherited Palmyra. Their daughter, Phebe Caroline (1806-1869), who had married Samuel Finley Patterson from Wilkesboro in 1824, inherited property in Mississippi. Soon, however, Phebe acquired the Palmyra property from her brother, and she and her husband took up permanent residence there, enlarging and remodeling the house in the Greek Revival style during the early 1850s (Sparks, 3-4; Hickerson, *Happy Valley*, 63). Meanwhile, Edmund Walter Jones (1811-1876) had married his first cousin, Sophia Caroline Davenport (1812-1860), in 1838, and they built Clover Hill (NR, 1973) across the river from Palmyra and The Fountain, Sophia's family home.

Samuel Finley Patterson (1799-1874) was a leading citizen of North Carolina during the nineteenth century. For a solid fifty years he held some office of public service. He was state treasurer, president of the North Carolina State Bank from 1835 to 1837, president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad beginning in 1840, and delegate from North Carolina to the Philadelphia Peace Convention in 1866, among other positions (Sparks, 4-5).

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Samuel and Phebe Patterson had two sons, Rufus Theodore and Samuel Legerwood, both of whom followed their father's example of public service. When Samuel and Phebe died (1874 and 1869, respectively) their younger son, Samuel Legerwood, inherited Palmyra (Sparks, 4, 6).

Samuel Legerwood Patterson (1850-1908) married Mary Sophia Senseman (1848-1909) from Salem in 1873. Their only child died as an infant. From 1886 to 1890 Patterson served as chairman of Caldwell County's Board of County Commissioners. In 1890 he was elected to the State House of Representatives, and two years later he was elected to the State Senate. In 1893 Patterson became North Carolina's first commissioner of agriculture and was re-elected three times to that post. During these years, he was greatly influenced by Governor Charles B. Aycock, who was heavily committed to education, agriculture, and industry. In Patterson's role as commissioner of agriculture, he pushed for the advancement of agricultural practices in the state. This, along with Aycock's strong influence on him, and the fact that the Pattersons had no child to inherit Palmyra, led Patterson to decide to provide for an agricultural school for boys in his area of the state (Sparks, 6-7; Ashe, 348, 351).

In August 1908 Patterson visited the school operated by the Episcopal Church at Valle Crucis in neighboring Watauga County (Sparks, 7). Many close similarities between the two schools suggest that Valle Crucis served as the model for Patterson School.

The Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission was founded in 1844 after Bishop Levi Silliman Ives purchased a farm for that purpose in the Watauga Valley. Two of the stated goals of the mission were "to conduct a general school both classical and agricultural; and to maintain a model farm, both as an aid of supporting the mission and as a means of instructing the surrounding population in improved agriculture" (Richardson, 8: 2-3, 7).

The Valle Crucis Mission's goals of a model farm and an agricultural and industrial school were part of the mainstream of educational theories and progressive farming innovations of the day in North Carolina. The movement to establish agricultural schools in the state had begun with the creation of manual labor schools where students studied classical education in the morning and worked in the fields in the afternoon. The Presbyterians founded the earliest such school in 1833 at the Donaldson Academy and Manual Labor School in Fayetteville. Others who established schools on this model were the Baptists at Wake Forest College and the Presbyterians at Davidson College. While the school at Valle Crucis educated its students in the innovative agricultural practices of the day, it also depended on its farm to feed the faculty and students and to provide financial support for the school (Richardson, 8: 5).

In 1852 Bishop Ives left the country (moving to Rome, where he converted to Catholicism), and for several decades thereafter, the Valle Crucis Mission stumbled along. In the 1880s and 1890s, however, the Episcopal Church experienced a period of growth in North Carolina that affected the mission at Valle Crucis. Many new churches were built, and in 1895 the western part of the state was designated a missionary district. With this, a renewed interest developed in rebuilding Valle Crucis—no

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habitable buildings survived from the earlier period of the mission—and in reviving an active program there. Bishop Junius M. Horner, elected the first missionary bishop of the Jurisdiction of Asheville in 1898, was a proponent of the church's industrial schools and worked hard for the redevelopment of Valle Crucis (Richardson, 8: 9-10).

In 1898 Valle Crucis reported forty-eight students; by 1911 the number attending the agricultural and industrial school had grown to ninety-nine students, forty-five of whom lived on campus. As was to become the case at Patterson School, the students at Valle Crucis—many of whom were poor—were able to pay for their education by working on the school's farm. In recognizing the importance of crop diversification, the agricultural school at Valle Crucis planted a large apple orchard and purchased a herd of dairy cattle. Promoting new technology, the school harnessed the water power of Craborchard Creek to produce Watauga County's first electric light plant sometime between 1903 and ca. 1930. However, as at Patterson School, the dam at Valle Crucis was destroyed in the flood of 1940 that devastated much of western North Carolina (Richardson, 8: 11-14).

A month after his visit to Valle Crucis, on September 14, 1908, Samuel Legerwood Patterson died. Upon Patterson's death, Governor Aycock wrote:

The death of no man in North Carolina not of my own blood, with the exception of Frank Daniels, could be more distressing to me than that of Mr. Patterson. . . . such was my reliance upon his sound sense, his purity of motive and his absolute fidelity to principle, and conscientious faithfulness to the people that I never passed upon any matter of importance affecting the State without first having taken the benefit of his sound judgement (Hickerson, *Echoes*, 136).

Samuel L. Patterson's will set forth clearly his intentions concerning his extensive Palmyra estate that included not only the family home and outbuildings, but also farm lands, timber lands, and a mill. After the death of Patterson's wife, which occurred less than six months after his own death, all of Patterson's property was to go to the trustees of the Episcopal Church's Missionary Jurisdiction of Asheville—which included the twenty-seven western counties of North Carolina—to be used for the erection and maintenance of an industrial and agricultural school for boys. The seriousness of his commitment was demonstrated by the fact that his will stipulated that church authorities could not sell any part of the real estate, and that if the property ceased to be used as an industrial or agricultural school, the whole property would revert to his natural heirs. Furthermore, through his will, Patterson required that a church should always be maintained on the site of the 1887 Chapel of Rest and that the cemetery behind the chapel, where his extended family was buried and where he would be buried, should be kept in good order. (Sparks, 68-69; Will Book 13, p. 537). Today the Jones-Patterson

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Cemetery (2-AA), comprised of approximately ninety gravestones surrounded by a stone wall, continues to be well-maintained, as does the 1918 reconstruction (2-Z) of the original chapel.

At the time of Samuel Legerwood Patterson's death, there were twenty-three mission day schools on the grammar school level in western North Carolina operated by the Episcopal Church, but only two schools—Valle Crucis in Watauga County and Christ School in Buncombe County—offered instruction at the high school level. Patterson School was to become the third school to offer high school classes. In 1906 the Episcopal Church had started a farm school at St. Paul's Mission in Burke County, but with the enormous opportunity presented by Samuel L. Patterson's bequest, the church changed the name of the school from St. Paul's Farm School to Patterson School and moved its location to the Palmyra site in Caldwell County's Happy Valley (Sparks, 8-9).

Bishop Junius M. Horner, who was a great promoter of the school at Valle Crucis, chose two highly educated young clergymen to help establish Patterson School—the Reverend Malcom Slicer Taylor, a graduate of Princeton and General Theological Seminary, who became headmaster and teacher, and the Reverend Alfred S. Lawrence, a graduate of Columbia University and General Theological Seminary, who became a teacher. A third teacher was Miss Maria H. Pinckney, who had been Mrs. Patterson's closest friend and who lived at Palmyra like a member of the family. Mr. M. L. Eargle, a graduate of North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (now North Carolina State University), was selected to teach agriculture and supervise the farm (Sparks, 9-10).

On September 29, 1909, almost exactly one year after Samuel L. Patterson's death, Patterson School opened at Palmyra house. The living room became an assembly room, the east wing became a classroom, the west wing provided housing for Rev. Malcom Taylor and his wife, and the attic was remodeled for dormitory space for the boarding students. Behind the house stood a workshop, a tool house, a smokehouse, and several other small buildings, while elsewhere on the property were barns, a blacksmith shop, corn cribs, and a carpenter shop. Photographs taken during the early years of the school's operation show both how the Palmyra house was converted to school use and the various outbuildings and barns (Lawrence, "Pictorial View"). None of these buildings survive. In 1912 the students cut lumber and shingles to help build a rectory for the headmaster and his family. This house (2-L) still stands and is the oldest building on campus (Sparks, 10-11).

In the beginning, the aim of Patterson School was to supply the educational needs of boys of the southern Appalachian Mountains, particularly those living in western North Carolina. When the school opened in 1909, there were thirteen boarding students and nine day students. Before the end of that first year, twenty-nine students had enrolled from Caldwell, Gaston, Watauga, Jackson, Macon, Lincoln, Burke, and Rutherford counties, as well as from Charleston, South Carolina. During the school's early years, the majority of students were around eighteen years old, yet had little previous formal education. Many had little money for tuition, so the school devised two plans for self-help. During the regular

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school term, students could make forty dollars by working three hours every day. A vacation working scholarship was also available, whereby a boy could remain at school during summer vacation and work on the farm, making sixty dollars for eight hundred hours of work. In addition, all boys at Patterson School were assigned daily chores (Sparks, 11-14).

During the school's first three years, the curriculum stressed mathematics because of its perceived ability to help train students to think. English was second in importance. In 1912, however, Patterson School moved toward becoming more exclusively an agricultural school, and the curriculum was modified to include only subjects that would support that purpose. A six-year course was designed that would make it possible for graduates to successfully enter general farming or begin specialized study in agriculture (Sparks, 14).

Palmyra was an ideal place for a school of agriculture. Of the more than 1400 acres that Patterson bequeathed, several hundred had already been cultivated along the Yadkin River on bottom land that was level, well drained, and rich in quality (Sparks, 15). In addition, there was substantial timber land that provided a source of income for the school and that afforded the opportunity to teach skills related to timber management.

Agriculture teacher M. L. Eargle planned a curriculum that stressed the why and the how of improved farming practices. Classes included instruction in the drainage and fertilizing of soils; the structure, habits, and feeding of plants; seed selection; the grafting and pruning of orchards; plant diseases; the planting, care, and marketing of farm crops; and the care of domestic animals. Many of the early photographs of Patterson School show the farm classes in action. In addition to training its students to be good farmers, Patterson School early-on had the goal of serving as a pioneer in the demonstration of better agricultural practices. In so doing, the school would encourage farmers in western North Carolina to improve poor farms and maintain productive farms. These goals were a fitting tribute to the school's donor, considering his role in the encouragement of agricultural practices at the state level (Sparks, 15; Lawrence, "Pictorial View").

Although the value of Patterson School was widely recognized, it was difficult for the western district of the Episcopal Church to provide funding for the school's support. It soon became apparent that the school could not support two priests, so in the spring of 1912 the Reverend Alfred Lawrence moved to Hillsboro, and the following year the Reverend Malcolm Taylor left to pursue full-time ministerial work (Sparks, 18).

In 1913, the Reverend Hugh Alexander Dobbin was hired to manage the school and farm at Patterson School. His selection proved to be the perfect choice. Dobbin had a strong history with the school at Valle Crucis. Right after the turn of the twentieth century, he became treasurer of that mission. In 1907 he was ordained a priest, and in 1909 he took charge of Valle Crucis. Thus, he had solid grounding not only in spiritual matters but also in the operation of an agricultural school. For nearly a

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quarter century, Dobbin provided solid leadership during Patterson School's early decades of development. When he arrived, Dobbin brought with him several family members who joined the school's staff. His son, Bynum, became farm manager, and his son, Edgar, became principal. His daughter, Beulah, taught grades one through three for a number of years prior to her marriage. Her special contribution to the school and community was the organization of the Happy Valley Club, which for several years provided entertainment and fellowship for the school staff, students, and neighbors in the valley. Club meetings included square dancing, games, and other entertainments for people of all ages (Richardson, 8: 11; Sparks, 18-19).

Hugh Dobbin's tenure was marked by both destructive fires and new construction. On February 14, 1916, a fire destroyed the Carpenter Gothic-style Chapel of Rest. Only the altar furniture, the seats, the stove, and the prayer books and hymnals were rescued. The small, ca. 1886 church had been built through the generosity of Samuel Legerwood Patterson, Rufus Theodore Lenoir, and others according to the plans and direction of the Reverend Johannes A. Oertel, an artist and priest who for some years served as rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Lenoir. The Chapel of Rest was the only church within three miles and served both the school and the people of the surrounding area. After Dobbin announced that he intended to rebuild the chapel on the same site and as nearly like the original as possible in memory of the Pattersons, a statewide campaign sought to raise the necessary funds. The campaign was successful, and on November 24, 1918, the new chapel (2-Z) was consecrated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Junius M. Horner of the Episcopal Church. Thereafter the chapel continued to be used for Sunday church services and commencement exercises by the school ("Beautiful Chapel"; "Consecration of Chapel"; Powell, 388; Sparks, 20).

In 1920 Caroline S. Gard of Lenoir gave ten thousand dollars to build Gard Hall (2-C) as a memorial to her husband, Charles. Upon its completion in 1921, the *Lenoir News-Topic* (August 25, 1921) declared it one of the most attractive and well-equipped school buildings in the state. It was used primarily as a dormitory, but it also contained a chapel for morning and evening prayer services, a dining room, and a kitchen (Sparks, 20).

Gifts from several members of the Gwyn and Lenoir families made possible the construction in 1922 of the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library (2-B) between Palmyra house and Gard Hall. It was named for the granddaughter of Gen. William Lenoir (Sparks, 21).

In 1924 the Pattersons' home, Palmyra, the focal point of the school, was destroyed by fire along with its outbuildings. Numerous gifts from both inside and outside North Carolina provided funding for the construction of a building to replace Palmyra. Erected on the site of the Patterson home, the new building was a three-story, brick, fireproof structure that was built with the help of student labor. Completed in 1927, the building was named Palmyra Hall (2-A) in honor of the Pattersons and their home that had served the school for so many years. The new Palmyra was used for recitation rooms,

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dormitory space, an infirmary, and social halls. Also during Hugh Dobbin's tenure, the dairy barn (2-U) and the concrete dam on Buffalo Creek (2-R) were constructed, and both water and electric power systems were installed (Sparks, 20-21, 23).

Under Hugh Dobbin's leadership Patterson School grew from a student body of fifteen in 1913 to seventy-five by 1922. The August 8, 1929, issue of the *Lenoir News-Topic* proclaimed that "Patterson School has become a distinct factor in the educational life in Caldwell County and Western North Carolina." In addition, many considered it to be the most praiseworthy of all the educational enterprises under the control of the Episcopal Church throughout the United States (Sparks, 19, 28).

The farm continued its central importance to Patterson School in several ways. It not only remained a practical workshop for the agricultural courses offered, but it also served as an important source of income for the school and furnished most of the food that was consumed on campus. The school's wheat and corn were ground at the school's Buffalo Creek mill on the property. The pork, beef, chicken, and turkey served in the campus dining room were raised on the farm. Mutton was also raised but was less a part of the school's menu because it was more important as a source of income. Potatoes, beans, and other garden vegetables were cultivated on the farm and were then canned in the school cannery. Thus, the curriculum at Patterson School very directly helped to support the school. The importance placed by the school on its agricultural curriculum is clearly reflected in the 1928 school catalog, in which most of the numerous photographs depict farming activities (Sparks, 27; *The Patterson School*).

In the spring of 1936, at the age of seventy, the Reverend Hugh A. Dobbin retired as superintendent of Patterson School after twenty-three fruitful years of service. Nevertheless, Dobbin's presence and that of his family continued to be felt at the school and in the neighborhood for years thereafter. For several years in the 1940s and 1950s, Dobbin preached the sermon and/or celebrated Holy Communion at the Sunday morning worship service at the annual alumni association meeting. For several years during the same period, his daughter-in-law, Elizabeth (Mrs. Edgar A. Dobbin), filled the position of secretary-treasurer of the alumni association. In 1954, Hugh Dobbin's son, Edgar, was appointed to the Patterson School Board. In 1955 the alumni association gave an altar rail for the school chapel in memory of Beulah Dobbin Kent, Hugh Dobbin's daughter. Three years later, donations were made at the annual alumni meeting to complete payment for the sacristy and choir room at the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Chapel in honor of Hugh and Emma Dobbin. In conjunction with this, the alumni association passed a resolution expressing "genuine and sincere gratitude for the usefulness and fine example exemplified by the Reverend Mr. and Mrs. Hugh A. Dobbin during twenty-four years of devoted service at the School and twenty-two years of close association since that time. We shall always be indebted to them for their profound influence. . ." (Sparks, 70-73).

In 1919 Hugh Dobbin and his son, Edgar, had purchased over two hundred acres of land adjacent

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to the southwest boundary of the Patterson School property (Deed Book 103, p. 184). In the early 1930s, Edgar, by that time a partner in a Lenoir wholesale grocery business, built a fine Tudor Revival stone house, Greystone (8), on NC 268 west of the school. When Hugh retired, he and his wife, Emma, lived with Edgar and Elizabeth Dobbin at their stone house for several years until Edgar could build a frame bungalow (7) across the road and just east of Greystone for the elder Dobbins. In the late 1940s, Hugh ran a store on the Dobbin property that had been operated by his brother, Nimrod, until his death. The store building later burned. Hugh also raised cattle with his son, Bynum, who by that time lived in Banner Elk. The two transferred the cattle seasonally between Banner Elk and Happy Valley. Emma Dobbin resided in the bungalow until her death, and Hugh continued living there until a year or two before his death in 1963 (Dobbin Interview).

George F. Wiese succeeded Hugh Dobbin as superintendent of Patterson School in 1936. Wiese was particularly well-suited to the job, for he had previously worked as a lumberman, forester, miner, and farmer before studying for the ministry in the Episcopal Church. While doing missionary work in southeastern Virginia, he had assisted farmers in the area with their agricultural problems as well as with their spiritual problems (Sparks, 28-28).

Wiese began a period of expansion and improvement at Patterson School in which the standards of both the school and the farm were raised to meet the demands of a more modern, competitive world. Under Hugh Dobbin's administration, the grades below the high school level had been dropped, but in the 1939-1940 school year, a junior high school department was added. The school as a whole broadened its curriculum to offer not only agricultural, but also vocational and college preparatory courses of study (Sparks, 30, 32).

Even though the school's curriculum expanded, the farm retained a crucial role in the life of the school. In a report prepared in April 1939, Mr. Wiese stated that the previous year the farm had provided the school with all its corn meal, flour, rye, and whole wheat flour, vegetables, milk, butter, eggs, chickens, beef, pork, and wood for cooking and heating purposes. Over five hundred gallons of fruits and vegetables had been canned for school use and, in addition, the school had sold \$1,127.34 worth of farm products and \$950 worth of timber. During this period, up-to-date equipment was purchased and, for the first time, the farm was mechanized. Buildings were renovated and painted, new barns were built, and the herd of cattle was increased. Although the school's power plant was destroyed by the great flood of August 1940, a new plant was completed by the following Thanksgiving. In 1945 a barn (2-W) that could house eighty-five cows and hold 110 tons of hay was built, along with a milk house (2-T), a calf barn, and a combination tool shed and granary (Sparks, 33, 30).

World War II had a definite impact on life at Patterson School. Many older boys were attracted by the various branches of the military and other governmental agencies, with the result that during the war years, more boys were enrolled in the junior high level of the school than in the high school grades.

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Between 1942 and 1944 the school became an observation post to keep a lookout for all airplanes flying overhead and to report any such observations to the army. Older boys were assigned this task. Students also participated in the collection of scrap metals and rubber for the government. During these years, work began on a school gymnasium, although it was not completed until 1950. Lumber for the building came from timber on the school property, with many of the individual trees yielding more than a thousand board feet. Students helped prepare the lumber and assisted in the construction of the building (Sparks, 33-36).

By 1948 Patterson School had become recognized as a model agricultural and mission school. The farm operation, particularly the land under cultivation, was used by both federal and state agencies as a demonstration of sound land use and farm management. The school even was used as the setting for a thirty-minute promotional film by the Allis-Chalmers Company, manufacturers of farm equipment (Sparks, 36).

On October 29, 1950, a field day was held at Patterson School in celebration of its fortieth (actually forty-first) anniversary. Five hundred people attended, and special events included classroom exhibits, a community fair, a picnic, and farm and forestry tours. The forestry tours pointed out the importance of timber cultivation in the overall farming operation. The tours covered the experimental lots and forest improvement practices conducted by the forestry classes (Sparks, 36-17).

For nearly half a century, Patterson School emphasized an agricultural education. By 1950, however, more and more boys who enrolled were interested primarily in going to college rather than in becoming farmers. As the academic side of education gained importance at the school, a well-balanced college preparatory curriculum was developed for seventh through twelfth grades. Overall, scholastic standards were raised. In 1959, Patterson School was accredited by the Commission on Secondary Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This was an important benchmark in the academic progress of the school. As further evidence of the transformation from an agricultural to an academic school, by the late 1950s, boys were no longer requesting instruction in agriculture and forestry. Nevertheless, even with this change in direction, all boys were taught to work as a part of their education, performing various duties on campus on a rotating basis. Patterson School first admitted girls in 1971, and today continues to function as a co-educational college preparatory school (Sparks, 41-42, 47, 58; Mason, 35).

The 1950s brought other changes at Patterson School. By 1951 the daily chapel in Gard Hall had become inadequate for the size of the student body. To solve this problem, the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Library building was converted to use as the chapel, and the library was moved to Gard Hall. After the arrival of a new resident chaplain in 1959, all church services were held at the chapel on campus, and the Chapel of Rest was no longer used by the school on a regular basis (Sparks, 49).

Also in the mid-twentieth century, Camp Patterson began to operate on the campus during the

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summers months. In addition to the campus, the thousand acres of forest, six or eight miles of clear running streams, and twelve to fifteen miles of trails for hiking or horseback riding constituted advantages that the camp had to offer. Boys from the ages of eight to fifteen could attend sessions of two, four, or six weeks duration (Sparks, 60).

Although there was a de-emphasis on the agriculture curriculum at Patterson School after the mid-century, the farm continued to play an important role, providing income for the school and food for the students. However, 1961 began with a significant change in the operation of the farm. In that year it ceased to be run directly by the school and was instead leased to others to farm (Sparks, 59).

By the late 1980s, the Episcopal Church felt increasingly that Patterson School was no longer a part of its mission. With a lack of full support by the western diocese, the school began to deteriorate. However, in 1991 Burton Morgan gave half a million dollars to the diocese for capital improvements at the school. This prompted the diocese to change the school's name to the Morgan School at Patterson Preserve. For the next several years the focus of the school changed to concentrate on education for gifted and talented students, but this shift of emphasis was not successful; there simply were not enough enrollees. At the end of the 1993-1994 school year, Morgan School closed (Hogan Interview).

The school remained closed for the 1994-1995 school year, during which time negotiations were taking place for the sale of the school. In late 1994, the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina sold all of Samuel Legerwood Patterson's Palmyra property to the Patterson School Foundation. The school re-opened in the fall of 1995 under its original name, Patterson School (Hogan Interview; Deed Book 1126, p. 256).

Today, the Patterson School Foundation continues to own all the property that Samuel Legerwood Patterson bequeathed to the Episcopal Church. The school itself is operated by Patterson School Inc. The Jones-Patterson Cemetery (2-AA) is maintained by the Chapel of Rest Cemetery Company, which has a long-term lease on that piece of property. The Chapel of Rest Preservation Society holds a long-term lease on the chapel itself and maintains that property. The Chapel of Rest (2-Z) has been de-consecrated by the Episcopal Church, but services are still held there on Christmas Eve and Thanksgiving Eve. The chapel and its grounds are also used for occasional weddings and concerts (Hogan Interview).

West of Patterson School, the Edgar Dobbin House (Greystone) (8) continues to be owned and occupied by Dobbin descendants, as does the Hugh Dobbin House (7). The land between the Edgar Dobbin House and the Patterson School property, owned during most of the twentieth century by members of the Dobbin family, now consists of—in addition to the Hugh Dobbin House—timber land, three mid-to-late-twentieth century houses, and one early twenty-first-century house on the north side of NC 268, and plant nurseries on the south side of the road. Much of this property is still in Dobbin family ownership.

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### Architecture Context

The contributing buildings in the Patterson School Historic District form an ensemble of resources that are related, directly or indirectly, to Patterson School. They are either a part of the school property or were built, off campus, by members of the Dobbin family who had strong ties to the school over many years. These buildings reflect architectural styles and building types that were popular in North Carolina from the 1910s to ca. 1950 and include 1920s school buildings, institutional barns, a Carpenter Gothic-style church, a Tudor Revival-style house, and two bungalows.

The three most prominent buildings on the Patterson School campus are all red brick structures erected during the 1920s. Set back from NC 268 on its north side facing south, they form the front row of buildings on campus. The oldest, Gard Hall (2-C), was built in 1920-1921. It is an impressive three-story, seven-bay-wide, institutional building. A simple example of the Colonial Revival style, it has a raised first story on the facade, a hipped roof with hipped dormers, and classical entrance porches on the facade and west elevation. Gard Hall was followed in 1922 by the Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library (2-B). This small, one-story building is much more intimate in feeling than Gard Hall and Palmyra Hall which flank it. Stylistically eclectic, its facade exhibits a classical influence with its engaged porch with classical square posts and pedimented gable, but the square-cut shingles that sheathe the pediment reflect the Craftsman style popular during the 1920s. When the library was converted to a chapel in 1951, it was enlarged to the rear to include a chancel, sacristy, and choir room, and a double stained-glass window was installed in the north end of the chancel as a quick symbolic reminder that this was no longer a library, but a chapel. The most institutional-looking of the three 1920s buildings is Palmyra Hall (2-A), built in 1927 after the Palmyra plantation house burned in 1924. It is a large, three-story, T-shaped building with a flat roof and a long, nine-bay-wide facade. The only real stylistic influence evident at Palmyra Hall is the one-story porch that carries across the center five bays of the facade. The Colonial Revival style is seen in the porch's classical, paneled posts and in the round-arched, marble tympanum of the central entrance.

The 1920s was a period of enormous growth in the construction of public schools in North Carolina. Most of these were large brick buildings, often architect-designed in the Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival styles. While the 1920s academic buildings at Patterson School relate, in general, to the public school buildings of the period, they differ in several respects. With its hipped roof and numerous segmental-arched windows, Gard Hall looks more like a large school building from the late nineteenth century or very early twentieth century. Palmyra Hall has a much more austere appearance than do most of the school buildings erected in the 1920s. The Lenoir Library is much smaller and more intimate in feeling than the typical schools of the 1920s and appears to be exactly what it is—a small building of particular purpose on a campus of buildings. Regardless, these buildings stand alone in the Happy

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Valley region of Caldwell County, for there are no others of the type and period in the area. When Patterson School erected a series of buildings in the 1960s behind the 1920s row, the new buildings took their stylistic cue from the Colonial Revival style of the earlier buildings.

Although Happy Valley has always been a rural area with plantations and smaller farms, it retains remarkably few complexes of farm outbuildings. There are some notable barns, such as the gambrel-roofed bank barn at the Shuford Farm on NC 268, but these are of a scale suitable for small or medium-sized farms. The two barns at Patterson School—one built in the 1920s and the other in 1945—are clearly larger and more institutional in character to serve the needs of a teaching facility. The older barn (2-U) is a combination of poured concrete on the lower half and German siding on the upper half and has a broad gable roof and two associated silos. Containing eight stalls and a hay loft, it was originally used for cows, although it now serves as a horse stable. The larger 1945 barn (2-W) has a gambrel roof with broad sheds on either side and, like the 1920s barn, it has German siding with a concrete base. Built to house the school's enlarged herd, it could house eighty-five cows and 110 tons of hay. Like the 1920s brick academic buildings at Patterson School, these barns stand alone in Happy Valley.

The Chapel of Rest (2-Z), a part of Patterson School but just west of the main campus, is unlike any other church in Happy Valley, if not in the county as a whole. Only four churches, all frame, survive from the late nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth centuries in Happy Valley. Mariah's Chapel, a simple rectangular structure of one room with weatherboard siding, a front-facing gable roof, a belfry, and a pair of front doors, is an excellent example of one of the most prevalent types of churches built, particularly for Baptist and Methodist congregations, in the rural areas of North Carolina's western piedmont and mountains during this period. It was built in 1879 on a hill overlooking Grandin Road. The oldest church in the group of four, Harper's Chapel Methodist Church was built in 1872 near the west end of Happy Valley and is much larger and more complex than Mariah's Chapel. The rectangular building has a pedimented front-gable roof, a single central entrance with a row of balcony windows above, side-elevation windows with transoms, and a corner tower. Grandin Baptist Church, built ca. 1925 off Grandin Road south of Mariah's Chapel, is the youngest of the four churches. Like Harper's Chapel, Grandin Baptist Church is more complex a building than is Mariah's Chapel. It has a front-facing gable roof with a belfry and transoms over the front entrance and all the windows (Phillips, 9). This church also has a cross plan that allows for Sunday school rooms on either side of the sanctuary. The fourth church, the Chapel of Rest, is representative of another, more striking, form of church design built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in North Carolina. Built in the Gothic Revival-style—called Carpenter Gothic for its more fanciful execution in wood—the Chapel of Rest possesses characteristics representative of many rural Episcopal churches built during the period. Sheathed in a combination of board-and-batten and weatherboard siding, it has a steep gable roof with a

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decorative west gable and a pyramidal-roofed open belfry. A polygonal apse projects from the east end of the rectangular chapel, and at the southwest corner of the building, the main entrance is sheltered by a small, decorated, gable-roofed porch. Pointed-arched sash windows line the north and south sides of the church. Two pointed-arched windows and one round window—all stained glass—light the apse. Three larger, lancet-arched stained-glass windows pierce the west elevation. The interior continues the Gothic influence of the exterior. The Chapel of Rest was not built until 1918—a late date for a church of this style—but it is a near copy of the original chapel that was built on the site in 1886 and burned in 1916.

At the west end of the district, the early 1930s brought the construction of the Edgar A. Dobbin House (8), a striking cut-fieldstone dwelling that is singular in the Happy Valley section of Caldwell County. It is a remarkably intact example of the Tudor Revival style, a design idiom from the 1920s and 1930s that was more commonly seen in an urban environment. The house has one and two-story sections with an irregular massing that includes an engaged porch at the east end. The picturesque treatment of the exterior includes stones cut in a variety of sizes and shapes with raised mortar joints, front gables whose ridges flare upward, a large front chimney, an arched entry with a massive round-arched batten door, diamond-paned casement windows with lead muntins, and a short extension wall on the west end of the house that has an archway leading to the side and rear yards. The well-preserved Tudor Revival design features of the interior complement those of the exterior.

During the first several decades of the twentieth century, the bungalow became one of the most popular house types built in North Carolina as well as in the country as a whole. Hundreds of examples can be found in Caldwell County, in both urban and rural areas. The bungalow, a one or one-and-a-half-story house, was characterized by a certain informality, especially when compared with the Colonial Revival-style houses that were also popular during the period. This informality was created through the use of an irregular plan and asymmetrical massing, often with a combination of materials such as wood shingles and river rock that tied it closely to its natural surroundings. The Patterson School Historic District contains two bungalows—the oldest building in the district and one of the youngest—that were, interestingly, both homes of Hugh A. Dobbin, the headmaster of Patterson School from 1913 to 1936. The Headmaster's House (2-L) on campus was built in 1912, shortly before Dobbin came to the school. It is a distinctive wood-shingled bungalow with a hipped roof, widely overhanging flared eaves, and a two-bay-wide front porch with wood-shingled corner posts and skirt. Several years after Dobbin retired from Patterson School, his son, Edgar, built his parents a bungalow on a hill across the road and just east of his own house. Like many late bungalows, the Hugh Dobbin House (7) is a very simple, one-story dwelling. The design of the rectangular house features German-siding, a broad gable roof, and a gable-roofed porch across the east half of the four-bay facade that features tapered wood posts set on brick plinths. While not as distinctive as the Headmaster's House, the Hugh Dobbin House is a representative example of the bungalows built toward the end of their period of popularity.

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### UTM References, cont'd.

5. 17/452810/3984000
6. 17/452430/3983900
7. 17/452060/3984240
8. 17/451100/3986760

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Patterson School Historic District encompasses the following fourteen parcels, all located in Caldwell County Township 14. The parcels include Lot 1 of Block 1 on Map 21, and Lots 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 of Block 1 on Map 22. These parcels are shown on the accompanying district maps.

#### Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Patterson School Historic District is drawn to include all of the Patterson School property, which Samuel Legerwood Patterson willed to the Episcopal Church for the establishment of an agricultural and industrial school for boys. The property continued to play a vital role in the functioning of the school throughout its period of significance and still substantially conveys the physical image of the place during that period. In addition, the boundary of the historic district includes contiguous property southwest of the Patterson School property that was owned during the period of significance by the Dobbin family, who were instrumental to the development of Patterson School during the first half of the twentieth century. This part of the district property contains the former houses of Hugh A. Dobbin, his son, Edgar A. Dobbin, and Edgar's son, Charles E. Dobbin, as well as acreage that they farmed and timbered.

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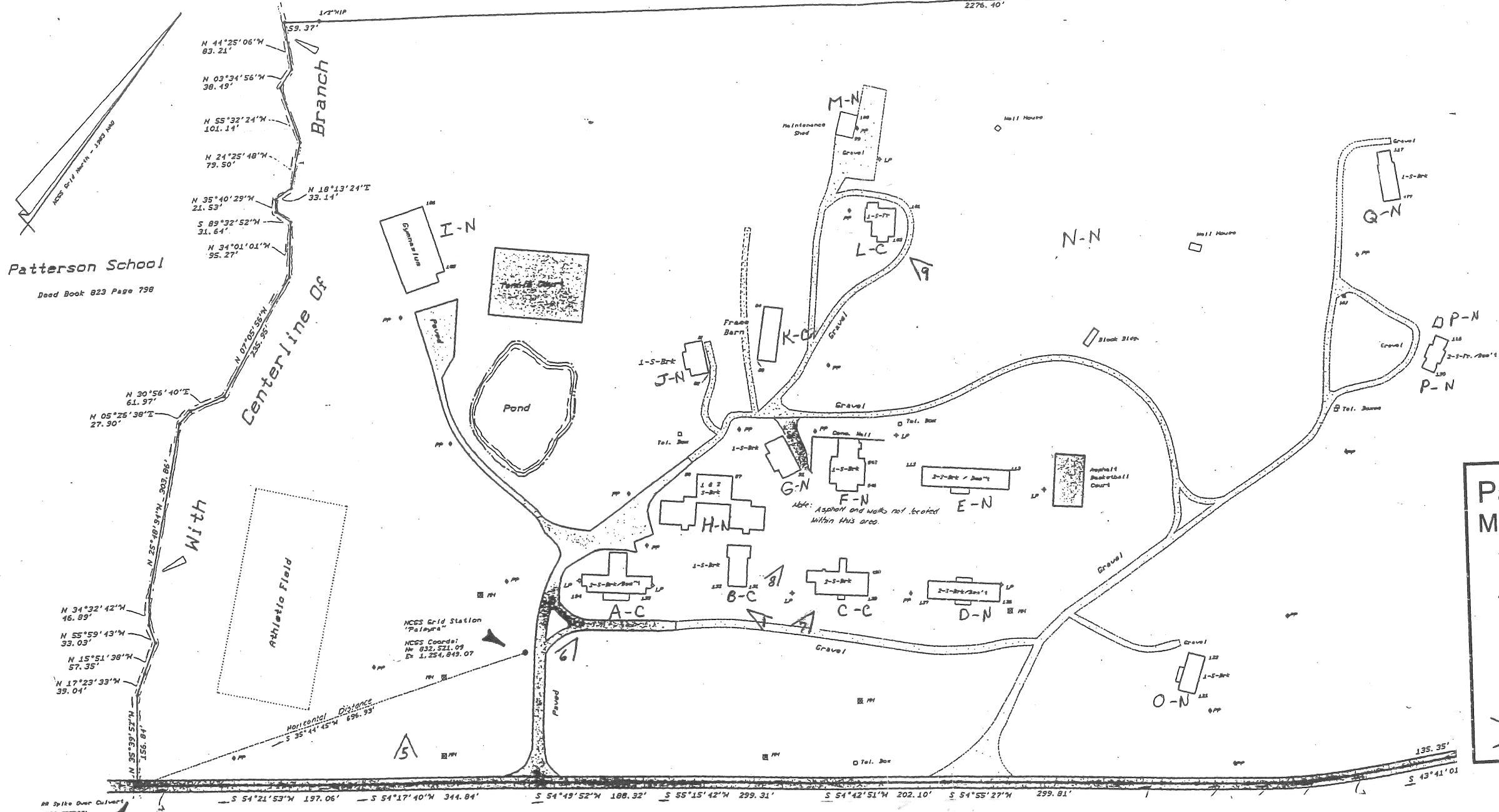
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### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all photographs, except as noted:

- 10) Patterson School Historic District
- 11) Caldwell County, North Carolina
- 12) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 13) November 1999: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 15. These photos are true to the current (May 2004) appearance of the property.  
April 2004: 8, 11, 13, 14, 16
- 14) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7)
  1. Patterson School: Sarah Joyce Lenoir Memorial Library and Palmyra Hall, view to W
  2. Landscape: Setting of Patterson School core campus, view to NE
  3. Landscape: Bottom lands with Patterson School barns, view to SW
  4. Landscape: Bottom lands with tree/plant nursery south of Hugh A. Dobbin House, view to E
  5. Landscape: Patterson School playing fields and gym with Ripshin Mountain in background, view to NW
  6. Patterson School: Palmyra Hall, view to N
  7. Patterson School: Gard Hall, view to N
  8. Patterson School: Gard Hall with Hickory Hall and George Wiese Hall in background, view to NE
  9. Patterson School: Headmaster's House, view to W
  10. Patterson School: Barns, view to NW
  11. Patterson School: Chapel of Rest, view to N
  12. Patterson School: Jones-Patterson Cemetery, view to W
  13. Hugh A. Dobbin House: Overall with garage, view to NE
  14. Edgar A. Dobbin House: Overall, view to SW
  15. Edgar A. Dobbin House: Rear setting, with bottom land, garage, chicken house, and barn, view to NW
  16. Patterson School: Buffalo Creek Dam, view to NW



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**Map 3: Patterson School**

- A. - Resource inventory
- C - Contribution
- N - Noncontaminated
- 5 - Photo number

