

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lyerly Building for Boys
other names/site number

Nazareth Orphans' Home

2. Location

street & number	Crescent Road, route 3	<input type="checkbox"/> not for publication	N/A
city, town	Gold Hill Township	<input type="checkbox"/> vicinity	N/A
state	North Carolina	code NC	county Rowan
		code 159	zip code 28071

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing _____	Noncontributing _____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair Jr.
Signature of certifying official

10-10-88
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 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

b. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - institutional housing

Religion - religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

department store

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls granite

roof slate

other wood

iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lyerly Building for Boys was constructed 1913 - 1916 in a rural area of Rowan County known at the time as Crescent Village. The native granite building, is appropriately, near the town of Granite Quarry. To this day the countryside surrounding the Nazareth Children's Home development is sparsely populated. The Lyerly Building itself is separated from the other, more recently constructed buildings of the complex by Crescent Rd. In this sense it has remained set apart from the rest, surrounded by undeveloped acreage. The first floor was utilized as a chapel, and sometimes classrooms, while the upstairs served as a boys dormitory. The cornerstone, laid on August 7, 1913, is located to the left of the entrance and reads "Dormitory and Chapel, 1913".

The Lyerly Building is the only early 20th century vernacular Gothic Revival style church constructed of granite in Rowan County. Despite slight modifications over the years it has retained its architectural integrity through surviving materials, mass, scale, and craftsmanship. In 1929 the front wall was reconstructed with no change to the original style (reason for reconstruction is unknown). The transom above the front doors at the entry was originally of stained glass and contained the following inscription:

"In Memory of
Harry Leonidas Holshouser
Born October 1, 1900 - Died July 14, 1915
With Money Earned and Saved By Himself,
The Windows Were Placed in this Building"

This transom was broken and was replaced with the solid glass as seen today. The six-over-six windows with transoms which had been donated by Mr. Holshouser at the time of construction have been replaced with metal nine-over-nine, the transom areas closed off. The window openings themselves, as well as the stone lintels and sills, have all remained intact.

The rectangular front gable form is highlighted by a steeply pitched parapeted slate roof with a stone coping cap and exposed rafter tails. A small addition was made to the rear facade in 1930 which duplicates the main building in shape, materials, and roof line. The exterior of the Lyerly Building is constructed of native rough cut granite from the Shuping Quarry, random laid with beaded joints. The front elevation is highlighted by a grand entry porch with balcony above supported by granite piers. Projecting granite pilasters flank the entryway and facade and extend up to the parapet. The entrance consists of paneled double wooden doors with transom above, and long narrow windows on either side. In the second story leading on to the balcony are glazed paneled wooden doors with a multi-paned rectangular transom. The balcony, with concrete floor, is surrounded by an iron railing. A Gothic window opening exists in the gable. Windows in the first and second stories of the east and west elevations are regularly spaced (in

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singles in the west elevation, and in singles and pairs in the east elevation). From the rear elevation a metal slide extends down from the second story (addition; apparently a fire escape). Windows are repeated in the exposed 1913 portion of the rear elevation.

The interior floor plan has remained entirely intact, with original six-paneled wooden doors throughout. The porch leads to a small foyer, with a storage room to the left. To the right is the original staircase leading to the second floor. Wooden treads and risers are contained in an open stringer which is decorated with curvilinear sawnwork brackets. The handrail is supported by square wooden balusters, with paneled newel posts at the intermediate landing and bottom of the staircase.

From the foyer are two sets of paneled wooden doors leading to the chapel, a large open room with an elevated platform at the opposite end. Beyond the platform are two storage rooms. All finishes in the chapel are original (narrow wood floorboards, plaster walls, and beaded wood ceiling). No original seating remains. Windows are encased in plain wooden frames. When used for schooling the chapel was divided into two classrooms by overhead sectional rolling doors. The wooden slat curtains are contained in paneled casings above. The chapel's platform is situated in an arched recess. Its flooring is tongue and groove, and beaded paneling finishes the vertical face of the platform. The wall at the rear of the platform is finished in beaded wainscotting. Wooden stairs on either side leading to the platform are decorated with curvilinear sawnwork brackets.

At the top of the staircase leading to the second floor is a central hall which runs from the front to the rear of the Lyerly Building. From this central hall are small rooms on either side which served as dormitory lodging. Bathrooms are contained in the rear of the second floor (the last room off to the right and left). Narrow wooden floorboards exist throughout, with plaster walls and a wooden ceiling which has been covered with ceiling tile. Six-paneled wooden doors are encased in plain frames, with three-pane operable transoms above. A wooden staircase at the end of the hall leads to the attic (the entrance to the attic has been closed off).

While the Lyerly Building for Boys remains the only building located north of Crescent Road, the Home's property extends south of Crescent Road and contains numerous other buildings, the majority of which have been constructed within the last twenty years.

The only other early building standing on the orphanage campus is the Superintendent's Home, a modest brick bungalow located across the road from the Lyerly Building. The original orphanage buildings were the two farmhouses located on the property acquired for the orphanage. These houses, the McNairy Home and the Goodman Home, are no longer standing. Likewise, the second oldest building on the campus, the Payne Building for Girls, constructed in 1925 as a counterpart to the Lyerly Building for Boys, is no longer standing. This nomination proposes only the Lyerly Building for listing because it is the only significant early building remaining on the campus.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1913

1913 - 1938

Significant Dates

1913, 1929, 1938

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

In 1903 the Reformed Church in North Carolina founded the Nazareth Orphans' Home, to be developed in Crescent, North Carolina (a section of Gold Hill Township). At the time of its organization this was the only orphanage in the county, and has remained such to this day. The first building constructed by the Church was the Lyerly Building for Boys, erected 1913 - 1916. It served as a school and chapel in the first floor with boys dormitory above until 1969, and the orphanage plans to restore these functions. Constructed of native granite in a vernacular Gothic Revival style, it is associated with the prosperous early 20th century granite industry in Rowan County. The building is named for Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly whose energy and commitment served as a catalyst in the development of this much needed facility. The Lyerly Building is a cornerstone for the Nazareth Orphans' Home complex. The period of significance ends in 1938, the last year that the building met the 50-year criterion.

Historical Background

At the 1901 annual session of the Reformed Church in North Carolina a resolution was adopted which verbalized the need for an orphans' home, and the church's commitment to establishing such a facility. By 1903 Crescent was selected as the location. This village was believed to offer "church, school, and a Reformed community".¹ A rural area of south Rowan County, this land was then and is now a part of Gold Hill Township and has to this day remained sparsely populated.

Initially 16 2/5 acres of land was purchased for \$410. In 1905 it was planned to construct a "main or central building, two stories, with basement, of native granite, 84 feet front, and 64 feet deep". Due to a lack of initial funds, this building was never erected. A year later the McNairy farm (consisting of 85 acres of land and a frame house) was purchased for \$4100. In 1909 the Goodman Home and seven acres of land were purchased for \$2500.² The McNairy Home and Goodman Home housed the children and employees. It was not until 1913 that the Lyerly Building for Boys, originally called the "School and Chapel Building", was constructed.³ The need for the structure climaxed when it was discovered the Crescent Academy, that served as a school for the orphans, was closing its doors. The Home therefore began conducting its own school. Chairs and desks for the school came from Catawba College when the college moved to Salisbury from Newton.⁴

Although the actual cost of construction of the Lyerly Building is unknown, it

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exceeded \$10,000.⁵ Granite was obtained from the Shuping Quarry (located in Rowan County).⁶ The front wall was rebuilt in 1929, and a small addition was added to the rear a year later.⁷ In the first floor was the Hedrick Chapel (also used for classrooms) and the second floor was utilized as a boys dormitory.

The Reformed Church and community as a whole were strongly committed to the Home's success. Rooms were furnished by various individuals and organizations (ie Ladies Aid Society).⁸ The building's namesake is Rev. J. M. L. Lyerly, son of Martin and Camilla Fisher Lyerly. Reverend Lyerly lived in Crescent and served on the committee which brought forth the resolution to the Reformed Church in 1903 which laid the foundation for the Home's establishment. As pastor of the Central Rowan Charge (local jurisdiction of the Reformed Church) he served as chief fundraiser during the early years of the Home's development. Reverend Lyerly was the first President of the Board of Directors.⁹ The chapel is named for Elder J. T. Hedrick, who served as treasurer of the building funds at the time of the Lyerly building's construction.¹⁰

It is surprising that more buildings in Rowan county constructed in the early years of this century were not built of granite, and it is fortunate from this perspective that the Lyerly Building has remained intact. Quarries of Rowan County were able to take advantage of the availability and superior quality of granite found locally, which led to them becoming many of the principal sources of granite in the state. The production of both crushed and cut stone have for years constituted a primary mineral industry in North Carolina.¹¹

At present, the Lyerly Building for Boys serves as a used clothing and goods store, with all proceeds benefitting the Home. Currently funds are being sought to restore and maintain the building's interior, which will only enhance its integrity. The McNairy and Goodman homes which originally housed the Nazareth Orphans' Home are no longer standing. Buildings constructed by the Home at a later date include the Payne Building for Girls (1925), which is no longer standing, and the Superintendent's Home (1929), a modest bungalow which is still situated across the road from the Lyerly Building for Boys.¹²

Architecture Context

In Rowan County, the Gothic Revival style is typically found in 19th and early 20th century churches.¹³ The Lyerly Building for Boys is vernacular Gothic Revival in style, displaying details such as its steeply pitched roof, its wall surface extending into the gable without a break, a Gothic window located in the gable, and a prominent one story entry porch. The Lyerly Building is the only early 20th century Gothic Revival church (chapel) constructed of granite standing in Rowan County, and the oldest building on the Nazareth Orphans' Home complex.

Social Context

The Nazareth Orphans' Home was the only orphanage in Rowan County at the time of its organization, and has remained such to this day.¹⁴ Statewide, the first orphanage in North Carolina, the Oxford Masonic Orphanage in Oxford, was established in 1873, and by 1899 there were ten orphanages in the state. All of these were founded by private philanthropic and religious organizations, and government agencies did not get involved in this mission until well into the twentieth century. The Nazareth Home, established in the first decade of the 20th century, is certainly one of the earlier orphanages in North Carolina.¹⁵

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FOOTNOTES

¹ Thomas L. Moose, Nazareth Orphans' Home (Salisbury: Rowan Printing Co., 1954), p.8.

² Ibid., p. 23.

³ Ibid., p. 23.

⁴ Moose interview.

⁵ Moose, Nazareth Orphans' Home, p. 24.

⁶ Moose interview.

⁷ Moose, Nazareth Orphans' Home, p. 24.

⁸ Ibid., p. 24.

⁹ Ibid., p. 36.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 24.

¹¹ North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Mineral Resources, The Commercial Granites of North Carolina. Richard J. Councill, Bulletin number 67 (1954), p.2.

¹² Moose, Nazareth Orphans' Home, p. 25.

¹³ Davyd Foard Hood, The Architecture of Rowan County: A catalogue and History of Surviving 18th, 19th, and Early 20th Century Structures. (Salisbury: Rowan County Historic Properties Commission, 1983), p. 69.

¹⁴ Rowan County Department of Social Services.

¹⁵ Fink, Arthur E. "Changing Philosophies and Practices in North Carolina Orphanages." North Carolina Historical Review (XLVIII, no. 4), October 1971, 333-358.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Fink, Arthur E. "Changing Philosophies and Practices in North Carolina Orphanages," North Carolina Historical Review (XLVIII, No. 4), October 1971, 333-358.
- Hood, Davyd Foard. The Architecture of Rowan County: A Catalogue and History of Surviving 18th, 19th, and Early 20th Century Structures. Salisbury: Rowan County Historic Properties Commission, 1983.

Interview with Thomas and Reedy Moose, authors of Nazareth Orphan's Home.

Moose, Thomas L. Nazareth Orphans' Home. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Co., 1954.

North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. Division of Mineral Resources. The Commercial Granites of North Carolina, by Richard J. Councill. Bulletin Number 67 (1954).

Rowan County Department of Social Services.

Rowan County Tax Office.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.3± acres

UTM References

A	[1] [7]	[5] [5]	[1] [6]	[8] [0]	[3] [9]	[3]	[6]	[2] [0]	[0]
Zone	Easting	Northing							

B	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []
Zone	Easting	Northing							

D	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []	[] []
Zone	Easting	Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Being the portion of Parcel #25, Rowan County Tax Map 358, drawn at a scale of 1" =400', outlined in red.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary represents the immediate grounds of the Lyerly Building, and excludes the remainder of the large Nazareth Childrens Home campus.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Diane M. Young, consultant	date	5-20-88
organization		telephone	(704)598-0094
street & number	100 E. Innes St., Suite 3	state	NC
city or town	Salisbury	zip code	28144

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The following information is standard for all photographs:

Lyerly Building for Boys
Gold Hill Township (Rowan County), North Carolina
Diane M. Young, photographer
12/13/87
negatives retained by photographer

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	overall view, photographer facing northeast
2	south elevation, photographer facing north
3	east elevation, photographer facing northwest
4	west elevation, photographer facing east
5	north elevation, photographer facing south
6	cornerstone, lower west side of main facade
7	interior staircase, leading from foyer to second floor
8	recessed platform area in chapel, first floor
9	standard door, second floor dormitory area
10	second floor central hallway

JAN 30 1989

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88003006
Lyerly Building for Boys
Property Name

Date Listed: 1/5/89
Rowan
County

NC
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper


Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Since a religious institution constructed and operated the facility, Criteria Consideration A should be checked.

Discussed and concurred in by the North Carolina SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)





