

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC James Archibald Campbell Residence  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER North side US 421, 1.0 mi. west of Campbell College Campus  
CITY, TOWN Buies Creek  
STATE North Carolina  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3rd  
COUNTY Harnett  
CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: not in use

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Campbell College, Dr. Norman A. Wiggins, President  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Buies Creek  
VICINITY OF  
STATE N.C. 27506

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Register of Deeds, Harnett County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lillington  
STATE North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1965</u>

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

The James A. Campbell House is a one-and-one-half story frame structure, basically rectangular with projecting pavilions at the front (south) corners of the main facade. Its form is the result of several additions, all done for Campbell during his residency there. The pavilions and the repeated use of gables give the house its distinctive character. The main block has a hip roof with large gables in each face except at the rear. The pavilions have pyramidal roofs with false gables at the front and sides. A circular louvered vent punctuates each gable. The two pavilions, roughly square with one bay per side, are joined to the main block to form a shallow entrance court. The symmetry of the three roof forms is tied together by a shed porch roof which carries all around the house except in the rear where the only ornamentation is a simple bracketed cornice. The porch is carried on slender turned posts connected by a balustrade consisting of molded handrail and slender turned balusters. A small central gable with circular vent interrupts the front porch roofline. A simple shed porch protects the rear door. At the junction of the rear of the southeast pavilion and the main block rises a single shoulder brick chimney.

The fanciful but balanced massing of the house is emphasized by irregular fenestration. The main facade, including pavilions, has four windows and four doors irregularly spaced, most facing the shallow entrance court area. Most of the first floor windows have four-over-four sash and are encased in simple board frames. The main block has a window with six-over-six sash in the front gables; it and the six-over-six sash in the southeast pavilion are replacements for larger, earlier sash. The rear of the building is sparsely ornamented and functionally treated.

Because the house expanded over time and served as dormitory as well as the Campbell residence, its floor plan is atypical. The projecting pavilions on the south facade contain one room each. The southwest pavilion is a bedroom with a portion of the porch behind it (north) enclosed to make a bathroom. The southeast pavilion is a kitchen. Running laterally (east-west) through the main block is a hall which terminates at the east end with an enclosed area containing several storage rooms and a bath. A stair rises along the north hall wall. There are three rooms of varying sizes on each side of the lateral hall. On the south side are two bedrooms to the west joined by a now closed chimney, and a large dining room with exterior end chimney servicing the fireplace of this room. Across the north side of the hall are three bedrooms.

The second floor contains a hall which runs north-south with a bedroom on either side of the hall and a bath at the southern terminus of the hall. Each bedroom has two large storage areas. The interior trim, which appears to have never been elaborate, has been altered many times through the years.

A cement block furnace room is northwest of center of the rear facade. The house was moved back from the road a few feet in 1965, when the highway was widened.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES      1891-1934

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James A. Campbell House is of great historical significance to nearby Campbell College. The picturesque frame house was built in 1891 for James Archibald Campbell, four years after he had founded Buies Creek Academy, an institution he guided carefully as president. In 1926 the school became a junior college and was named for Campbell, who continued as president until his death in 1934. The house throughout his life was a focus of the school community, reflecting Campbell's closeness to the student life of the institution he created. Campbell's two sons also became college presidents: Leslie, the eldest succeeded his father at Campbell College; Carlyle served at Coker College and Meredith College.

James Archibald Campbell was born in Harnett County on January 13, 1862, the son of Archibald Neill Campbell, a farmer and Baptist preacher, and Huma Betts Campbell.<sup>1</sup> He attended local schools and a boarding school in Apex. In 1880 Campbell taught for a year at Chalybeate Springs, before returning to school at Oakdale Academy in Alamance County near Graham. Campbell spent the next seven years as a student at Oakdale, a teacher in Harnett County, and a student at Wake Forest College.<sup>2</sup>

In the fall of 1886 Campbell withdrew from Wake Forest because of the financial difficulties of his family and returned to Harnett County, where he was persuaded to open a school, which eventually became Buies Creek Academy.<sup>3</sup> Harnett County was a totally agricultural county, largely dependent on its cotton crop, which had to be hauled thirty miles to the nearest market, either Raleigh or Fayetteville. The county had no town of any size, and Buies Creek contained only seven families. Harnett County had been without a school for three years when James Campbell started the academy.<sup>4</sup> Classes began on January 5, 1887, with sixteen students, through high school level, and by the end of the term, enrollment had increased to ninety-two students. At the first commencement, the speaker was a young newspaper editor from Raleigh, Josephus Daniels, later to become one of North Carolina's most illustrious citizens.<sup>5</sup>

Buies Creek Academy continued to grow into the 1890s. In 1890 Campbell left the school to become pastor of the Dunn Baptist Church, but was back at school within the year.<sup>6</sup> On November 18 of that year Campbell was married to Cornelia Frances Pearson, a teacher at the academy and the daughter of William Pearson, one of the academy's strongest supporters. Campbell purchased 62-3/4 acres from his father-in-law, and built a home during the summer and fall of 1891, completing it in November, 1891.<sup>8</sup>

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The Campbell house, located near the campus, was used from the beginning as a community center for the school: Campbell opened the house to boarding students, as headquarters for commencement speakers, and as the social center of the school's graduation festivities. Located only a small distance across a creek from a school which suffered from a lack of facilities, the Campbell house became intimately involved in the lives of the students of the school, and was a focal point of Buies Creek's campus life.<sup>9</sup>

James Campbell, in addition to his duties at the school, served as Harnett County school superintendent on two occasions, was pastor of a local Baptist church, farmed, published a small newspaper, served as president of a local bank, and occasionally entered the political arena concerning a cause he felt deeply about.<sup>10</sup> He found time to return to Wake Forest, complete his studies, and receive his degree in 1911.<sup>11</sup> His primary task, however, was the strengthening of Buies Creek Academy.

Campbell guided the academy through several crises. On December 20, 1900, a fire destroyed everything at the site of the school except a small storehouse and the tabernacle.<sup>12</sup> The fire could easily have been the death knell for the small school, only thirteen years old. However, money was raised and a new physical plant was built, largely by Z. T. Kivett, a Buies Creek builder. The new brick buildings were an improvement over the old buildings, and the struggle to raise money for the rebuilding project won Buies Creek Academy more friends and fame than it had previously enjoyed.<sup>13</sup> As Harnett County's public school system improved, Buies Creek Academy was faced with the possibility of losing its students to the free schools in the area. Campbell met this challenge by constantly improving the quality of the school, and by maintaining its identity as a strongly religious institution.<sup>14</sup>

As Buies Creek Academy prospered and grew Campbell found that its increasing size made it difficult for one man to maintain complete control of the school. As early as 1911 Campbell placed some of the physical equipment of the school under the ownership of the Little River Baptist Association. In the early 1920s the school began receiving money from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. In 1924 Campbell offered to sell Buies Creek Academy to the convention, and the transaction took place in 1925, with Campbell remaining the school's president. In 1926 the school was raised to the rank of a junior college and the Baptist Convention changed the name to Campbell Junior College, in honor of its founder.<sup>15</sup> In the same year Wake Forest, his alma mater, granted Campbell the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.<sup>16</sup>

James Campbell remained president of Campbell Junior College until his death on March 18, 1934.<sup>17</sup> His eulogies received front page coverage in the state's newspapers. A typical comment came from the Raleigh News and Observer, which said that "the influence of Dr. Campbell's life was and is as wide as the humanity which he touched in

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his own good, wise, kind, and religious living. North Carolina will continue to be rich in the influence of his life."<sup>18</sup>

Campbell was succeeded as president on March 26, 1934 by his son Leslie, the eldest of the three Campbell children.<sup>19</sup> Leslie was born on April 3, 1892, making him forty-two years old when he became president of Campbell.<sup>20</sup> Arthur Carlyle Campbell was born November 28, 1894, and Elizabeth Pearson Campbell was born September 26, 1896.<sup>21</sup> Both sons graduated from Wake Forest in 1911, the same year in which their father received his long delayed degree from that institution.<sup>22</sup> Leslie and Carlyle returned to Buies Creek, where they taught for several years without salary.<sup>23</sup>

After graduate work at the University of North Carolina and Columbia University, Leslie Campbell became the first dean of students at Campbell in 1926, while continuing to teach, positions he maintained until he took over the presidency.<sup>24</sup> After graduate work at Columbia, Carlyle Campbell taught English at Buies Creek, at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina, and at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Carlyle Campbell served as president of Coker for eleven years, and later became the fourth president of Meredith College in Raleigh.<sup>25</sup> He died July 29, 1977, and was eulogized by the Raleigh News and Observer as "a man of great civility, scholarship and religious conviction."<sup>26</sup> Elizabeth "Bessie" Campbell, later Mrs. A. E. Lynch, also taught at Campbell, heading the school's music department until her retirement in 1965.<sup>27</sup>

Leslie Campbell guided Campbell until his retirement in 1957 when he was replaced by Norman Wiggins. During his tenure as president, Campbell survived the Great Depression, World War II, and several attempt to move it into the physical plant vacated by the removal of Wake Forest College to Winston-Salem. It became a four-year, senior college, receiving accreditation in 1966.<sup>28</sup>

The Campbell house is now owned by Campbell College. James Campbell died intestate. In 1943 his heirs, the three children and his widow, sold most of the Campbell estate, including the house, to the school.<sup>29</sup> The house is at present not used. Current plans are being considered for the house to be restored as a history museum by the Harnett County Historical Society,<sup>30</sup> recognizing the house's importance to the history of Campbell College and its distinction as the home of three college presidents.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>"Obituary of J. A. Campbell," Raleigh News and Observer, March 19, 1934, hereinafter cited as "Campbell Obituary."

<sup>2</sup>"Campbell Obituary"; J. Winston Pearce, Campbell College: Big Miracle at Little Buies Creek, 1887-1974 (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1976), 23-23, 27-28, hereinafter cited as Pearce, Campbell College.

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<sup>3</sup>"Campbell Obituary"; Mrs. J. L. Marks, "The Miracle at Buies Creek: A History of Campbell College," Dunn Daily Record, May 7, 1976, hereinafter cited as Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek."

<sup>4</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 35-36; Malcolm Fowler, They Passed This Way: A Personal Narrative of Harnett County (Harnett County Centennial, Inc., 1955), 133.

<sup>5</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 36-41.

<sup>6</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 45.

<sup>7</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 61-63.

<sup>8</sup>Harnett County Deeds, Book J-2, 506.

<sup>9</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 56-57, 64.

<sup>10</sup>"Campbell Obituary."

<sup>11</sup>Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek."

<sup>12</sup>Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek;" Raleigh News and Observer, December 21, 1900.

<sup>13</sup>Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek;" Pearce, Campbell College, 81-83, 85-87.

<sup>14</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 45, 49, 50.

<sup>15</sup>Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek;" M. A. Huggins, A History of North Carolina Baptists: 1727-1932 (Raleigh, General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 1934), 367-368.

<sup>16</sup>Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek."

<sup>17</sup>"Campbell Obituary."

<sup>18</sup>"Campbell Obituary."

<sup>19</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 168.

<sup>20</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 64.

<sup>21</sup>Pearce, Campbell College, 64.

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22 Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek."

23 Pearce, Campbell College, 64-66.

24 Pearce, Campbell College, 182-183; "Obituary of Leslie Campbell," Raleigh News and Observer, November 26, 1970.

25 Pearce, Campbell College, 101, 124; Mary Lynch Johnson, A History of Meredith College (Raleigh: Meredith College, 1956), 200-201.

26 Raleigh News and Observer, August 1, 1977.

27 Pearce, Campbell College, 65, 67.

28 Marks, "Miracle at Buies Creek."

29 Harnett County Deeds, Book 290, 52; Book 290, 320.

30 Raleigh News and Observer, June 2, 1977.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fowler, Malcolm. They Passed This Way: A Personal Narrative of Harnett County.  
Harnett County Centennial, Inc., 1955.  
Harnett County Deed Books. Microfilm copy, State Department of Archives and History,  
Raleigh.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING				

B 

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING				

C 

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING				

D 

ZONE	EASTING				NORTHING				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Greer Suttlemyre, Survey Specialist, description; Jim Sumner, Survey Specialist, significance

ORGANIZATION

Department of Cultural Resources

DATE

September 1, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE

919/733-4763

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_

LOCAL X

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 8, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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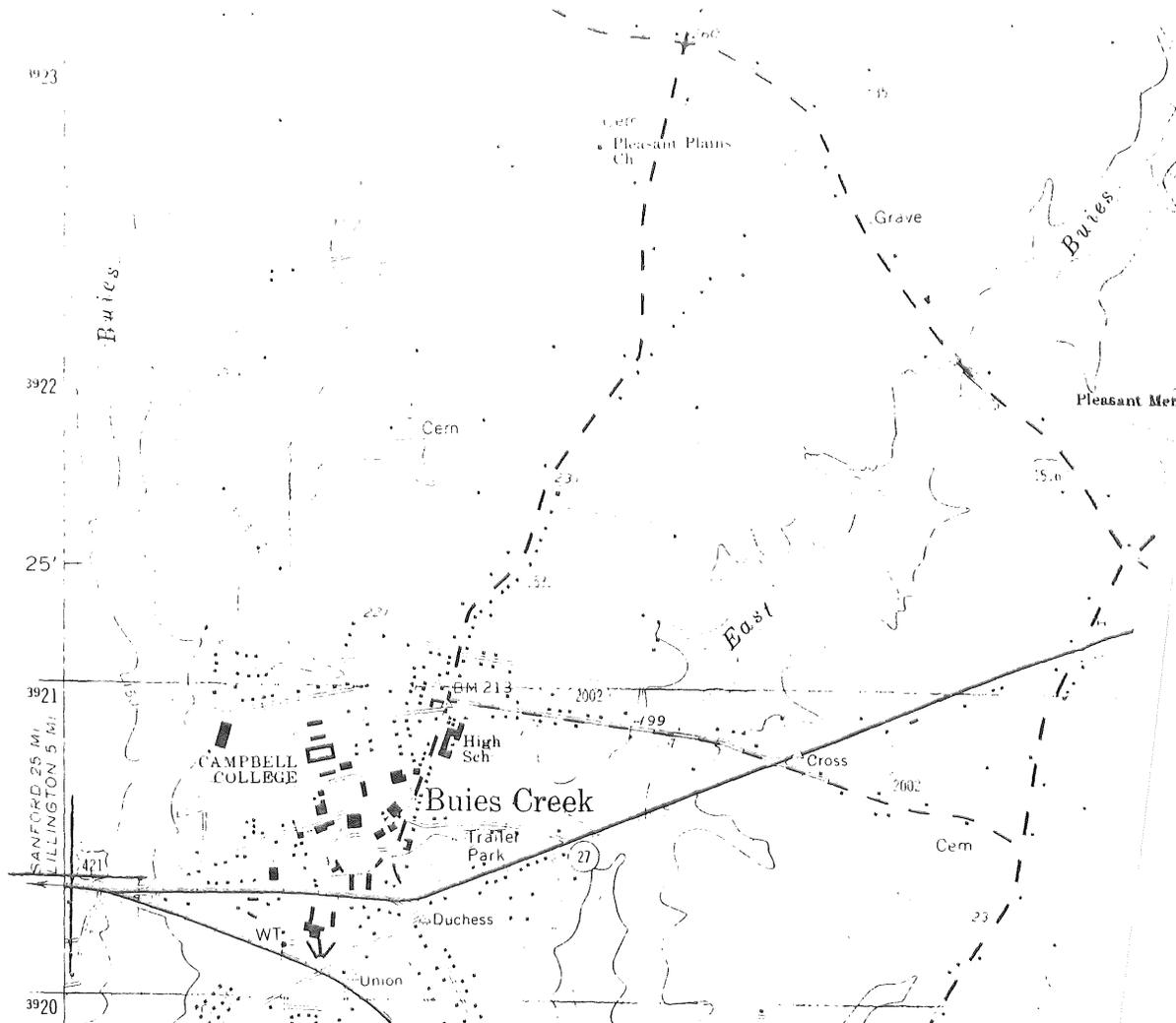
Huggins, M.A. A History of North Carolina Baptists: 1727-1932. Raleigh: General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, 1934.

Johnson, Mary Lynch. A History of Meredith College. Raleigh: Meredith College, 1956.

Marks, Mrs. J. L. "The Miracle at Buies Creek: A History of Campbell College." Originally published in 1952, reprinted in the Dunn Daily Record, May 7, 1976.

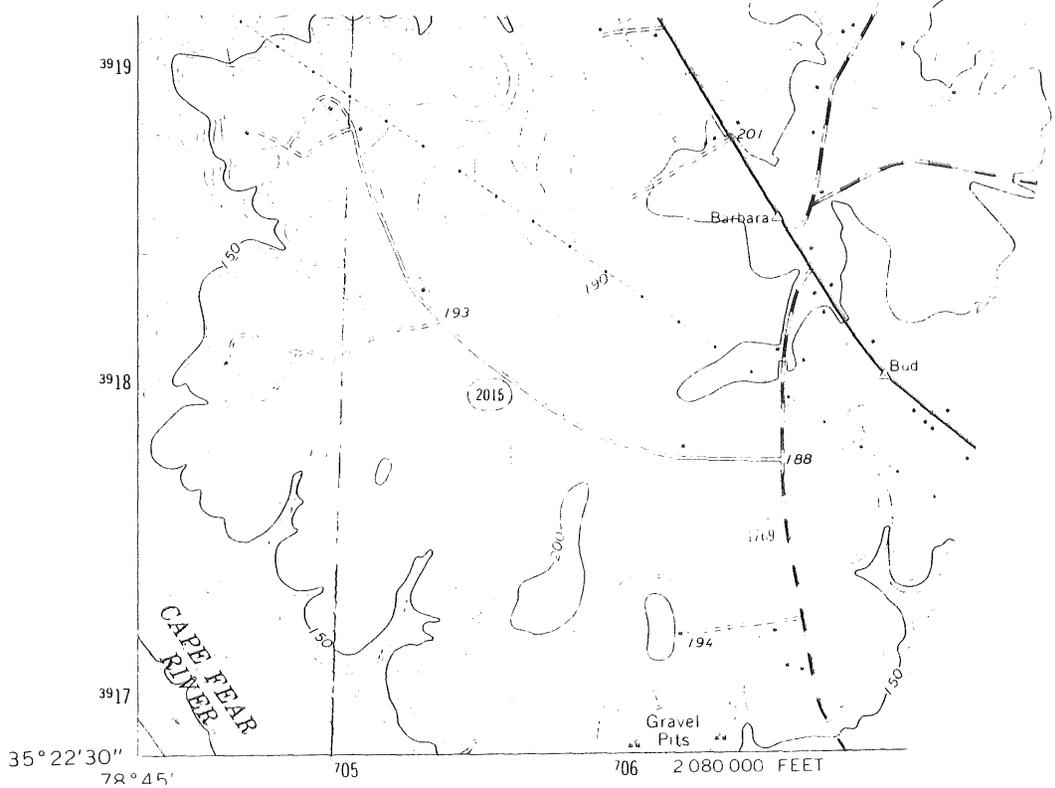
Pearce, J. Winston. Campbell College: Big Miracle at Little Buies Creek, 1887-1974. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1976.

Raleigh News and Observer. December 21, 1900; March 19, 1934; November 26, 1970; June 2, 1977.



James A. Campbell House  
 Buies Creek, NC  
 N side US 421, 1 mi. W of Campbell College  
 Harnett County

UTM Reference  
 17/704320/3920380





West Exposure of J. A. Campbell House