

MAR 27 1985

# 20

State of North Carolina  
Division of Archives and History

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY

# INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

\_\_\_\_\_ QUAD

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

North Carolina Central University

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Block bounded by Lawson St., Alston Ave.,  
Nelson St., and Fayetteville St.

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Durham

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Durham

063

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE ___ MUSEUM
___ BUILDING(S)	___ PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
N/A	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	___ MILITARY ___ OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

North Carolina Central University Trustees

STREET & NUMBER

North Carolina Central University

CITY, TOWN

Durham

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

27707

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds  
Durham County Judicial Building

STREET & NUMBER

201 E. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Durham

STATE

North Carolina

## 6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Claudia Roberts Brown

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for the City of Durham Planning Department

DATE

June 1984

STREET & NUMBER

301 E. Poplar Ave.

TELEPHONE

919/968-1181

CITY OR TOWN

Carrboro,

STATE

North Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The eighty-acre North Carolina Central University campus is located a little more than one mile southeast of downtown Durham. It covers a single large tract bounded by Lawson St., Alston Ave., Nelson St. and Fayetteville St., augmented by additional contiguous parcels of a few acres each along Lawson and Fayetteville streets. Included in this nomination is a 106-acre portion of the primary tract containing eleven buildings, the greatest concentration of structures built on the campus before 1940. This irregularly shaped portion runs along almost all of the west edge of the primary tract and extends to the east to include a sizable area at the heart of the campus. It includes the main entrance to the campus, a short tree-lined driveway off Fayetteville St. that ends in a circle containing flower beds and a statue of school founder James E. Shepard in front of the Clyde R. Hoey Administration Building. By its placement, use and architecture, the Hoey Building is the focal point of the entire campus and the single pivotal building of this nomination; all of the other buildings contribute to the character of the nominated area. Four of the buildings are symmetrically placed east and south of the Hoey Building. Six other buildings front Fayetteville St. at various set-backs, including two identical houses placed like bookends at the north and south edges of the streetscape. Across Fayetteville St., the (Former) President's House facing the main entrance also is included in the nomination.

Throughout the nominated area, and the rest of the campus as well, careful maintenance characterizes the buildings and the attractive landscaped grounds. Much of the irregular terrain of the campus is graded into terraces of various elevations and sizes that helped determine the orientation of the buildings. A sizeable expanse that is the most picturesque portion of the entire campus separates the science building from the entrance drive and Turner and Rush halls. This park-like area is a deep depression filled with tall pine trees and hardwoods, an abundance of naturally landscaped azaleas and rhododendrons, and stone benches; several of the benches are commemorative, as are a few stone tablets set into the lawn by various classes. Tall trees also shade the buildings facing Fayetteville St. south of the entrance drive. All of the grounds are covered with a network of concrete walks and are interspersed with many large, slightly elevated planting areas filled with evergreens or flower beds.

All of the buildings included in this nomination, except for the three residences, are of fireproof construction with steel trusses and brick exterior walls. These institutional structures are Georgian Revival style buildings, most of them multi-storied with hipped, slate-covered roofs, rectangular double-hung sash windows, and splayed lintels. They all display decorative neoclassical elements such as limestone keystones, string courses and entrance surrounds; all porticoes are of frame construction.

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Among the most distinctive buildings on the North Carolina Central University campus, the Clyde R. Hoey Administration Building, Alexander Dunn Hall, and Annie Day Shepard Hall also are the oldest, built in 1929 to 1930 according to designs by the Durham architectural firm of Atwood and Nash. The architects were well known throughout North Carolina and much of the Southeast for their commercial and institutional buildings. When they accepted the NCCU commission, they recently had completed work on two distinctive Neoclassical Revival style department stores in downtown Durham and in nearby Chapel Hill they had been the supervising architects for an enormous addition to the University of North Carolina campus, also in the Georgian Revival style.

Facing each other across a large sunken courtyard, the Hoey and Dunn buildings are quite different in form, but their treatment reveals the hand of a single designer that unifies the composition of the central quadrangle. The rectangular three-story Hoey Building (with a raised basement that is a full story on the quadrangle elevation due to the terracing of the grounds) and the almost square one-story Dunn Building situated above two terraces both have central pavilions decorated with stone panels and swags above round arches marking the entrance bays, the focal points of their designs. The importance of the Hoey Building as the heart of the campus is expressed architecturally in its size and the artful handling of an extensive decorative program executed in stone. While all of the other Georgian Revival style buildings have brick lintels and quoins, the Hoey Building's are stone, used as well for the molded cornices and sheathing of the first story and basement. On the third side of their courtyard, Annie Day Shepard Hall resembles the Hoey Building in its rectangular three-story, hip-roofed form with shallow end pavilions and a pedimented entrance pavilion. Here, the use of limestone is restricted to a string course and keystones and the primary motif is the one-story tetrastyle entrance portico in the Tuscan order. All three of the buildings designed by Atwood and Nash have Flemish bond brickwork.

The five institutional buildings included in this nomination that were built in the late 1930s under the auspices of the Public Works Administration, a branch of the Federal Works Agency, all emulate the concept if not the particular features of the Atwood and Nash buildings. The similarity of these buildings to their predecessors is enhanced by the use throughout of the same variegated red brick; the bond used for all of the later buildings, however, is English. Two of the later buildings, Ruth G. Rush Hall and William H. Robinson Science Building, bear plaques stating that they were designed by Federal Works Agency architect John M. Carmody, who probably had a hand in the other later 1930s buildings as well. Angus W. McLean Dormitory, Ruth G. Rush Hall, and William H. Robinson Science Building follow the same prototype as that of Shepard Hall. Although they are very similar in their basic three-story forms and share identical features such as brick water tables and quoins and limestone string courses beneath the third-floor windows, each is unique. A delicate leaded fanlight

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distinguished Rush Hall, which otherwise is almost identical to the adjoining Shepard Hall. McLean Dormitory exhibits modillioned cornices and a frame surround with fluted pilasters, entablature and denticulated cornice at the main entrance. The identifying features of the Robinson Building are the pedimented entrance surround and cupola.

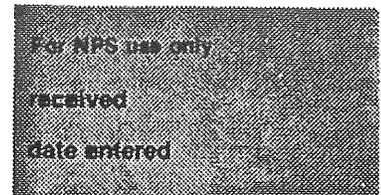
Albert Lewis Turner Hall and B. N. Duke Auditorium inject more variety into the early architecture of the campus with their deviation from the prototype. Built as a library, Turner Hall is a relatively small T-shaped structure consisting of a single story tall enough to contain a mezzanine and decorated with a cupola and a pedimented tetrastyle Tuscan portico. The auditorium is flat-roofed and fronted by a tall portico with stylized Corinthian columns. Their interiors are the finest of the entire campus. The former library features an oval lobby with chair rails, wainscoting panelled with applied molding, and denticulated crown molding. In the auditorium, tall rectangular panels, also outlined in applied molding, cover the entire walls and the Georgian entablatures at the doorways are very similar to those at the front entrance. Elsewhere on the campus, the interiors are less decorative, in keeping with the classroom, dormitory and office functions of the buildings. Although most of them have been renovated with drop ceilings, they retain their original three-part surrounds and marble-like baseboards.

The (former) President's House and Jordan House are two stories tall and brick veneered. Facing the campus across Fayetteville Street, the President's House, built in 1925, also stands apart from the other nominated buildings due to the sandstone color of its brick and the absence of any neoclassical details. With its low hipped roof and deeply overhanging eaves, its design suggests the influence of the Prarie style. The Jordan House, originally a faculty residence, and now offices, has a hipped roof and spare application of decoration restricted to a small frame pedimented entrance porch. The style and varigated red brick elevation in keeping with the late 1930s building campaign belie the 1963 construction date.

The James S. Lee Biology Building was constructed in 1956. Although it exhibits the only use of pressed brick, it is thoroughly compatible with the neighboring older buildings in its rectangular three-story hip-roofed form. Its most decorative features are the one-story convex Tuscan portico of cast limestone and the use of darker red brick for the quoins, water table and string course.

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INVENTORY LIST

1. Jordan House. Campus. Two-story hip-roofed house brick-veneered in English bond. Small frame entrance porch of box posts supporting denticulated pediment.  
F Build in 1963 as a faculty residence' today serves as public relations, alumni and development offices.
  
2. B. N. Duke Auditorium. Campus. Completed 1937 as part of the Public Works Administration building campaign. The focal point of the flat-roofed building with C/I English bond brick elevations is the two-story frame portico supported by streamlined Corinthian columns that shelters the three identical entrance. Each entrance contains double doors and a transom with muntins in a lattice of pointed arches; a denticulated cornice and curved Georgian entablature tops the drop shoulder surround. A few feet above each entrance there is a stone medallion carved in concentric circles. A narrow stone course flush with the brick walls encircles the building at the level of the top of the portico. The handsome interior, open the full two stories with a balcony across the rear, features walls divided into panels by applied molding and door surrounds similar to those of the three front entrances. The auditorium seats 900 and is named in honor of one of the school's major benefactors, whose contributions and bequest totalled approximately \$125,000. The austere one-story flat-roofed band room built in 1960 is attached to the north side of the auditorium; it has English bond brick exterior walls, skylights, and no windows.
  
3. (Former) President's House. 1902 Fayetteville Street. In 1923, a fund drive headed by trustee J. B. Mason, president of Citizens Bank in Durham, was undertaken to C construct a new home for the school's president, James E. Shepard. Prior to this time, he lived in a small frame house situated on the campus. Both black and white citizens of Durham contributed to the building campaign, and in 1925 this two-story house faced in brick was completed. The low hipped roof with sandstone colored brick suggest the influence of the Prairie style. The porch with a solid balustrade and deck above has been enclosed. Today the house is used by the school as its Undergraduate Admissions Office.
  
4. Clyde R. Hoey Administration Building. Campus. The centerpiece of the campus and its most architecturally distinctive building, completed in 1929. One of the P three buildings designed by Atwood and Nash that comprised the late 1920s building campaign heralding the school's charter as North Carolina College. The building is three stories with a basement that is raised on the rear elevation due to the topography of the site. With Flemish bond brick elevations, it features the heaviest application of limestone on any of the campus buildings, including quoins on each end and entrance pavillions and smooth-faced blocks sheathing the first story and basement. The windows are segmental-arched with limestone block lintels. The flat-headed windows have spayed lintels with keystones cut in a single piece of limestone. Elegant neoclassical elements in stone are concentrated at the entrance pavillion. Enframing the entrance, Tuscan columns support an entablature and pediment with a parapet topped by an urn at each end. Above, a tripartite window in each story is contained in a single blind arch. A swag drapes from each side of a flat oval

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medallion at the peak of the gable. The double-hung sash windows are recent replacements that are identical to the originals except for their anodized metal frames. Hoey was governor of North Carolina when the building was dedicated in 1939.

5. Annie Day Shephard Hall. Campus. Three-story women's dormitory designed by Atwood and Nash and completed in 1930. Similar to the Clyde R. Hoey Administration Building in its long rectangular three-story hip-roofed form with end pavillions and gabled entrance pavillion. Here, however, the quoins are brick and only the string course at the base of the third story and the keystones in the flat splayed brick lintels are limestone. The shallow one-story frame tetrastyle entrance portico in the Tuscan order is topped by a balustrade with turned balusters, and the doorway with a sunburst fanlight is recessed in a round arch with heavily molded frame surround containing a keystone. A four-story wing identical in style to the original building was attached to the southeast corner in 1950. Annie Day Shepard was the wife of the school's founder and the grand-daughter of noted North Carolina furniture maker Thomas Day. She has been cited for her contributions to the progress of the school with her moral support of her husband's work, campaigning for the university, teaching, and even buying and cooking food for the students when the school was struggling in its early years.
6. Alexander Dunn Building. Campus. Now the university's Academic Skills Center, this one-story with basement Georgian Revival style building also was designed by Atwood & Nash and completed in 1930 as the dining hall of the new college campus. Originally T-shaped, the building has been enlarged with two more wings to the rear so that it is almost square. Capped by a truncated hipped roof, the Flemish bond elevations feature rectangular windows topped by flat wooden lunettes in round-arched brick lintels. Brick quoins appear at all corners of the building. In the middle of the main elevation, there is a shallow pavillion from which a gable-roofed entrance bay projects slightly. Limestone details include a large medallion with swags above the entrance, rectangular panels in the central pavillion, keystones above the lunettes, a string course, and a water table.
7. Albert Lewis Turner Hall. Campus. Completed in December, 1937, this tall T-shaped and hip-roofed one-story building with a mezzanine and a raised basement is part of the campus building campaign sponsored by the Public Works Administration. Brick elevations in English bond are punctuated by tall windows with splayed brick lintels and limestone keystones. Limestone also is used for the water table and brick quoins appear at all corners. Molded box cornices, octagonal cupola with bell-cast roof, and portico all are frame. The temple-style portico in the Tuscan order has a glazed rondel in the center of the pediment. The buildings' interior, the most elegant of the entire campus, has a foyer leading to an oval lobby, both with chair rails and wainscoting with apnels outlined in applied molding. The lobby also features denticulated crown molding. Constructed as a library, the building later served as the law school and today contains offices. An austere modern two-story wing with a flat roof and brick elevations was added to the southeast corner in 1975. The building was named for a former Dean of the Undergraduate School.

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8. Ruth G. Rush Hall. Campus. Women's dormitory named for a long-time Dean of Women. Completed in 1939, the Georgian Revival style building was part of the school's Public Works Administration-sponsored campus building campaign. A slightly modified version of Annie Day Shepard Hall, it lacks a gable above the entrance pavillion and the balustrade on the frame Tuscan portico. Unlike Shepard Hall, however, the fanlight at the main entrance is leaded.
9. William H. Robinson Science Building. Campus. Built in 1939, this three-story brick building with a raised basement was designed by government architect John M. Carmody for the Public Works Administration, which funded its construction. Similar to the other pre-1960 buildings on the campus, it is hip-roofed with a central pavillion and brick quoins. Here the pavillion is pedimented and all cornices are denticulated. Highlights are a tall cupola and a surround with wide fluted pilasters and broken pediment at the main entrance. Recent renovations included lowering the ceilings and installing replacement double-hung sash windows with anodized metal frames. Named in honor of a physics professor who taught at the school from 1937 to 1962.
10. James. S. Lee Biology Building. Campus. Built in 1956, this Georgian Revival style building is thoroughly compatible with the older campus buildings due to its rectangular three-story with raised basement, hip-roofed form and English bond brick walls. Variations include darker brick for the quoins, water table, and string course above the first-floor windows. Cast limestone appears only at the entrances: those at the ends of the building have surrounds with Tuscan half-columns while the main entrance features a convex one-story portico supported by four Tuscan columns.
11. Anugs W. McLean Dormitory. Campus. This men's dormitory constructed as part of the Public Works Administration building program in 1937 is identical in form to Shepard Hall except that it lacks the shallow end pavillions. Identifying details include a molded box cornice with modillions; the main entrance is distinguished by a frame surround with fluted pilasters, entablature, and flat denticulated cornice. Named in honor of the North Carolina governor instrumental in arranging state appropriations of \$100,000 for new brick buildings.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <b>black progre</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1929-30; 1935-39; BUILDER/ARCHITECT Atwood & Nash; Public Works Admin. architects.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Today one of the sixteen senior institutions of The University of North Carolina, North Carolina Central University traces its origins to the small private, non-sectarian National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race begun in 1909 by Dr. James E. Shepard. The fledgling school succeeded throughout the 1910s in providing high school and college educations to hundreds of students while constantly confronting financial crises. Reorganized as the National Training School in 1916, the school ended its struggle to remain private when the State of North Carolina took it over as the Durham State Normal School in 1923. Just two years later, the institution was transformed yet again when it became the North Carolina College for Negroes, the nation's first state-supported four-year liberal arts college for blacks. Every stage of this evolution, as well as considerable growth between 1925 and 1945 marked by the construction of more than a dozen Georgian Revival style brick buildings, was guided by Dr. Shepard. Complementing the successes of such black-owned businesses as the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. and the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, the fruition of Dr. Shepard's idea compounded the tremendous achievements of Durham's black community during the first decades of this century.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. North Carolina Central University developed out of the North Carolina College for Negroes, established in 1925 as the nation's first state-supported four-year liberal arts college for blacks.
- B. North Carolina Central University symbolizes the tremendous efforts of its founder, Dr. James E. Shepard, who guided the school through its early years when it first was the private nonsectarian National Religious Training School, and later when it was the state supported Durham State Normal School succeeded by the North Carolina College for Negroes.
- C. All of the institutional buildings in the portion of the North Carolina Central University campus included in this nomination are fine examples of the Georgian Revival style. Three are notable designs by the Durham architectural firm of Atwood and Nash, and five were designed by government-employed architects for a Public Works Administration building campaign.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Because the early history of North Carolina Central University is the story of Dr. James E. Shepard's idea of higher education for blacks, no history of the school is complete without some background on its founder. Dr. Shepard (1875 - 1947) grew up in Raleigh, N.C., where his father, Dr. Augustus Shepard, was the minister of White Rock Baptist Church. In 1894 the younger Shepard was graduated from Shaw University as a registered pharmacist and the following year he began a clerkship in a Durham drug store, where he remained an employee for the next decade. In 1905, he took a new job as Field Superintendent for the International Sunday School Board.<sup>1</sup>

As Shepard's job brought him into direct contact with hundreds of congregations throughout the South, he began to think about starting a private school for Negroes. Traditionally, the Negro minister has been an important leader of his community, his involvement in his congregation's lives extending far beyond the spiritual realm. Shepard, however, encountered many ministers whom he believed to be unfit as moral leaders due to a lack of education, industry and desire. While Shepard saw education as the means of creating stronger theological leadership, he also recognized the tremendous importance of education for all Negroes. The state of education at all levels in North Carolina around 1900 was generally low for whites as well as blacks, with only one of every three whites attending school. Shepard believed that because public grade schools were segregated, appropriations for the negro schools would remain insufficient and education of negroes would continue to lag. While it is true that the Jeanes Fund, Slater Fund, and General Education Board enjoyed some success in promoting black education around the turn of the century, public funds went mostly to white schools. Shepard also believed that education was essential for blacks to gain political power.<sup>2</sup>

By 1909, Shepard was determined to help remedy the situation by establishing a private school with two aims: the encouragement of a firm belief in God and the education of youth so that they could work effectively toward land ownership, higher standards of living and political participation.<sup>3</sup> He planned to emphasize the training of Negro ministers, using chautauqua methods, and to provide a general high school education for his other pupils. (The term "chautauqua" refers to the teaching by lecture and imitative methods popularized at the summer assemblies held at Lake Chautauqua in New York during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Durham County Register of Deeds. Durham County Judicial Building, Durham.

Seay, Elizabeth Irene. "A History of the North Carolina College for Negroes."  
M.A. thesis for Duke University, 1941.

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## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6	8,9	2,0	0	3,9	8,3	0,0	0,0	B	1,7	6	8,9	3,5	0	3,9	8,3	0,0	0,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING									
C	1,7	6	8,9	2,0	0	3,9	8,2	7,5	0	D	1,7	6	8,9	3,5	0	3,9	8,2	7,5	0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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Criteria Exceptions

- G. The five buildings included in this nomination that are 45 to 49 years old are part of a significant building program necessitated by the expansion of the student body and curriculum following the school's reorganization as North Carolina College for Negroes, the first state-supported four-year liberal arts college for Negroes in the nation. The building program begun in the late 1920s was sharply curtailed during the Depression, but in the mid-1930s the Public Works Administration of the New Deal sponsored the construction of these five buildings which are indistinguishable from the oldest campus buildings built prior to 1930. The newer buildings were designed and constructed in similar Georgian Revival style, and reflect the growing importance of education of the state's black population within both the black and white communities.

The five buildings under consideration are: B. N. Duke Auditorium, 1937; Albert Lewis Turner Hall, 1937; Ruth G. Rush Hall, 1939; William H. Robinson Science Building, 1939; and Angus W. McLean Cormitory, 1937.

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Based upon his belief that only a well-rounded educational program provided mental, moral and physical training, Dr. Shepard devised a comprehensive curriculum. Advocating a combination of Booker T. Washington's doctrine of industrial training and William E.B. DuBois' espousal of educating the intellect, Shepard wanted to provide both a classical education and technical training.

With firm convictions but absolutely no financial resources, Shepard began to pursue his goal systematically. Simultaneously, he embarked upon an extensive and well-publicized fund-raising campaign and sought the help of legislators to present a bill in the North Carolina General Assembly for the charter of the proposed school. On June 28, 1909, the General Assembly ratified a bill granting a charter to the non-sectarian National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race with Dr. Shepard as its president. Two days after the school was chartered, Shepard acquired four blocks of land on Fayetteville St. from the Duke Land & Improvement Co. as a site for the school, the core of the property NCCU occupies today. According to a contemporary newspaper account, Duke Land & Improvement Co. owner Brodie L. Duke and the Durham Merchants Association each donated half of the site.

Dr. Shepard continued to receive support from blacks and whites alike. After collecting enough pledges in North Carolina for one building, he made two consecutive tours of the northeast that netted \$7,000 more in pledges, sufficient for a second building. An Advisory Board, composed of black and white representatives from ten states and the District of Columbia, met during the summer of 1909 to authorize construction of a frame auditorium and a brick-veneered men's dormitory. Among the Board's officers were N.C. Mutual and Provident Association executives Dr. Aaron M. Moore and John Merrick. Construction began in November, 1909, and by the time the school opened the following July, three additional frame buildings—a dining hall-classroom building, a women's dormitory and an administration building—also had been built. Two houses, one for President Shepard and one for teachers, were built later in the year.

The National Religious Training School and Chautauqua began its first term with approximately ninety students, fifty of them boarders. Ministers were allowed to attend free of charge while all other students paid ten dollars for the six-week summer school course and \$3.50 for room and board. A staff of around fifteen taught nineteen subjects: music, religion, normal and primary teaching methods, English, philosophy, ethics, agriculture, domestic science, basketry, dress-making, millinery, and physical education.

The institution was actually three schools in one, offering programs on grammar school, high school and college levels. So many of the student's possessed only an elementary foundation that a two-year grammar school had to be set up; it was not discontinued until 1918. The Academy Department was a four-year college preparatory

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program of scientific, classical and technical courses on a par with high schools of the North, intended to continue where southern high school for Negroes left off. The College of Arts and Sciences offered four-year programs in classics and sciences and two-year programs in commerce, music, teaching training, domestic arts, and ministerial training.<sup>11</sup>

The school was in operation, but Shepard's struggles were far from over. Lack of funds remained a constant problem, due to insufficient financial backing rather than inefficiency.<sup>12</sup> Shepard had to devote most of his energy to raising money, travelling incessantly throughout the east on fund-raising campaigns that yielded barely enough to meet operating expenses.<sup>13</sup> In 1912, the school issued \$70,000 worth of bonds, using its property as collateral. The Board of Advisors assisted Shepard, and Benjamin N. Duke both provided substantial aid and solicited funds from business associates and friends in New York, among them Mrs. Russell Sage.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, without a substantial endowment the school faced repeated financial crises. In 1913, Shepard obtained a mortgage on the school for \$25,000 from J.S. Manning in order to facilitate retirement of the bonds.<sup>15</sup>

With the economic strain of World War I, the situation became so desperate in September, 1915, that Manning was forced to foreclose on the mortgage. He sold all of the school property at a courthouse sale to the Golden Belt Realty Co. for \$25,100.<sup>15</sup> A few months later, the school resumed operation after Mrs. Russell Sage donated enough money to repurchase the property.<sup>17</sup> A new Board of Trustees appointed to reorganize the school discontinued the chautauqua features and shifted the emphasis from ministerial to teacher training. Free from debt for the first time, the institution reopened as the National Training School. As the war continued, however, additional gifts were not forthcoming, and Shepard's crisis-ridden struggle resumed as the school increased enrollment and overreached its financial capacity year after year.<sup>18</sup>

Finally, in 1923, the Board of Trustees had to decide whether to let a denomination take the National Training School over as a church school or to try to sell it to the state. They pursued the latter alternative and the institution became North Carolina's fifth state normal school for Negroes upon the state's assumption of the school's accumulated debt of \$49,000. A new Board of Trustees set up another administration, hired additional faculty, and appointed Dr. Shepard as principal of the Durham State Normal School. It also revised the curriculum, with the intention of cancelling the high school program as soon as the needs of previously enrolled students could be met. A renovation conducted during the summer of 1923 replaced the plumbing and provided fresh paint, but there was not enough money for a building program. No structures had been added to the campus since the fall of 1910, and with enrollment up to almost 200 in the fall of 1923, the physical plant was quite inadequate.<sup>19</sup>

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As the board prepared to ask the North Carolina General Assembly for new buildings, a movement for the establishment of a liberal arts college for Negroes arose and Dr. Shepard turned his attention to interesting the area's leading citizens to lobby for superimposing the new college on the Durham State Normal School. Delegations from Durham and other major North Carolina cities argued that the Durham Normal campus was the best place for the proposed college because of its good educational environment engendered by nearby Trinity College (about to become Duke University) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; its proximity to Raleigh for easy supervision by the state department of education; good transportation; the high standing of Durham's Negro community; and the good foundation provided by the existing school. While the General Assembly deliberated, two fires destroyed the administration building, a dormitory, and the dining hall on January 28 and 29, 1925. As cheap, temporary barracks-like structures were erected in early February, the General Assembly selected Durham State Normal School to become the nation's first state-supported four-year liberal arts college for Negroes. The new college's board of trustees unanimously elected Dr. Shepard as the chief administrator of the new North Carolina College for Negroes.<sup>20</sup>

This third transformation of Dr. Shepard's school was gradual. Once again, the curriculum had to be completely revamped: whereas the purpose of a state normal school was to train primary school teachers, the aim of Negro colleges was to train secondary teachers. Again, revamping of programs was hindered by the need to take care of previously registered pupils; the school did not become a full-fledged college until 1928 when the high school and normal departments were eliminated. In the meantime, extension work to assist rural teachers was expanded and a School of Commerce was established. Even then, inadequate facilities rendered the school below rating level of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (SACSS). Due to the fires, the physical plant became a worse handicap than ever, but the Board of Trustees decided to make the best use of the existing facilities rather than request more money so soon after the establishment of the college.<sup>21</sup> The only new structure associated with the school was the house completed in 1925 for Dr. Shepard on Fayetteville St. opposite the main entrance to the campus. A local fund drive initiated in 1923 by J.B. Mason, president of Citizens National Bank and a trustee of Durham State Normal, paid for the construction.<sup>22</sup>

A generous donation from Benjamin N. Duke soon made it possible for the Board to plan the necessary expansion of the campus.<sup>23</sup> In 1926, Duke gave the college \$50,000 of which \$8,000 was used for immediate needs, including a new boiler, and the remainder retained as the nucleus of a building fund. Through the interest of Governor Angus McLean, in 1927 the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$100,000 for buildings on the condition that the school match it with \$50,000; thus, the school had to raise only \$8,000, which it did quickly, to augment the remainder of

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Duke's contribution. In October of 1928, construction began on a new administration building, later named for Gov. Clyde R. Hoey. With an additional \$145,000 allotted by the General Assembly the following year, construction of a women's dormitory and a dining hall was undertaken. When these three brick buildings designed by the Durham architectural firm of Atwood and Nash were completed in 1930, the college earned a "Class B rating" from the SACSS. Although the male students still had to occupy the temporary building erected after the fires, they were much more comfortable now that the classroom laboratories and offices were moved to new quarters.<sup>24</sup>

With the onset of the Depression, state appropriations to North Carolina College for Negroes were curtailed sharply and it was not until New Deal programs got underway in the mid-1930s that construction resumed on the campus. The most extensive building program to date was carried out between 1936 and 1940 with a \$725,000 fund of Public Works Administration grants supplemented by state appropriations. In December, 1937, a new library (now Albert Lewis Turner Hall), Angus W. McLean Dormitory, B.N. Duke Auditorium, and six cottages for faculty were dedicated. That same year, the last of the temporary buildings were dismantled and the SACSS gave the school a "Class A" rating. Two years later, two women's dormitories (Ruth G. Rush Hall for freshmen and Old Senior Hall) and a science building (now William H. Robinson Science Building) were added.<sup>25</sup> Except for old Senior Hall and four of the cottages, all of these brick buildings, as well as the three dedicated in 1930, are included in this National Register nomination. The additional buildings easily accommodated the expanded curriculum and the growing student body, around 300 by 1940. In the late 1930s, a department of home economics<sup>26</sup> was set up, and in 1939 the Graduate School and the School of Law were founded.

Since 1940, the college has grown steadily to more than 5,000 students utilizing a campus of more than fifty buildings. In 1969, the school's name was changed to North Carolina Central University, and in 1972 it became one of the sixteen senior institutions which make up The University of North Carolina. In addition to the Undergraduate and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Law, the fully accredited NCCU has a School of Business and a School of Library Science. A flier entitled "North Carolina Central University Facts" printed around 1980 notes, "Today, NCCU faculty members and administrators serve on boards and committees of city government, the city and county schools, the greater Chamber of Commerce and most of Durham's civic organizations."<sup>27</sup> It would appear that Dr. Shepard's goal of providing blacks with the education that in turn yields moral leadership has been fulfilled.

NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Elizabeth Irene Seay, "A History of the North Carolina College for Negroes," (M.A. thesis for Duke University, 1941), pp. 16-17. He later received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree.

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 7-14; and Memorandum from Jerry L. Cross to Jerry C. Cashion, Research Branch, N. C. Division of Archives and History, 25 April, 1984.

<sup>3</sup>Loretta Funke, "The Negro in Education," Journal of Negro History, Vol. V, No.1, January 1920, p. 20, cited in Seay thesis, p. 18.

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Mr. N.C. Newbold, Raleigh, N.C., 6 August 1940, cited in Seay thesis, p. 38.

<sup>5</sup>Charter cited in Durham County Register of Deeds (DCRD) Deed of Trust Book 65, Page 263.

<sup>6</sup>DCRD, Deed Book 40, Page 296.

<sup>7</sup>Durham Morning Herald, 2 July 1909, cited in Seay thesis, p. 23. According to the deed the school paid \$4,585 for the land, which was part of a large parcel platted into residential lots and certainly worth more than that price. Perhaps the newspaper report means that Duke donated half of the site by accepting only half of its value in cash, which the Merchants Association donated to the school. See also DCRD, Plat Book 5, page 40.

<sup>8</sup>Seay, p. 103.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., pp. 22 and 24-27.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., pp. 33-35.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., pp. 39-42

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 64.

<sup>13</sup>DCRD, Deed of Trust Book 59, page 662, cited in Seay thesis, p.56.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 29.

<sup>15</sup>DCRD, Deed of Trust Book 65, Page 263.

<sup>16</sup>DCRD, Deed Book 50, Page 216

<sup>17</sup>DCRD, Deed Book 50, Page 492.

<sup>18</sup>Seay, p. 60.

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid., pp. 63-68.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., pp. 69-73.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., pp. 77-81

<sup>22</sup> "Alumni Trying to Save Home of NCCU Founder," Durham Morning Herald, 2 November 1975.

<sup>23</sup> Robert F. Durden, The Dukes of Durham, 1865-1929 (Durham: Duke University Press, 1975), p. 249.

<sup>24</sup> Seay, pp. 81 and 94-95.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., pp. 81 and 97.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., pp. 85-86.

<sup>27</sup> "North Carolina Central University Facts," flier distributed by the public relations office in Jordan House, NCCU campus.

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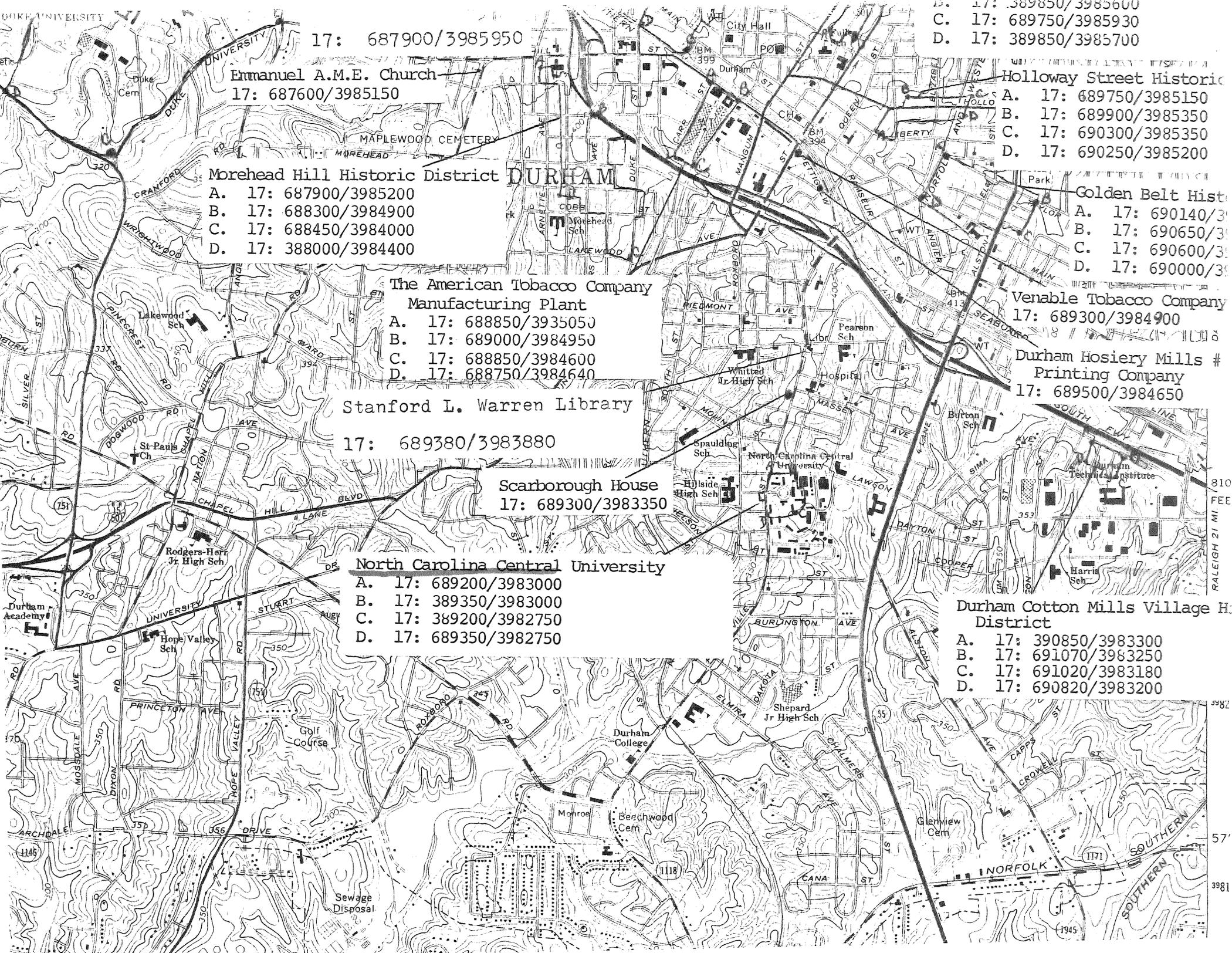
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Boundary Description

Beginning at the southeast corner of Fayetteville St. and Lawson St., follow the south side of Lawson St. east to the first service road and then follow the west edge of the service road south to its end; then continue in a straight line south to the walkway along the south side of B.N. Duke Auditorium and follow that walkway east, as indicated on the attached map, along the north side of the Clyde C. Hoey Administration Building, the courtyard to the east, and the north side of Alexander Dunn Hall (Old Student Union); continue to follow the walkway along the east and most of the south sides of Alexander Dunn Hall; then follow the walkway that leads from Alexander Dunn Hall south to the library; in front of the library turn to follow the walkway parallel to the north side of the library to the west, past the south side of Rush Hall; as shown on the map, continue along that walkway as it curves to the south and then continue along another walkway that curves to the northwest around the north side of the Chemistry Building; just before the northwest corner of the Chemistry Building, follow a straight line to the south between the Chemistry Building and the James S. Lee Biology Building, to the south side of the loop service road; follow the south side of the loop service road a short distance to the southeast to a point just beyond McLean Dormitory and opposite the west edge of the parking lot east of McLean Dormitory; then proceed in a southerly direction in a straight line that incorporates the west edge of the parking lot to the north side of George St.; follow the north side of George St. to the northeast corner of George St. and Fayetteville St. and then follow the east side of Fayetteville St. north to a point approximately 50 feet south of the main entrance to campus; then cross Fayetteville St. in a straight line to the west to the southeast corner of Lot 14 in Block 3 of Durham County Tax Map 182; follow the south, west and north sides of that lot to its northeast corner and then cross Fayetteville St. in a straight line to the east, to the corner of the entrance drive; proceed north along the east side of Fayetteville St. to the point of beginning.





17: 687900/3985950

Emmanuel A.M.E. Church  
17: 687600/3985150

Morehead Hill Historic District  
A. 17: 687900/3985200  
B. 17: 688300/3984900  
C. 17: 688450/3984000  
D. 17: 388000/3984400

The American Tobacco Company  
Manufacturing Plant  
A. 17: 688850/3935050  
B. 17: 689000/3984950  
C. 17: 688850/3984600  
D. 17: 688750/3984640

Stanford L. Warren Library  
17: 689380/3983880

Scarborough House  
17: 689300/3983350

North Carolina Central University  
A. 17: 689200/3983000  
B. 17: 389350/3983000  
C. 17: 389200/3982750  
D. 17: 689350/3982750

C. 17: 389850/3985600  
C. 17: 689750/3985930  
D. 17: 389850/3985700

Holloway Street Historic  
A. 17: 689750/3985150  
B. 17: 689900/3985350  
C. 17: 690300/3985350  
D. 17: 690250/3985200

Golden Belt Hist  
A. 17: 690140/3985150  
B. 17: 690650/3985350  
C. 17: 690600/3985350  
D. 17: 690000/3985200

Venable Tobacco Company  
17: 689300/3984900  
Durham Hosiery Mills #  
Printing Company  
17: 689500/3984650

Durham Cotton Mills Village H.  
District  
A. 17: 390850/3983300  
B. 17: 691070/3983250  
C. 17: 691020/3983180  
D. 17: 690820/3983200

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