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 Hodges Business College

other names/site number Hodges School

2. Location

street & number S side SR 1819, 0.15 mi SE of jct w/NC 801

city or town Mocksville

state North Carolina code NC county Davie code 059 Zip code 27028

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

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

4. National Park Service Certification

☐ entered in the National Register. [Signature of the Keeper] [Date of Action]

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. [See continuation sheet.]

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other. (explain:) [Signature of the Keeper] [Date of Action]
### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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<td>☒ building(s)</td>
<td>CONTRIBUTING</td>
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#### Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
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<tr>
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### 7. Description

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<th>Architectural Classification</th>
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<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gothic Revival</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls BRICK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof METAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other WOOD</td>
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#### 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.)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1894 - ca. 1900

1909 - ca. 1911

Significant Dates

1894

ca. 1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository:
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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</table>

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian
organization N/A
date February 27, 2000
street & number 637 N. Spring St.
telephone 336/727-1968
City or town Winston-Salem
state NC
Zip code 27101

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

name John M. & Anike T. Fuller
street & number 154 Cherry Hill Rd.
telephone 336/751-0400
City or town Mocksville
state NC
Zip code 27028

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Hodges Business College is a remarkably intact two-story Gothic Revival brick building erected in 1894. Located southeast of Mocksville in the rural Jerusalem Township of Davie County, it stands on the south side of SR 1819 (Cherry Hill Road) just southeast of NC 801, its setting little changed from the turn of the twentieth century. Facing the road, Hodges Business College is bordered by rows of maple trees which an early photograph and an early drawing suggest were planted at the time of construction (Mohney, 15; Hodges School Normal, April, 1900). West of the school, but now on a separate piece of property, stands the late-nineteenth-century two-story frame home of J. D. Hodges, the owner of the school. Just east of the school building, an unpaved driveway leads back (south) to the small log house built and occupied by the present owners of the school. Behind the log house and to the east are woods. Immediately across the road from the school stands the Concord Methodist Church, whose congregation has occupied the site since the nineteenth century. The former home of J. D. Hodges’s son stands west of the church. (See enclosed site plan.)

Distinguished by its multiple Gothic-arched window openings and front entrance, Hodges Business College has been little altered since its construction. The only exterior alterations are the removal of the central belfry and the removal of the rear stair to the second floor. Interior changes consist of tongue-and-groove board partitions (now being removed), installed on the first floor around 1920 to create tenant housing, and an enclosed central stair to the second floor from the same period. The school building is currently in fair to good condition and retains a strong degree of historic integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Exterior

Hodges Business College is a two-story, rectangular, brick building laid in five-to-one common bond with a brick foundation and a steep, front-facing, gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal and punctuated by a pair of stove flues on the west slope. Originally wood shingles covered the roof, and a four-sided belfry with louvered vents and a pyramidal roof rose from the center of the main roof. The belfry was removed at an unknown date. On the facade, bricks continue up the wall to the peak of the gable, but on the plain rear elevation the gable is sheathed with square-cut asbestos shingles.

The building’s fenestration is extremely regular. The facade features a central double-leaf entrance with a pair of five-panel doors within a lancet-arched surround, echoed at the second-story level by a pair of four-over-four sash windows within a single arched surround. The center bay of the three-
bay facade is flanked, on each story, by six-over-six sash windows with lancet-arched surrounds. Each side elevation is lined—on both stories—by rows of four six-over-six sash windows with Gothic-arched surrounds matching those of the facade. Exterior decoration serves to accent these remarkable windows and front entrance. Decorative beaded boarding laid like vertical stripes fills the arches above the windows and front entrance. Woodwork around the front entrance also includes paneling along the soffits of the arch and door lintel as well as along the door jambs. The lancet arches themselves are defined by labels of one to three rows (three rows for the front entrance, two for the first story windows and the double window above the entrance, and one for the second story windows) of brick "voussoirs" bordered by a band of raised bricks, the whole ending in corbeled bases. In contrast to the facade and side elevations, the rear elevation is entirely plain, except for the single five-panel door on the west side of the second story that originally served as the only entrance to that floor. (See attached elevation drawings.)

**Interior**

The reason for the multitude of windows surrounding Hodges Business College on three sides becomes abundantly clear on the interior, where the rooms are flooded with light. Originally, both floors were nearly identical, with one large space per floor, floorboards six-to-eight inches in width, tongue-and-groove wood ceilings painted turquoise, plastered walls with high, two-part baseboards (the top part painted green), and most door and window surrounds and flush-boarded arches above the windows painted green. Additional original features that survive include a pair of stove pipes on the west side of the second floor and green-painted quarter-circle shelves positioned high on the walls at the eight corners (both floors) of the building that originally held statuary busts.

While the second floor retains its single large open space, the first floor has been divided by tongue-and-groove board partition walls into a series of rooms with an entrance vestibule. At the center, an enclosed narrow stair leads to the second floor. These frame partitions, which were installed around 1920 when the school building was converted to use as tenant housing, have not destroyed the original fabric of the first floor and are being removed by the current owner. (See attached floor plans.)
Hodges Business College, erected in 1894 in rural Davie County, is locally significant in the areas of architecture and education and, as such, fulfills Criteria C and A for listing in the National Register. It has two periods of significance. The first ranges from the building’s 1894 date of construction to ca. 1900, when Hodges found that he could not simultaneously operate the school properly and carry out his responsibilities as the newly-appointed superintendent of schools for Davie County. The second period covers the years between 1909, when Hodges resigned as county superintendent and re-opened the business college, to ca. 1911, the year Hodges closed the school permanently.

A remarkably intact two-story brick building in the Gothic Revival style, Hodges Business College survives as Davie County’s only rural brick school building from the nineteenth century. Additionally, it is one of only a few historic brick structures surviving in the county as a whole. With its lancet-arched front entrance and windows, Hodges Business College is an outstanding vernacular example of the Gothic Revival style, and along with the 1888 Fulton Methodist Church (NR), the 1896 First Methodist Church in Mocksville, and the 1880s Abraham M. Nail House (Mocksville), is a rare nineteenth-century example of the style in Davie County.

Founded and operated by prominent North Carolina educator John D. Hodges, Hodges Business College is significant for its association with education in Davie County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. With Sunnyside Seminary and Augusta Seminary, it was one of only three private academies built in the county during the last quarter of the century and is the only one whose building survives. While Hodges Business College offered the more typical academic and normal (teaching) courses of study, it is the only known school in the county to have specialized in a curriculum of business courses. This role was all the more unusual because the school was located in a rural setting, rather than in an urban location where business activities were centered.

Historical Background

Hodges Business College was one of many educational achievements associated with John Daniel Hodges (1844-1936), a prominent educator, proud veteran of the Confederacy, and Davie County farmer. A native of Jerusalem Township, Hodges served in Company H of the Fifth North Carolina Cavalry during the Civil War. In 1869, he entered Trinity College (now Duke University), graduating with a B.A. degree in 1873. He then attended Yale University, from which he received an additional B.A. degree in 1874. In 1875 he began a distinguished career in education in North Carolina that lasted a
half century. He began in Monroe, where he established the first high school in Union County. At some point thereafter, he served variously as the principal of schools in New Bern, Raleigh, Rockingham, and Clemmons. He also traveled in Europe, where he increased his knowledge of the French and German languages. In 1880 Hodges was called back to Trinity College, where he served for several years as professor of Greek and modern languages. In the late 1880s he returned to the Davie County farm of several hundred acres which had been in his family since at least 1849. Though he operated the family farm, his career in education was far from over. Hodges helped establish and was one of the principals of Augusta Seminary, which opened in August of 1888. This popular school, which operated in a large, two-story frame building erected across the road from Hodges’s home, prospered until 1897. It later burned to the ground (The Mocksville Enterprise, October 18, 1934; Journal and Sentinel (Winston-Salem), January 5, 1936; Hodges’s Scrapbook; Mohney, 168; Wall, 211-212).

In 1894, while Augusta Seminary was still operating across the road, J. D. Hodges built and began operation of another school on family-owned property adjacent to his home. Hodges Business College was housed in the fine two-story brick Gothic Revival structure that remains standing today. The 1894 school catalog gives a full picture of its purpose, course offerings, and practical matters such as tuition, books, and transportation to the school. The goal of the school was to provide a place where young men and women could receive a thorough, practical, and efficient business education. The school’s setting in a healthy climate and the opportunities for various rural recreations were touted. The potential irony of conducting a business school in the country was countered in school literature by the purported advantages of a location in a healthy climate that was considered more conducive to studying, and by the assertion that the school’s rural location was, in all respects, less expensive than attending school in the city. Students could board in Hodges’s own home or in the homes of neighboring farmers. Hodges’s own farm provided grain, vegetables, milk and butter, beef and pork, and poultry products to feed the students, and more needy students could work on the farm to help defray the cost of tuition. Nevertheless, Hodges required that tuition be paid in advance for each term and that board be paid monthly in advance (Catalogue).

Several courses of study were offered at the school. The Commercial Course offered both single entry and double entry methods and also provided instruction in percentage and interest, insurance, partnerships, philosophy and morals of business, business correspondence, commercial law, banks and banking, and other such subjects. The Shorthand Course included, in addition to shorthand, typewriting, spelling, correspondence, composition, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, the care of typewriters, regular office work, speed, and other similar topics. Hodges Business College also offered the more traditional Classical Course, designed to prepare the student for college classes. Hodges boasted that his reputation was so strong that his students could enter such schools as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Trinity College, Davidson College, Greensboro Female College, and Salem
Female Academy without examinations but solely on his recommendation. Music, art, and modern languages were also offered at the school. Annual prizes awarded to deserving students on graduation day provided strong incentives to the students. These prizes offered scholarships to such prominent schools as Salem Female Academy, Westlyan Female Institute in Virginia, Asheville Female College, Greensboro College, Washington and Lee University in Virginia, Trinity College, and Eastman College in New York (Catalogue).

A graduation program and various promotional materials reveal that by 1897 the school was known simply as Hodges School. Around this time Hodges began to promote another course of study at his school. This was the Summer School for Teachers that ran from March to October. The school’s quarterly publication advertised the various subjects taught, including arithmetic, geography, physiology, history, spelling, English grammar, letter writing, civil government, and the theory and practice of teaching (Hodges School Normal).

In 1900 Democrat Charles B. Aycock was elected governor of North Carolina and immediately began to work toward improving the state’s public schools. To this end, he established the successful and influential Central Committee for the Promotion of Public Education in North Carolina. Aycock also set up a Text Book Sub-Commission, to which J. D Hodges was appointed as one of ten members (Sumner; "Text-Book Sub-Commission").

In July, 1900, Hodges was named superintendent of schools for Davie County. He continued to operate his country school for several years thereafter, until he found that he could no longer do both jobs well, at which time he closed his school. After resigning as county superintendent in 1909, Hodges reopened his brick school, operating it for another year or two until 1910 or 1911. At some point thereafter, possibly around 1920, Hodges added frame partitions to the first story of the building and converted it to use as tenant housing. It continued in this use until Hodges’s death in 1936; since then it has been used for storage (Wall, 213-214; Mohney, 168).

The school building remained, along with the family farm, in Hodges family ownership until 1984. In 1990 it was purchased by architect John M. Fuller, who, along with his wife, Anike T. Fuller, is the present owner (Deed Book 123, p. 589; Deed Book 154, p. 367; Deed Book 163, pp. 5-7). They plan to convert the school to their home, sensitively preserving the significant architectural character of the building.

**Education Context**

As a privately operated school, Hodges Business College is significant for its association with education in Davie County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Throughout the nineteenth century, private schools and academies in Davie County offered an education to the relatively
few who could pay the tuition. These were located primarily in the county’s towns. In 1827 the Mocksville Academy was chartered. During the third quarter of the century, the Mocksville Male Academy became a well-known and successful school. During the same period Union Academy was founded near Farmington. Several prominent private schools operated near the end of the century. One of these was Sunnyside Seminary, which was established in Mocksville in 1892. In rural Jerusalem Township, 1886 saw the founding of the Augusta Seminary, which operated as such until 1897. In 1894 Hodges Business College was built across the road from Augusta Seminary. It was unusual, especially for a rural school, in that it emphasized a business curriculum, along with offering the more usual college preparatory courses and classes for teachers. It flourished past the time of Augusta Seminary’s closing until around 1900, and operated again for several years at the end of the first decade of the new century (Wall, 206-213).

Free public schools began in Davie county around 1840 after the county voted overwhelmingly to support them. The Civil War, however, took its toll on the public schools that had previously been established in the county. However, when the North Carolina Constitution of 1868 provided for a public school system for both white and black children, Davie County was quick to respond. Nevertheless, at that time there was little money available to be spent on public education. By the early 1880s, Davie County citizens were becoming increasingly concerned about the status of education in their county. At this time the first superintendent for public instruction was elected for the county. By 1885 there were thirty-five white and eleven black schools in the county; by 1903 these numbers had increased to forty-five white and seventeen black schools (Wall, 215-218, 220, 222).

Public and private education in Davie County intersected, in a sense, in 1900, when J. D. Hodges became county superintendent of schools. He served during a statewide resurgence of interest in public education that was pushed by Governor Charles B. Aycock. Given Hodges’s two roles as head of public education for the county and as principal of his own private school, he soon found that he could not adequately handle both jobs. Thus, he closed Hodges Business College (or by this time Hodges School) to be able to concentrate on the larger educational arena. After Hodges resigned from his county position in 1909, he reopened his private school, but it operated for only a short time until being closed for good in 1910 or 1911. Although the reason for the closure is not clear, perhaps it was that by this time the improved public schools were supplanting the importance of private schools in the county.

Architecture Context

A dichotomy in quality existed between the public and private schools erected in Davie County during the nineteenth century. Consistently, the schools funded by private money were of higher quality than those that were dependent on public money.
Log construction was commonly used for public schools, particularly for those in the rural portions of the county, such as Beck’s School (1848) and Cana School (1853). Of the sixty-two county schools reported in 1903, about half were log buildings. Gradually in the twentieth century, painted frame schoolhouses replaced log buildings. Brick construction for public schools was almost unheard of until the 1920s (Wall, 217, 222, 226; Mohney, 214).

By contrast, approximately two-thirds of the county’s private schools built during the nineteenth century were of brick construction. These included the 1827 Mocksville Academy, the mid-nineteenth-century Mocksville Male Academy, the 1852 Union Academy, and Hodges Business College, built in 1894. Among the frame schools were the well-built Sunnyside Seminary of 1892 and the 1886 Augusta Seminary (Wall, 206-213). Of those academies built during the late nineteenth century, Hodges Business College is the only one to survive. Of all those built in the nineteenth century, it is one of only two brick schools to survive (with Mocksville Academy) and is the sole rural brick school still standing.

Brick construction among all buildings erected in Davie County during the nineteenth century was rare. Even more rare were brick buildings in the Gothic Revival style. In addition to Hodges Business College, other examples include the 1880s Abraham M. Nail House in Mocksville, the 1888 Fulton Methodist Church, and Mocksville’s First Methodist Church built in 1896 (Mohney). Of these, Hodges Business College—with its steep gable roof and multitude of lancet-arched windows and front entrance—is arguably the most distinctive example of the style in the county.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Catalogue of Hodges’ Business College and School of Type-Writing and Shorthand.* Augusta, Davie County, N.C., 1894.

Davie County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds, Subgroup: Deeds. Davie County Office Building, Mocksville, N.C.

*Hodges School Normal.* Augusta, N.C., April, 1900.

Hodges Scrapbook. John D. Hodges’s scrapbook is filled with news articles about his career, school publications, articles written by him, and other paraphernalia. Many of the news and other articles do not retain their exact source or exact date. The scrapbook is currently in the possession of Ray Jordan of Cooleemee, NC. He is the brother of Sadie Hodges (deceased), J. D. Hodges’s daughter-in-law.


*The Mocksville Enterprise.* October 18, 1934.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 & Photos  Page 9
Hodges Business College
Davie County, North Carolina

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as a portion of Davie County Tax Map L-6, Tract 19.01, as illustrated by the heavy black line on the accompanying tax map, drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

The nominated property is also illustrated by the heavy black dashed line on the accompanying map entitled Survey of Hodges Business College, drawn to a scale of 1' = 16'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property, consisting of a tract of less than one acre, constitutes the immediate unaltered historic and current setting of Hodges Business College and includes the building, the ground on which it stands, and the surrounding maple trees planted at the time of construction.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

1) Hodges Business College
2) Davie County, North Carolina
3) Laura A. W. Phillips
4) January, 2000
5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

6-7) A: Overall view to SE
B: Context view to SE
C: Facade (N side), view to SE
D: W side, view to E
E: Rear (S side), view to N
F: E side, view to W
G: Entrance detail, view to S
H: First story entrance vestibule, view to E
I: First story partitioned rooms and stair, view to S
J: Second story interior, overall view to N
K: Second story interior with door, window, corner shelf, and stovepipe, view to SW