

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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 Boyden High Schoolother names/site number Salisbury High School

2. Location

street & number 500 Lincolnton Road N/A ☐ not for publicationcity or town Salisbury N/A ☐ vicinitystate North Carolina code NC county Rowan code 159 zip code 28144

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ 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:) _____

Boyden High School
Name of Property

Rowan County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
4	1	Total

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

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Collegiate Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other Terra Cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation sheet.

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1925-1946

Significant Dates

1925

1926

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet.

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Boyden High School
Name of Property

Rowan County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property app. 5.0 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	11 7	5 4 6 6 4 0	3 19 4 16 6 18 10
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

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 Davyd Foard Hood

organization _____ date 30 October 1995

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-4331

city or town Vale state N.C. zip code 28168

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 Dr. Joseph F. McCann, Superintendent, Rowan-Salisbury School System

street & number 314 North Ellis Street telephone 704/636-3057

city or town Salisbury state N.C. zip code 28144

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.

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Boyden High School, Salisbury
Rowan County, North Carolina

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Overview

Boyden High School, an unusually handsome, intact three-story Collegiate Gothic-style building with ochre-colored brick elevations, stands on the north side of Lincolnton Road in an early-twentieth century residential neighborhood of Salisbury, the county seat of Rowan County. The school, and particularly its five-stage center tower, rises above the rooflines of the one- and two-story houses and apartment buildings which surround it; however, its positioning, behind an open grass-covered lawn, is one of compatibility with its neighborhood. The school campus is located about ten blocks west/southwest of the town square at the crossing of Main and Innes Streets and about five blocks south of Livingstone College, a predominantly black institution. The original 1925-1926 main building of Boyden High School, together with most of its secondary supporting buildings and athletic facilities, occupies a large, multi-block rectangular tract bounded on the south by Lincolnton Road, on the east by Caldwell Street, on the north by Taylor Street, and on the west by Wilson Street: the expanded 1950s school gymnasium with its adjoining athletic fields and large parking lot are located on the north side of Taylor Street. The nominated acreage comprises the east half of the large rectangular tract on which stand the 1925-1926 main building, the industrial arts and music buildings of 1938-1939, and the 1955 school lunchroom. A covered walkway, erected in 1960, connects the main building with the industrial arts building and the school lunchroom. The Reid G. Leonard Music Building stands apart to the northeast of the main building.

The placement of the pre-1946 building(s) on the ten-acre tract, acquired in 1921 by the school board, and the arrangement of the grounds were conceived by landscape architect Earle Summer Draper in the summer-fall of 1924. Draper located the large H-shape main building on the highest point and in the southeast corner of the tract with its facade facing south/southwest to Lincolnton Road and the long east standard of the "H" generally parallel with Caldwell Street. (For the reader's ease, the main elevation/facade, while facing south/southwest, will be described as the south elevation, and the other elevations and the internal plan of the building will be discussed accordingly.) There is a shallow open lawn between the south front of the building and the Lincolnton Road and a deeper lawn between the school's long east elevation and Caldwell Street. As a means of principal vehicular access, Draper devised a curved driveway which enters the east lawn off Lincolnton Road and continues in a half-ovoid arc in front of the main east entrance porch and then exits onto Caldwell Street on axis with the south end of Ellis Street. This asphalt-paved driveway remains intact: pedestrian sidewalks and some diagonal parking have been added on its inside arch to accommodate evolving, increased traffic. The original faculty and school

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parking lot was positioned off the north side of this driveway and to the northeast of the school: the designated site of that lot became the location of the WPA-supported music building in 1938-1939. In front of the school, on the south lawn, Draper placed a forecourt of rectangular grass plots outlined by sidewalks between the south legs of the "H" plan. These walks, leading to the center/tower entrance and the secondary flanking doorways, extend southward to engage the main pedestrian walk which curves in a wide arc from Lincolnton Road toward the building and then back to Lincolnton Road. This broadly-curving cement walk remains intact; however, in the 1970s, after integration, a second vehicular drive, whose path runs along the inside edge of the walk, was added here on the south lawn. Its parallel course preserves the form of the walk and its relationship to the building and the street: some diagonal parking spaces were added on the inside of the drive on axis with the front of the school. On the 1924 plan, Draper located athletic fields to the west of the main building: the school's principal sports field remains there to the present. The area to the north of the school was designated for future expansion of the building: in time tennis courts were built here, and these were succeeded, over the years, by additional staff parking. In 1938-1939 the industrial arts building was erected to the north/northeast of those tennis courts and the main building. In 1955 the school's free-standing lunchroom was built at further remove to the north/northeast of the 1924 main building.

The grounds of Boyden High School--and its nominated acreage--are grass-covered and punctuated by large specimen shade trees and smaller flowering trees planted in pairs in positions about the building. A low mixed-shrub border has been recently planted across the south elevation of the main block, between the standards of the "H": there are no other significant foundation plantings at the base of the school. The symmetrical elevations of the building are then enhanced through the pairs of cedars, flowering plum trees, and dogwoods planted in the forecourt. A pair of crape myrtles are planted in symmetrical positions in the south lawn, near Lincolnton Road, where they frame the view toward the center tower. There is also a related planting of crape myrtle near the corner of Lincolnton Road and Caldwell Street. On the east side of the building there is a pair of Japanese maples flanking the east entrance porch. Here, the larger lawn is planted with specimen oak and maple trees. A single Deodora cedar stands near the junction of the drive with Caldwell Street. It is unclear at present what part of these plantings date from the 1920s and might have been devised by Earle Sumner Draper: there is no known surviving planting plan for the grounds. The general plan for the school, dating from November 1924, records the position of pairs of magnolia and poplars which framed the Howard house (originally standing here), and street-side plantings of elms along Caldwell Street and mostly maples along Lincolnton Road: the trees shading the Howard yard were taken down during site preparation and most of the

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street-side trees have been lost and/or replaced. Postal views of the school, published in the 1920s, show an open lawn with small shrubs planted around the foundation of the school. Postals views published in the late 1940s and 1950s show dense and attractive shrub plantings; however, virtually all of these have been taken out, probably in the 1960s.

Boyden High School (with the industrial arts
building and the lunchroom)
1925-1926; 1938-1939; 1955
Contributing Building

Boyden High School is a large partial H-shape Collegiate Gothic-style building with ochre-colored brick elevations enhanced by beige glazed terra cotta ornament and architectural trim: the form of the "H" is complete except for the upper length of the west (left) standard of the "H." It was here that the first addition to the school building would have been made had the increased student body necessitated it; however, that has not proved to be the case for seventy years. The design of the building is dominated by a five-stage central tower which rises in the center of the three-story main block above the parapet roof of the school. The wire-cut ochre-colored brick are laid up in common bond with recessed joints. The architectural form of the school and its Gothic flavor are defined through the use of glazed terra cotta tiles which are lavishly applied on the main tower, the east and north porches, the window enframements for the auditorium which contain handsome "S"s in their transoms, and the panels on the south faces of the projecting standards of the "H" where the words "AUDITORIUM" and "GYMNASIUM" are spelled out below framed panels with book shields. Glazed terra cotta is employed architecturally to form the water table which encircles the building, as lintels for particular window openings, as punctuations for brick paneling and decorative features which enliven the elevations, as caps for the faux buttresses, and as the cresting for the building's parapet roofs. While the appearance of "AUDITORIUM" and "GYMNASIUM" denote the functions of the two large symmetrical projecting blocks on the south elevation, the general disposition of classrooms, corridors, and related spaces in the building can easily be read in the arrangement of windows, doors, porches, and similar features on the elevations. This "readability" was a part of the planning espoused in school design in the 1920s whereby the modern school reflected a clear hierarchy of parts combined in ordered fashion to create a complete facility answering every educational need. The school survives intact except for the replacement of its original wood sash windows with metal windows in the early 1970s, the glazing of the tower porch on the facade, and the glazing of the framed openings in three vertically-tiered vestibules which link the building's interior corridors with the stairwells connecting the building's three stories. Originally, the tower porch and the openings into the flanking vestibules on Lincolnton Road were protected by metal gates

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which were locked at night for security: those gates were taken down when these parts of the building were fitted with glazing and glazed doors.

The principal facade of the school, its south elevation, has a symmetrical arrangement of architectural features and fenestration which imparts a certain dignity to the building. The facade is dominated by the five-stage tower which symbolically acts as the heart of the building and its composition. Its lower level serves as a recessed porch with a trio of arched openings giving onto the interior vestibule: the porch is now enclosed with glazed doors and transoms. A pair of original Gothic Revival style cast-iron wall-mounted lamps illuminated this entrance. The tower's second and third story elevations have a like three-bay arrangement of paired windows containing metal replacement windows for their original wood sash. The fourth level of the tower encloses a single room which was conceived as a radio broadcast area. The upper, fifth level of the tower has a series of three round multi-pane windows in molded square frames on each face surmounted by a brick parapet. The elevations of the three-story main block, to the east and to the west of the tower, have a symmetrical arrangement of six bays. The two bays immediately flanking the tower on each side hold a quartet of windows in a single opening which illuminates individual classrooms. To the east and to the west of these classroom windows there are two narrow bays on each side. The bay closest to the classrooms has a single opening with paired windows which illuminate the self-contained stair towers linking the three stories of the building. The outside bays were originally framed openings illuminating shallow vestibules linking the stair towers with the main corridors on each floor. These have been glazed in recent years to make them waterproof. The south facade elevations of the tall one-story projecting auditorium and gymnasium blocks are blind: here, faux buttresses, rising to support the individual gymnasium and auditorium panels, create a three-part division on each elevation. The west, forecourt elevation of the auditorium block has five principal bays with tall arch-headed openings fitted with paneled terra cotta transoms inscribed with bold "S" initials for Salisbury: three of these openings retain their multi-pane wood sash windows while the southernmost two bays have been partially infilled with ochre-colored brick. Here there is a cement stair giving onto a below grade entrance onto the main auditorium floor and connected entrances onto the stage area and the basement dressing rooms below it. The elevation terminates with a small, sixth bay which contains a small window illuminating the backstage area of the auditorium. The pendant east elevation of the gymnasium block has a symmetrical six-bay division of tall arch-headed window openings: two of these openings retain their original multi-pane metal windows while the other four were infilled with ochre-colored brick in the 1969 refitting of the gymnasium for the school library. Below the southernmost glazed opening there is a doorway fitted with glazed metal doors which originally provided public access to athletic events in the gymnasium.

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The west elevation of Boyden High School is comprised of the west elevation of the projecting gymnasium block and the west end of the main three-story classroom block. The gymnasium block has a corresponding arrangement of six bays on the west side and here, too, four of the openings have been infilled with brick while two openings retain their original metal multi-pane sash. The south end of the classroom block has a symmetrical three-bay arrangement of paired windows on each level except the first story: here, there is a terra-cotta framed recessed porch and entrance which originally connected the gymnasium and its dressing rooms with the athletic fields to the west.

Boyden High School's east elevation is virtually as wide as its south facade and it has a general two-part division. The shorter, south part of this elevation, being the east side of the auditorium block, has a series of openings which correspond with the block's west forecourt elevation. Here, again, three of the openings retain their original wood sash windows while the southernmost two tall bays were infilled with ochre-colored brick in 1969. There is a doorway here in a position pendant to the like doorway on the west and a brick and cement loading dock built with paired doors opening directly onto the stage. The two window openings in the sixth, southernmost bay have also been infilled with brick. The north "half" of the elevation is three stories in height with projecting one-story porches at its north and south ends. These porches, enriched with terra cotta panels and trim, have three arch-headed openings which give onto the porch. Similar in their treatment to the main tower entrance and its flanking doorways on the south facade, they, too, are graced with paired wall-mounted cast iron Gothic-style lamps. The porches have granite steps. On the walls above the porches there are two bays each on the second and third stories while there is an additional tier of bays on the south side of the elevation's southernmost (east) porch. The elevation between the two porches has a four-bay arrangement of large openings, per story, each fitted with four windows. These illuminate individual classrooms. The bays above the north porch illuminate the third internal stair tower and the now-glazed vestibule connecting the stairwell with the hall. The granite cornerstone, laid on 1 June 1925, is inset in the northeast corner of the north porch, here on the east elevation, and it has inscriptions on its three exposed faces. The principal inscription is on the east face:

BOYDEN HIGH SCHOOL
Building Committee
J. F. Somers, Chairman
A. G. Peeler
H. W. Davis
C. Gadsden Sayre, Architect
L. S. Bradshaw, Contractor

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The north face of the cornerstone bears the symbol of the Masonic Order between "A.D. 1925" and "A.L. 5925." The south face bears the name of Leon Cash, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A. F. & A. M. Immediately beside (north of) the north porch is a cement stairwell which provides access to the basement level of the building.

The rear elevations of the school and its component blocks reflect both utility and a general symmetry. The north end of the east standard of the school's H-plan is entirely blind and has cement features marking the ceiling lines of the block's three stories. These exposed construction elements would have been covered by an addition to the building which has never occurred: they have been partially obscured by the projecting blind shaft built to contain the elevator. The north end of the west standard of the building's H-plan is similarly finished. The north elevation of the three-story main block, forming the bar of the H-plan, and the west elevation of the east standard of the "H" have generally symmetrical arrangements of windows on each of their three levels: these illuminate classrooms, offices, restrooms, and service rooms on each story. A tall flue stack rises along the west wall of the H-plan's east standard near its north end.

The covered walkway, designed by John Richard Hartlege in 1958 and erected in 1960, links the main building with the otherwise freestanding industrial arts building and the lunchroom: it carries in a straight line to the north, to the lunchroom, on a path parallel to the west side of the east standard. The walkway is cement, the uprights are simple square metal posts, and the stepped deck roof is composition. There is a short stretch of covered walkway which actually links the main walkway with the industrial arts building that stands off-axis to the west side. The industrial arts building, designed by Thomas Hooper Yoe in 1938 and built with WPA support in 1938-1939, is a rectangular one-story ochre-colored brick building with a parapet roof which is sympathetic in materials and design with Sayre's school. It has a symmetrical seven-bay east front elevation with a recessed entrance, various sized partially infilled window openings on its north and south side elevations, and doors on the rear (west) elevation. The interior was repartitioned by John Richard Hartlege in 1978 to provide art studio space as well as a large classroom for shop and related spaces. The lunchroom, designed by John Richard Hartlege in 1954, constructed in 1955, and remodeled and expanded in 1995 to designs by Martin, Boal, Anthony & Johnson, is a one-story flat-roof ochre-colored brick building. Its original design, comprising two offset blocks, was substantially enlarged in the 1995 remodeling project which repartitioned the west half of the building for career counseling and guidance offices. The appearance of the lunchroom, with single window openings in the west block and large banks of windows in the east block, was improved by the expansion of the cafeteria dining room

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off the southeast corner of the original building. Designed in a simple, sympathetic Post-Modern manner, the addition has unusually large multi-plane fixed windows on its southeast and southwest sides illuminating the dining room and a new offset entrance to the west. The interior finish of the lunchroom and the new offices mostly dates to the 1995 remodeling project which also included refitting the kitchen area.

Through seventy years of continuous use as the city's primary high school, the interior of Boyden High School has survived remarkably intact to the present, and it stands as a testament to the foresight of the City Board of Education and the consultants, the architect, and the builder it employed to design and erect the school. Except for the refitting of the former gymnasium as the school library in 1969 and the partitioning of the original library for three classrooms, the removal of two first-story classrooms to form the John H. Nettles Activity Center in 1967-1968, and the incorporation of the original small cafeteria space into the home economics department in the 1950s, there have been no significant alterations to the interior. The changes made in the science classrooms and labs in the 1960s were occasioned by advances in the teaching of the sciences, since the mid 1920s, and like changes in homemaking prompted renovations in the home economics departments; however, during these renovations and refitting projects, the plan and partitioning of these departments and their classrooms remained virtually intact. In short, the interior of the building represents an extraordinary example of school interior design from the 1920s.

The interior plan, the disposition of spaces, and the architectural finish of the classrooms, offices, labs, and related spaces is consistent on all three floors of the school. As suggested on the exterior, there is a principal corridor running on an east/west axis through the center of the main block: it stretches from the important east porch, which also functioned as the principal entrance to the auditorium, straight through the building to the west, recessed porch which connected the gymnasium and dressing rooms with the athletic field to the west. The corridor engages a vestibule behind the principal entrance in the tower. Where the bar of the "H" joins the standards of the "H," there are two short perpendicular extensions of the hall, on its south side, which open into the once open-air vestibules giving onto the stairwells linking the building's three stories. The classrooms in the north part of the east standard of the "H" plan, to the north of the auditorium, are served by an extension of the main corridor. At its north end there is a vestibule giving onto the building's third stairwell connecting its three levels of classrooms. The floors of the halls are terrazo and were poured in place with black borders and black terrazo baseboards. The walls and ceilings of the halls (and the classrooms) are painted plaster and they retain their original natural finish oak chair rails and picture moldings. In addition, the doors and their molded surrounds

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opening from the hall into the classrooms, offices, restrooms, janitors's closets, and other spaces all retain their natural oak finish. The classroom doors all have nine panes above two molded vertical wood panels, and they are surmounted by four-pane transoms: the doors's panes are figured glass except for the central clear pane. There is a total of 725 metal lockers inset in the walls of the halls on its three stories. The classrooms have original maple floors, molded wood baseboards, and their original black (and later green) boards and poster boards enframed by molded wood surrounds with chalk and pin trays. The classrooms also retain molded members on the window sills which were part of an inventive ventilating system as well as metal grilles in the partition walls with the hall for the heating and ventilating system.

The first story of Boyden High School is occupied by a related, connected series of spaces. The administrative offices for the school are located on the north side of the hall in the bar of the "H" while four classrooms are positioned on the south, front side of the bar. It should be noted that three doors in the north side retain their original brass plates indicating the use of certain rooms for the office of the "Principal," a lounge for "Faculty," and a restroom for "Lady Teachers." The library and related offices are located in the former gymnasium and dressing rooms of the original building: a door opens from the main corridor into a secondary hall connecting to the two-story library space. The finishes of the library, its offices, and the stack area date to the remodeling in 1969 by architect Robert F. Stone: reflecting the minimalism of the period, they are the least impressive spaces and finishes of the entire building. The boys's restroom is located in a shallow ell on the north side of the main corridor, directly opposite the library: there are like restrooms for male students in this position on the second and third stories. As noted, the John H. Nettles Activity Center occupies the space at the east end of main first-story corridor where it seamlessly merges with the corridor and the hall leading to the classrooms in the north end of the building: there is also a door here which opens onto the covered walkway leading to the industrial arts building and the lunchroom. The north end of the east standard of the "H" contains classrooms, a sizable janitorial closet and workroom, and the girls's restroom. Generally speaking, these rooms and their disposition are repeated in the second and third stories.

The auditorium, occupying the south end of the H-plan's east standard, is the principal chamber on the school's first story and it survives as its most distinguished and intact space. The single sheet of the building's original plans, which survives in the possession of the county/city school system, includes the elevations of the auditorium which are enriched with a handsome program of Neo-classical-style plasterwork. In the auditorium, a high classical chair rail serves as the base for tall, paired, fluted pilasters which rise to support a full classical entablature enriched with plaster

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ornament. The wide arch enframing the stage is enriched with a heavy molding comprising bands of acanthus leaves and roping. The ceiling of the auditorium is handsomely coffered and it retains its original pendant and ceiling-mounted light fixtures. The main level of the auditorium was re-seated with upholstered seats in 1968 by John Richard Hartlege; however, the auditorium's original balcony seating remains intact. The balcony is accessible through two doorways in the second-story corridor.

The plan of the second story of Boyden High School generally replicates the first-story plan: there are entrances here into the balcony of the auditorium and onto the second story offices and stack area of the library. When the library was relocated in the former gymnasium, its former space was partitioned into three standard sized classrooms: the woodwork in these classrooms replicates that in the original classrooms.

Most of the third story of Boyden High School was allocated to special departments and those usages mainly continue to the present. There is a series of five large classrooms and three related storage/work rooms ranged across the south front of the main block. Three of these were designed for chemistry, biology, and physics laboratories. While these rooms were mostly fitted up with new desks and equipment in the 1960s, designed by John Richard Hartlege and installed by Southern Desk Company of Hickory, North Carolina, some of the original equipment remains in place in the storage and work rooms, and one of the classrooms was fitted with equipment removed here in 1969 from Price High School. The home economics/domestic science department remains located in a series of renovated rooms on the east side of the north end of the east standard of the "H." The finish of these rooms mostly dates to the 1960s. Across the hall, on the west side of the standard, there are two large rooms which formerly contained the clothing labs for girl students: they are now used for computer instruction. Their original use is recalled in the survival of a wood cabinet with glazed doors, inset in the partition wall with the hall, in which examples of the student handiwork could be displayed. There are also banks of metal lockers in these two rooms for storage of students' classroom materials.

Reid G. Leonard Music Building
1938-1939
Contributing Building

This rectangular one-story ochre-colored brick building was designed by Thomas Hooper Yoe and erected under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration: a surviving set of blueprints for the building, comprising six sheets, are dated 1 April 1938. In its materials and styling the music building complements the main school building. The rectangular shape of the building and its size are mitigated through the use of a two-level parapet

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roofline which, in appearance, replicates the effect of the projecting auditorium and gymnasium blocks against the taller three-story main block of the school. The south front of the music building, conventional in its height, is nine bays wide and has a central recessed porch enframed by "art stone" which is also used for the water table, the window sills, and the coping on the parapet roof. The side and rear elevations are six bays wide. There are brick and cement steps leading to doors on the north and west sides. The interior of the music building contains a large band rehearsal room, occupying the west half of the building, a choir rehearsal room in the northeast corner, instrument and uniform storage, offices, and boys's and girls's restrooms. Most of the original interior finish in the music building remains intact including stepped maple floors in the band and choir rehearsal rooms, two-part molded door and window surrounds, two-panel doors, and other features. The building was named in honor of Leonard, a chairman of the school board, about 1989.

The Grounds of Boyden High School
1924-1926, and later
Contributing Site

As described in the introduction to this description, the placement of the school building and the arrangement of the school grounds were designed by landscape architect Earle Sumner Draper (1893-1994) of Charlotte. A blueprint copy of the General Plan for Salisbury High School survives and is dated November 1924: the building would be named for Colonel Boyden a month later. On the plan, Draper located the building and delineated the principal vehicular drive on the east side as well as the forecourt and main student walk on the south side. These features all remain intact to the present. When sidewalks and some diagonal parking were added along the east drive, their design and placement were made to complement the original existing path of the driveway. Likewise, in the early 1970s, when a vehicular drive and some parking were added on the south lawn, the driveway was laid out on the inside of the existing curved path of the walkway devised by Draper in 1924. Unfortunately, there is no known surviving planting plan by Draper for the school grounds so it is unclear whether any of the existing plant material is either original or later material placed in positions designated by Draper. That said, it does seem likely that the large Deodora cedar, at the junction of the school's east drive with Caldwell Street, probably dates to the original planting here.

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SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Boyden High School, a handsome, intact Collegiate Gothic-style buff-brick building, is a landmark in the civic landscape of Salisbury, the Piedmont, and the state of North Carolina. The school holds statewide significance in the areas of architecture and education and satisfies National Register Criteria A and C. Conceived by the City Board of Education as the capstone of its public school building program of the 1910s-1920s, the school was occupied on 15 February 1926: in 1969-1970 when the public school system of Salisbury was fully integrated, Boyden High School, heretofore the city's high school for white students, became the city's only high school and was renamed Salisbury High School under which style it continues in operation to the present. In the design and construction of Boyden High School, the city school board sought the best of advice in the realization of a modern high school facility for white students in Salisbury. Following the model of the Winston-Salem School Board, they hired as educational consultants, Drs. George Drayton Strayer (1876-1962) and Nickolaus Louis Engelhardt (1882-1960), of Columbia University, who achieved national prominence and recognition as authorities on public school education. In the choice of the architect, the board considered the qualifications of virtually all of the architects who were engaged in school building design in North Carolina in the 1920s, and they settled upon Christopher Gadsden Sayre (1876-1933), an architect based in Anderson, South Carolina, with offices in Greensboro and Raleigh. Individually or in partnership with James J. Baldwin, Sayre designed thirty-four public school buildings in North Carolina. Of all those buildings, many of which are now lost, Boyden High School, having an inclusive cost of approximately \$500,000, is his finest achievement. The contract for general construction on the school was awarded to Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw (1884-1951), a Salisbury contractor. Together with the Roanoke Rapids Junior-Senior High School (1920-1921), the Gastonia High School (1922), and the Richard J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem (1922-1924), Boyden High School is one of a small group of architecturally significant public high school buildings erected in North Carolina in the 1920s whose number includes the Asheville High School and Needham B. Broughton High School in Raleigh, both of 1929.

In addition to its significance as a distinguished example of modern high school architecture in North Carolina of the 1920s, Boyden High School is important for its association with a public education system that showed recognized leadership in North Carolina in the later nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Following on the examples of Greensboro (1875) and Raleigh (1877), in 1880 Salisbury became the third municipality in North Carolina to operate a graded school system: in 1881 the city erected a brick graded school which remained in use as a school until the mid 1960s and today houses the administrative offices of the Rowan-Salisbury School System. In 1900 Salisbury added the tenth grade to its high school program and in 1904 it

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became only the second high school in the state, after Wilmington, to operate an eleven-grade system: in 1904-1906, the first building erected expressly for a high school in Salisbury was erected and served the city built 12 February 1926. During this period, the city school system was supervised for periods by three men who would achieve prominence as leaders of the public school movement in twentieth century North Carolina: Charles Lee Coon (1868-1927); Arch Turner Allen (1875-1934); and Guy Berryman Phillips (1890-1968). The fourth figure of importance in Salisbury during this critical period of development was Archibald Henderson Boyden (1847-1929) who served as a member or chairman of the City Board of Education for some thirty years until his death. The school was named in his honor in 1924 and it opened on Monday morning, 15 February 1926, as Boyden High School.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Public Education in Salisbury: 1865-1899

From a larger perspective, the construction of Boyden High School reflected a much longer history of efforts to secure satisfactory educational facilities and opportunities for the children of Salisbury.¹ The school can be seen as the culmination of work over six decades prior to 1926 which resulted in the steady improvement of schools, buildings, and teaching in the county seat. The broad outline of these achievements is noted by county historian James Shober Brawley in *THE ROWAN STORY* (Brawley, pp. 280-286). Progress toward public education made before the Civil War was essentially lost during the upheaval of the war years concluding with defeat and occupation of Salisbury by Federal troops. Immediately after the war some private schools began to operate in Salisbury in addition to the Freedman's School. In November 1866, the city employed teachers to instruct city students in a building believed to have been located at the corner of Church and Council Streets. There was a small tuition fee charged; however, those who could not afford to pay were either admitted as students without charge, or were directed to a school held in the Lutheran Church. A critical problem in that era was financial support for public education. In November 1866 the town partially solved that problem by passing a measure which directed all taxes collected from the sale of liquor to be used for schools: this practice remained in effect until 1908 when the sale of liquor was defeated. At the same time, in the late 1860s and early 1870s, efforts succeeded on the state level toward the creation of a uniform system of public education in North Carolina and funding for such a public school system. The principal means of implementing the uniform school system was the creation of graded schools. In 1880, Salisbury became the third municipality in North Carolina to establish a city-supported free public graded school (Knight, p. 313). This school was located in a building standing at the corner of Church and Council Streets which is believed to be the one placed in service as a school in 1866.

On 5 February 1880, the *CAROLINA WATCHMAN* reported "that the graded school here numbers around 175 pupils and is steadily increasing" and that "the school commissioners are making preliminary arrangements for erecting a suitable building" (Brawley, page 282). The cornerstone of that "suitable building" was laid in October 1880 and the school was completed in 1881 on the west side of N. Ellis Street: the one-story, four-room brick school building was designed in a cross plan by the Reverend Francis Johnstone Murdoch (1846-1909) who had come to Salisbury as rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and remained in that position until his death.

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Public Education in Salisbury: 1900-1920

During the tenures of principals Charles L. Coon (1899-1903) and Isaac C. Griffin (1903-1909), there were dramatic improvements in the Salisbury public schools and particularly in the high school. In addition to serving as principal of the Salisbury School, Charles L. Coon served as superintendent of the Salisbury Graded Schools and he is credited with reorganizing the school system. Up to 1900, the graded school system in Salisbury comprised nine grades of which the eighth and ninth grades constituted high school. In 1900, a tenth grade was added and in 1904 the school program was expanded by the addition of an eleventh grade. The eleven-grade program would remain in place in Salisbury until 1942 when high school was extended by the addition of the twelfth grade.

Isaac C. Griffin succeeded Charles Lee Coon as superintendent of the Salisbury Graded School System in 1903. To accommodate the increase of students and the addition of the tenth and eleventh grades, a large new building was erected on the south side of the 1881 building. The extent to which Coon might have had a hand in the planning for this building is not known at present. He left Salisbury in February 1903: the building was begun in 1904 and completed in 1906. Designed by James M. McMichael, a Charlotte architect, and built by A. R. Lazenby, the prominent Salisbury contractor, the Salisbury Public High School was an impressive Medieval Revival-style brick school with crenelated towers and arch-headed windows with label moldings. This new building, the first specifically erected as a high school in Salisbury, contained eleven classrooms and an auditorium: it would serve, with some expansion in the early 1920s, as the city's high school for white students until February 1926. The school opened in 1906 and about two years later, ca. 1908, the position of principal of the high school was separated from the superintendency of the system.

While Charles Lee Coon and Isaac C. Griffin were directly responsible for the great strides forward made in the Salisbury school system, much credit should also be paid to the role of Col. Archibald Henderson Boyden in these progressive undertakings. Boyden (1847-1929) had a long and distinguished career in Salisbury; however, it was in his role as mayor of Salisbury from 1901 until 1909 and as a member and chairman of the City School Board for some thirty-two years, from ca. 1897 until his death, that he demonstrated unprecedented civic leadership in the public school movement in Salisbury. The naming of the new high school in his honor in 1924 was in recognition of his tireless commitment to public education and to the city in which he was born.

Archibald Henderson Boyden was probably responsible, in large measure, for hiring as superintendent of the Salisbury Graded School System a second man who would rise to the forefront of public education in early-twentieth century

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North Carolina. Arch Turner Allen (1875-1934), having served as principal of schools in Statesville, Washington, and Charlotte, and superintendent of the Graham schools, came to Salisbury in 1910 as superintendent and remained here until 1917 when he joined the state Department of Education. In June 1923 he became the North Carolina superintendent of public instruction and he held that post until his death on 20 October 1934 (DNCR, I, pp. 19-20). T. Wingate Andrews succeeded Arch Turner Allen as superintendent of the school system in 1917/1918 and served until the summer of 1924 when he moved to a like position in High Point.

School bonds and the Enhancement of Public Education in Salisbury: 1921-Early 1923

At the beginning of the 1920s, with Archibald Henderson Boyden as a leader and later chairman of the city school board and T. Wingate Andrews as superintendent of the city school system, Salisbury embarked on a decade of unprecedented expansion and development of the public education system. Although the construction of the Salisbury Public High School building in 1904-1906 had greatly expanded classroom space for students, by the end of the 1910s it and the system's other schools were becoming overcrowded. To meet the challenge of providing the necessary school buildings, their furnishing, and staffing, the city school board and other community leaders mounted a campaign for the passage of a major referendum for the issuance of \$500,000 in bonds. On 15 April 1921, the City Board of Education adopted a resolution calling upon the city of Salisbury to hold an election on 7 June 1921 for a public vote on two matters: (1) a special annual tax not to exceed \$.50 per \$100 valuation and not to exceed \$1.50 on the polls "for the purpose of paying the cost and expenses of operating and maintaining public schools in said City," and (2) "authorizing the issuance of bonds of the City of Salisbury in an aggregate amount not exceeding \$500,000, for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, altering, furnishing, and equipping of buildings for school purposes, and within the corporate limits of said City . . ." (Minutes, 15 April 1921).

As might be expected the passage of the bond referendum gained the editorial endorsement of the Salisbury EVENING POST. Meetings were held in the city's four wards and the bond issuance was advocated by the town's ministers from their pulpits (POST, 3 June, 6 June 1921). Unlike today when the passage of a bond referendum requires the simple majority of all votes cast in an election, the law in effect in 1921 required a majority of all registered voters on the registration books in the city of Salisbury. Hence the need "to get out the vote" was altogether a more critical issue. On Wednesday, 8 June, the Salisbury EVENING POST reported the success of the city-wide campaign under the front-page headline "School Boards and Tax Carry by Good Majority." The total number of registered voters in the four wards of Salisbury was 2,511: of this number the vote of 1,256 persons in the affirmative was necessary for passage.

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A total of 1,461 persons voted for the issuance of bonds and 336 persons voted against the bond proposal: the margin of approval for the bond issuance was 205 votes. The special tax proposal for schools received the support of 1,521 voters with only ninety-eight ballots cast in opposition: here the margin of victory was 265 votes. As the POST writer noted, "Salisbury took her place along with other progressive North Carolina towns and cities yesterday by giving endorsement to the proposed school bond issue and special tax for maintenance of the public schools of the city."

Following passage of the two measures, the city school board moved quickly to put a committee structure in place that could best carry out the measures supported by the city's voters. Five standing committees were created: Finances, Buildings and Grounds, Supplies, Educational Affairs, and Rules and Regulations. The purview of each committee was described and defined: as will be seen, the committees on Finances and Buildings and Grounds would be the busiest in the years to come. At its meeting on 28 June, the board scheduled a tour of the city's school buildings and grounds for Wednesday, 29 June (Minutes, 28 June 1921). On 19 July 1921, the board adopted a motion directing the superintendent, T. Wingate Andrews, "to correspond with architects with a view to making recommendations to the City Board of Education, looking towards the selection of an architect for the building program" (Minutes, 19 July 1921). By this time, the school board had visited the buildings under its stewardship and determined a general course of action. A month later, on 18 August, the school board met and adopted a unanimous resolution calling on the city Board of Aldermen to issue \$250,000 in bonds for the purpose of "retiring the notes now carried by the banks, paying outstanding indebtedness, and then repairing the present buildings and making such extensions in space as will as nearly as possible accommodate the classes this year; and also provide for a negro school in the West Ward" (Minutes, 18 August 1921).

During meetings held frequently during the last quarter of 1921, the city school board set about to implement the improvements to school plants and facilities endorsed by the bond vote. In so doing, they exercised a professional, scientific approach to their work that would set a precedent for undertaking the design and construction of Boyden High School three years later. The passage of the bond issue was reported throughout the Piedmont and in 1921, as would be the case in 1924, architects presented their credentials while seeking the contracts available from the board. On 13 September, Rudolph E. Lee, a Charlotte architect, presented his case to the board; however, the board voted to hire Harry Barton "to draw plans and make specifications for such emergency classrooms as the Building Committee might see fit to authorize" (Minutes, 13 September 1921). That matter of engaging professional architects for the design of new school buildings was clearly an important concern for the school board and two weeks later, on the recommendation of Mr. Andrews, it was decided that Chairman Boyden, Mr. Crump, and other members of the board should

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travel to Winston-Salem and see how the matters were being handled there (Minutes, 27 September 1921). At the board's next meeting, Mr. Crump reported on the success of the group's meeting with Superintendent R. H. Latham of the Winston-Salem schools and emphasized two important points: the value of professional planning expertise and the use of skilled professional architects for the design of school buildings. The Winston-Salem board had hired Dr. George D. Strayer of Columbia University, New York, a noted authority on public school design, to develop the general plan for the new high school (Richard J. Reynolds High School) and other general school construction work under consideration. Although the report did not state that the design of the new high school would be placed in the hands of a nationally known architect (such as Charles Barton Keen, its designer), that was surely the implication since it was specifically noted that the design of elementary schools would be assigned to "local architects." It was probably during this visit that members of the board learned of the extensive work in school design being handled by Winston-Salem architect Willard C. Northup (1882-1942). As a result he, rather than Harry Barton, was engaged for the design of the new work being planned by the Salisbury board. On 20 December 1921, Northup presented his plans for substantial additions to the East, North, and West Ward elementary school buildings for white students, and the plan for a new "Colored School" in the West Ward. These were accepted by the board and Northup was directed to prepare specifications for bids (Minutes, 20 December 1921).

One of the most important decisions made by the city school board in December 1921 concerned its long-range plans for the erection of a new high school in Salisbury. Their goal was to erect a modern high school with science and chemistry laboratories, departments for home economics and commerce, a gymnasium for both boys and girls together with an auditorium, all arranged according to plans being promulgated by educational authorities and journals. On 9 December the board authorized the purchase of the Howard property on Lincolnton Road at a cost of \$21,000 (Minutes, 9 December 1921). This ten-acre tract lay on the northwest side of the Lincolnton Road just southwest of its junction with Fulton Street, one of the city's principal residential avenues.²

The process of working with an architect to develop plans and specifications for the new school buildings planned in 1921, the consideration of bids and the awarding of contracts for their erection, and the experience of dealing with contractors during the course of their construction proved to be a very useful experience as the school board looked, in the long view, toward the building of a new city high school. A total of nine local and out-of-town contracting companies submitted bids for the construction at the four schools undertaken by the city school board in 1922. All four buildings were to be completed by 1 September 1922. As construction was progressing on all four projects in the summer of 1922, the board asked Mr. Northup to prepare plans and specifications for repairs and toilet rooms for the Ellis Street Elementary School and four

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frame classrooms at the Salisbury High School (Minutes, 13 June 1922). The free-standing toilet rooms were built of brick and located behind (west of) the school.

The Design and Construction of Boyden High School: Late 1923-1925

In 1923, once the work at the city's three elementary schools was completed and the black school opened, City Board of Education deliberations advanced in regard to the construction of a new high school, considered the capstone of the city's school building program. The building committee appointed for the biennium of 1923-1925 consisted of James F. Sommers, chairman; Arthur Gregory Peeler (1875-1971); and Henry W. Davis (Minutes, 13 June 1923). While a number of architects had presented their credentials to the board in 1921 when architectural services were needed in the initial expansion and rebuilding of the city's elementary schools, virtually every important architect working in Piedmont North Carolina in the early 1920s pitched their case for the highly sought contract for designing the new high school. During this period, Willard C. Northup was seeing his design of the Reidsville High School approach realization while the Salisbury board was also considering his plans for a masonry addition to the city's existing Salisbury High School (Minutes, 10 July 1923). (E. W. Wagoner was awarded the contract for the high school annex at a cost of \$17,300 (Minutes, 9 August 1923).) Northup formally offered his services as architect of the high school in a letter to Boyden on 26 September 1923. As events proved, the city considered every proposal and presentation on its relative merits and left the final decision until they were absolutely certain of their choice. The roster of architects soliciting the design contract provides insight into the status of the project and the comparative work of regional and more widely-known architects/firms who had developed expertise in school design in the 1910s and early 1920s. The first of those known to have appeared before the Salisbury board was the partnership of Charles C. Wilson and George R. Berryman (1883-1957) of Columbia, South Carolina, which had recently designed the Wilson (Charles L. Coon) High School in Wilson (and yet had failed in their effort to secure the commission to design the Gastonia High School) (Minutes, 8 May 1923). The board's discussion of an architect for the high school ended in 1923 at its meeting on 11 December when Mr. Giddens, representing the New York firm of Starrett and Van Vleck, and Mr. Berryman of Wilson and Berryman made a second appearance before the board. The board postponed a decision "pending inspection of high school buildings in Gastonia, Reidsville and possibly other cities" (Minutes, 11 December 1923).

During the course of 1924, the City Board of Education made the crucial decisions concerning the planning and design of the new high school, and, at the end of the year, awarded the contract for its construction. During these months the board considered the merits of many architects, visited recently-built high schools, reexamined the goals it sought in the new building

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with educational specialists from Columbia University who it engaged as consultants for the school, hired Christopher Gadsden Sayre as the architect and approved his final design, and awarded the contract for building the school to Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw, a local contractor. At its final meeting in 1924, the board unanimously passed a resolution to name the school Boyden High School in honor of Archibald Henderson Boyden's distinguished service on behalf of education in Salisbury.

While the personal presentations made by individual architects or firms at meetings of the school board were important, the board determined to consider as many recently-completed high schools as were pertinent to their project. In late 1923 or early 1924, Superintendent Andrews and Walter M. Crump toured the Classical Revival-style Reidsville High School, designed by Mr. Northup, which had opened on 10 September 1923 (Minutes, 15 January 1924). Two weeks later, Charles C. Wilson and his partner George R. Berryman re-represented their firm's abilities to the board and, minutes later, Christopher Gadsden Sayre of Anderson, South Carolina, presented his credentials for the design contract on the same terms. For reasons which remained unstated in the minutes the board deferred a decision on its architect; however, it did appoint a select committee to review the prospects and to make a recommendation for an architect at the next regularly-scheduled meeting (Minutes, 29 January 1924). The committee was unable to make that recommendation on 12 February and, instead, Hall Cruse, a now unknown architect of Winston-Salem who cited his work with Mr. Northup, and Willard G. Rogers, of Charlotte, individually offered their services to the board. Mr. Rogers called attention to his current designs for high schools in Kinston and Laurinburg as well as his college work (Minutes, 12 February 1924). On 20 February 1924, the City School Board met in special session during which they heard a second presentation by a representative of the New York firm of Starrett and Van Vleck. At the end of the meeting they adopted a resolution to engage George Drayton Straver (1876-1962) and Nickolaus Louis Engelhardt (1882-1960) of New York as expert educational advisors in the planning of the school, to hire Wiley and Wilson of Lynchburg, Virginia, as heating engineers for the building, and to employ Christopher Gadsden Sayre as the architect for the new Salisbury High School (Minutes, 20 February 1924).

From a reading of the school board minutes, it is unclear what particular considerations convinced its members to select Mr. Sayre as the architect for the new building. A review of his known commissions in North Carolina indicates that he had completed numerous schools, and other commissions, throughout the state in the 1910s and had important projects in the office or on the verge of completion in the early 1920s. The most important of these was the Concord High School (1922-1924) in adjoining Cabarrus County, the Claremont High School (1923-1925) in Hickory, and six public schools in Raleigh (1922-1924) including Hugh Morson High School: during the 1920s, Sayre had offices in Raleigh and Greensboro and he was a resident of Greensboro during

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1925-1927. Prior to these projects, however, Sayre had designed one other important building in Rowan County, the Classical Revival-style Central Methodist Church (1917-1921) in Spencer, built by A. R. Lazenby. In retrospect, it appears likely that his cumulative experience in school design as well as personal connections probably secured the commission over his strong competition: he was also a devout Episcopalian as was Col. Boyden, the chairman of the school board. Sayre (1876-1933) was born at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, and was educated at the Porter Military Academy and South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) from which he received a B.S degree in 1897. For nearly a decade, prior to establishing an architectural office in Anderson about 1906, he worked in a number of capacities in which he gained necessary practical engineering and architectural experience. In 1909, he associated himself with James J. Baldwin and the two men practiced as the partnership of Sayre and Baldwin until about 1915. Thereafter, Mr. Sayre practiced alone for the remainder of his career (CGS Biography File, North Carolina State University, and Anderson DAILY MAIL, 13 October 1933).

In order to proceed with the construction of the new high school, it became clear that a new bond issuance would be required to finance its construction and outfitting. On 1 April, the City Board of Education passed a resolution calling on the mayor and Board of Aldermen to hold a special election to vote on the issuance of \$300,000 in bonds. At that same meeting the board agreed to employ Earle Sumner Draper (1893-1994) as landscape architect for the high school (Minutes, 1 April 1924). The following day the Salisbury POST provided its readers with the details of the board's actions in regard to the school in a front page article (POST, 2 April 1924). Sayre met with the board to discuss plans for the school and Strayer and Engelhardt's response to them. The bond referendum was scheduled for 3 June 1924 and, again, the Salisbury POST gave its passage strong editorial endorsement (POST, 2 June 1924). The election rules applicable in 1921 remained in effect and it was necessary for the bond proposal to be approved by a majority of at least 1,279 of the city's 2,557 registered voters. A total of 1,357 votes were cast in favor of the bond issuance while 335 votes were cast in opposition to it: the proposal passed by a majority of seventy-eight votes. On 4 June the Salisbury POST gave front-page coverage to its account of the election and paid special credit to the work of women in assuring its success (POST, 4 June 1924). At the end of the month, Mr. Sayre, Mr. Englehardt, and Mr. Draper appeared before the City Board of Education to discuss the high school plans. On a motion by Mr. Sommers, chairman of the building committee, the general plans (sketch #4) for an H-shaped building) were accepted (Minutes, 26 June 1924). Another event of the summer of 1924 was the departure of T. Wingate Andrews as superintendent of the city schools for a like position in High Point: he was succeeded by Guy Berryman Phillips.

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During the months following the 26 June meeting, Mr. Sayre refined the plans for the high school in cooperation with the educational consultants and the City Board of Education, and on 22 November 1924 the final plans for the three-story Collegiate Gothic-style school were discussed and unanimously approved by the board. The opening of bids was scheduled for 12 December at three o'clock (Minutes, 22 November 1924). A notice to contractors was subsequently published advising them that copies of the plans and specifications could be inspected at the Chamber of Commerce in Greensboro and Charlotte or purchased for \$25 (POST, 28 November 1924). Bids from six general contractors were received by the 12th and opened at a special meeting. The bids for general construction ranged from a low bid of \$332,000 to the high bid of \$388,000. All were in excess of the amount budgeted for the building and the awarding of the contract was delayed until a second called meeting that evening at which plans for a loan were considered. That evening, with the matters of finance generally resolved, the board awarded six contracts, totaling \$419,048.70, for virtually all of the construction work on the school: the contract for general construction was awarded to Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw in the amount of \$331,200. The awarding of the contracts was announced in the Salisbury POST the following day and on Sunday, the POST ran a long article describing the building and its facilities illustrated with a reproduction of the architect's presentation drawing. An editorial in the Sunday newspaper also urged the City Board of Education to "Name the high school the Boyden school in recognition of the faithful public servant who has labored long and well and most unselfishly for a worth while public school system for Salisbury" (POST, 13-14 December 1924). At its meeting the following Monday, the board unanimously adopted the motion introduced by the Reverend Edward Fulenwider, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, to name the school Boyden High School: their action was applauded by yet another front-page article in the Salisbury POST (Minutes, 15 December 1924; POST, 16 December 1924). A later editorial praised the rightness of this action:

It was eminently proper that the new High School building should be called the Boyden School. The board voted unanimously to call this handsome new school building for the untiring chairman, to whom so much of the credit for having such a school building is due. To Mr. Boyden more than to any other man, is due the credit for this magnificent school building program which Salisbury is carrying out with such gratifying results. From the first step taken in public school building to this good hour, he has been first and foremost in furthering the plans for giving the city a school system wisely planned and definitely executed to the consummation of a worth while achievement. (POST, 17 December 1924.)

The final decision made in 1924 affecting the high school was the choice of the face brick. The board chose "a high grade light buff brick, manufactured by a West Virginia concern and which is used in many public buildings of recent structure." (POST, 17 December 1924.) A similar buff face brick would be used

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in the contemporary construction of St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury in 1925-1926.

Following the awarding of the contracts in December 1924, the grading, excavation, and construction work was undertaken early in 1925 and proceeded through the remainder of the year. Progress on the building and contracts for its fittings can be traced in the minutes of the City Board of Education and in articles in the Salisbury POST. The contractor, Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw (1884-1951), also documented work on the building in a series of black and white photographs which survive in the possession of his descendants. L. S. Bradshaw and Sons erected a large number of important civic, business, industrial, and residential buildings in Salisbury and nearby towns; however, of them all Mr. Bradshaw called Boyden High School "my monument," a quote which was repeated in his obituary (POST, 24 August 1951). In an apparent departure from precedent, the cornerstone of the school was not laid at the outset of construction but at a point virtually midway in its completion. The festival ceremonies, complete with a band and parade, occurred on Monday afternoon, 1 June: Leon Cash, grand master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina of A.F. and A.M., presided and T. Wingate Andrews, the former superintendent of Salisbury schools, delivered the oration. In retrospect, it appears that the laying of the cornerstone was scheduled to coincide with the final senior graduation ceremonies held at the Salisbury High School on Ellis Street on the evening of the 1st: Dr. Nickolaus Louis Engelhardt of Columbia University, a consultant for the new high school, gave the commencement address (POST, 31 May and 2 June 1925).

While the physical work of building the school was progressing and the fitting and furnishing of the school's classrooms, auditorium, and other spaces was likewise proceeding through board deliberation, matters of student instruction and the administration and management of the new high school were also the subject of attention. This was particularly so on the part of Guy B. Phillips, the school superintendent, and Frank B. John, the principal of the Salisbury High School. Phillips's commitment to seeing the high school reach its maximum potential is exhibited in the minutes of the board meetings and particularly in a letter he wrote to Frank Bell John on 7 July 1925 while John was at Columbia as a post-graduate student. While the letter was concerned mainly with the coming, last year of high school held at the Ellis Street building, Phillips was advocating efforts which he hoped to see carried through to Boyden when the students relocated there in early 1926. When the school year opened a few months later there were 675 students attending Salisbury High School out of a total white school enrollment of 2,770: 700 students were enrolled in the "Colored" schools (Minutes, 8 September 1925). The board minutes, through the remainder of the year, provide evidence of the crowded conditions at most of the schools and the arrangements which were being made for the relocation of students once the high school was occupied by grades eight through eleven. All

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of the system's white seventh grade students were to be moved to the former high school on Ellis Street: grades one through six would be housed in the city's four white primary/elementary schools (Minutes, 8 December 1925).

The construction of Boyden High School was completed in the winter of 1925-1926 and the fitting up of the classrooms with equipment, desks, and other furnishings occurred in January and early February 1926: the opening of the school was set for Monday morning, 15 February 1926. In anticipation of this great event, the Salisbury POST ran a long illustrated article which carried completely across the front page of the newspaper under the headline "Salisbury's Half Million Dollar High School Ready for Use," on 14 February 1926. It included an account of the history of the building and the arrangement of classrooms and special departments throughout each of the building's three floors. In addition to the auditorium and the gymnasium, the first floor housed the administrative offices of the school and eleven classrooms. The library and fifteen classrooms were located on the second floor. The third floor was given over to the science, chemistry, and physics department, the home economics, sewing, and cooking rooms, the commercial department, and the cafeteria. The in-school cafeteria was one of the many innovations offered in the new building: previously most students went home for lunch.

Boyden High School: 1927-1945

The handsome building first occupied by students on 15 February 1926 and its landscaped grounds remained largely unchanged for the first dozen years of use. There were, however, certain changes in administration and teachers. On 11 October 1927, the school principal, Frank Bell John (1899-1927) died of oxide gas poisoning (POST, 12 October 1927). He was succeeded as principal in 1928 by Jack Hudgens Knox (1900-1983) who remained as principal of Boyden High School until 1934 when he became superintendent of the Salisbury school system. In tribute to the highly-esteemed educator, the former Salisbury High School on Ellis Street was renamed the Frank B. John School and it continued to carry that name until it was closed as a school in 1965 and pulled down in 1967. (The original 1881 graded school building was left standing there and continues in use as administrative offices for the city school system.) On 19 June 1929 Archibald Henderson Boyden died: he had handed out diplomas to the graduating seniors in the class of 1929 on 3 June and he had attended his last school board meeting on 11 June 1929. In tribute to her father Jane Boyden Craig, and her husband Burton Craig, donated the funds for improvements to the athletic field on the west side of the school which was named the Boyden Memorial Athletic Field.

In 1934 Jack Hudgens Knox was promoted to the position of superintendent of the Salisbury school system: he was succeeded as principal by his assistant

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principal, Miss Julia Wharton Groves (1891-1982). During Miss Groves's tenure as principal, from 1934 until 1945, two important changes occurred at Boyden High School. While the school had been well designed to house as many as one thousand students with virtually every amenity available for high school instruction, there had been no specific provision for industrial arts or for music. Late in 1937, the City Board of Education took under consideration the construction of facilities for those purposes. On 27 January 1938, Thomas Hooper Yoe (1902-1955), a draftsman, met with the school board and discussed the proposed design of a building for industrial arts and music (Minutes, 27 January 1938). Two weeks later, and following the advice of the building committee comprised of C. S. Morris, H. P. Brandis, and Hugh Sherrill Pinkston, the board voted to erect two separate buildings, one for industrial arts and a second one for music (Minutes, 15 February 1938). The plans for the Industrial Arts Building and the Music Building were prepared by Yoe on 15 March and 1 April 1938, respectively. These one-story rectangular buildings followed the Gothic Revival styling of the main building and repeated the use of buff brick with cast stone trim. They were erected by the Works Progress Administration of North Carolina in cooperation with the Rowan County government. The Industrial Arts Building was built directly behind the main building and it continues to house a shop and the art department. The Music Building, subsequently renamed the Reid G. Leonard Music Building, stands to the northeast of the main building and at the edge of the school drive which circles on the east side of the school from Lincolnton Road to South Caldwell Street. The two buildings were completed and placed in service in the late winter of 1939.

The second change at Boyden High School concerned the curriculum and the implementation of the twelve-year school plan being mandated by the State Board of Education. This change in public school education, the first as regards the length of school since the eleventh grade was added in Salisbury in 1904, was debated by the City Board of Education in the first months of 1942. Prior to the twelve-year plan, grades one through seven constituted elementary education; high school comprised grades eight through eleven. Following the national pattern, the board decided to place the additional year of instruction in elementary school: as a result elementary school came to comprise grades one through eight and high school consisted of grades nine through twelve (Minutes, 28 April 1942). The means of implementing this plan, beginning in the school year of 1942-1943, were determined by the board a month later. The decision was made to promote sixty-three members (about one-half) of the city's seventh grade to the ninth grade at Boyden: they would matriculate through grades nine to twelve and graduate in 1946. The other members of Salisbury's seventh grade classes would be promoted to the new eighth grade of elementary school; they would graduate from Boyden High School in 1947 (Minutes, 26 May 1942).

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Boyden High School during the Principalship of John Heyward Nettles: 1946-1968

In 1945 Miss Groves was succeeded as principal of Boyden by J. W. Gaddy Jr., who served a transitory tenure until 1947 when John Heyward Nettles (1902-1994) was promoted to the principalship of Boyden High School. Nettles would serve as principal for twenty years from 1947-1960 and 1961-1968 (the interruption was occasioned by illness), and during this period he oversaw the construction of significant new facilities on the campus and important but uncompromising renovations and improvements to the interior of the main building. These additions and improvements reflected accommodation to the evolving character of public high school education particularly in the matter of athletics, the provision of school lunches for virtually all students, and the pace of discovery in the sciences. In late 1953 or early 1954, the City Board of Education turned to John Richard Hartlege Jr. (1913-1985), a local architect, for the design of two new free-standing buildings. A broadened athletic program at Boyden as well as increased public attendance at sports events necessitated the construction of a large new gymnasium at some remove from the main building where additional facilities, including public parking, could be developed on adjacent property. At the same time, as the city's population grew from 13,884 in 1920 to 20,102 in 1950 and students were traveling greater distances to the high school, the school lunch program became an institutionalized part of high school life: this also took care of certain discipline problems occasioned when students returned home or went off-campus in mid-day. Mr. Hartlege prepared drawings for both buildings: surviving blueprints bear the date 14 April 1954. Reflecting contemporary design features rather than a repetition of the Gothic Revival styling of the main building, these two buildings were laid up in buff-colored brick. The lunchroom, a small rectangular building comprised of two offset blocks, was erected to the northeast of the main building and on axis with a door and walkway leading from the east corridor of the main building to the industrial arts building. The larger gymnasium was situated to the north of all three buildings and on the north side of Taylor Street which, to this time, had been a general boundary of the school campus. (The gymnasium is not included in this nomination.) It was built with its side elevation parallel to the street. The lunch room was placed in service in 1955 and the gymnasium in 1956: the small, former lunch room space on the third floor of the main building was taken up by the home economics department while the former gymnasium continued in use for athletic purposes. At the end of the decade, Mr. Hartlege was retained to design a covered walkway to connect the main building with the industrial arts building and the cafeteria. Blueprints dated 25 November 1958 survive, and illustrate this simple construction of square metal posts supporting a built-up roof of poured gypsum and cement asbestos. The covered walkway was erected by L. S. Bradshaw and Sons in 1960 and it links the three buildings to the present.

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The changes made to Boyden High School in the 1960s occurred mainly in the interior of the building and they reflected increasing enrollments and the coming of desegregation in the public school. They were designed by either Mr. Hartlege or Robert F. Stone (d. 1995), also a Salisbury architect: the construction work was handled mostly by local companies. In June 1962, Mr. Stone prepared plans for the renovation of the home economics department which reflected innovations in homemaking, home furnishings, and appliances: J. H. Wilson was the contractor. In the late 1960s, Mr. Hartlege was the designer of three projects. Probably the first of these was the redesign of the counters, work tables, and student laboratory equipment for four of the five science-related rooms carrying across the front of the building on the third story. The drawings are dated 15 May 1967 and the work was completed by the Southern Desk Company of Hickory. Equipment for the fifth room was relocated in 1969 from Price High School. Some original 1926 equipment was left in place in the storage and teacher work rooms here. In 1967 Hartlege was also responsible for the design of a student activity center honoring John H. Nettles, the longest-serving principal in the history of the school. A. L. Jarrell was the contractor. At the east end of the main first-floor corridor, where doors open into the auditorium to the south and onto the southeast porch on the east, the two classrooms on the north, flanking the secondary hall, were removed: this now enlarged area was treated in common with the halls here and fitted with seating. Through drawings dated 10 May 1968, Mr. Hartlege redesigned the exterior entrances for the auditorium which were located on either side of the stage and partially sunken below grade: he also provided a basement entrance, on the west, into the dressings rooms below the stage and a loading dock in a pendant position on the east side. These changes do not intrude on the character of the building. The principal change on the interior was the reseating of the auditorium's main level with 606 new upholstered seats: the original balcony seating for 256 remains in place. The auditorium work was also handled by the J. H. Wilson Company.

The final renovation project of the 1960s was the remodeling of the original gymnasium into a new library. The plans for this project, dated December 1968, were completed by Robert F. Stone and featured a large reading room with open shelving on a balcony level. This project was completed in 1969 and it included the creation of three new classrooms in the former library space on the second story. This work was completed during the principalship of L. Dent Miller who succeeded Mr. Nettles in 1968 and served as principal through the 1969-1970 school year.

The Racial Integration of Boyden High School and its Continued Role as
Salisbury High School: 1969-1996

Freedom of choice was in practice in the Salisbury school system as early as 1963-1964: some few black students chose to attend Boyden. At that time Boyden

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was the only white high school in Salisbury. Price High School, erected in 1931-1932, was the system's black high school: it stood some dozen blocks to the north and on the north side of the Livingstone College campus. Complete integration occurred in the school year of 1969-1970. As Boyden was the superior building in terms of construction and size, it became the public high school for both white and black students. The accommodation of all the city's high school students in this one building had become possible through the construction of the Knox Junior High School in 1965. To accommodate the interest of both white and black students who felt strong loyalties to the names of their schools and to the memory of both Joseph Charles Price (1854-1893), a distinguished black leader and president of Livingstone College, and Archibald Henderson Boyden, Boyden High School was renamed Salisbury High School in 1970 and it has held that name to the present. The respective school colors were also merged and now red, black, and gold are used: the most visible evidence of this change is that the student lockers are now painted those colors.

In the quarter century since 1970, Boyden High School has had two principals: John N. Norton who came in 1970 and remained through the 1979-1980 school year; and Dr. N. Windsor Eagle who succeeded Norton in 1980 and remains principal of Salisbury High School. During this long period there have been relatively few projects affecting the school and its historic buildings. In the early 1970s, about 1972, the building's original wood sash windows were replaced with fixed aluminum windows. In 1924 when Earle Sumner Draper prepared the general plan for the grounds of Boyden High School, he designed a sidewalk which circled across the front lawn of the school with access from Lincolnton Road: it was installed in the 1920s as was the circular driveway on the east side of the school which entered the campus from Lincolnton Road and exited onto Caldwell Street. With integration, there was increased movement on the grounds and a second circular driveway was added which carried inside the front walk and parallel with its curving path. In July 1975 Robert F. Stone designed an elevator tower addition for construction at the north end of the east wing of the school's H-shape plan. This was done to accommodate physically handicapped students and teachers in their movement through the building's three stories. In about 1978, there was fire damage in the industrial arts building, and in drawings dated 22 May 1978, Mr. Hartlege renovated the building to provide space for an arts studio as well as shop work. Two projects have occurred in recent years. In 1994 the school lunchroom was remodeled and expanded by a dining room addition on the southeast. The northwest half of the building was fitted up with offices for career and guidance counseling. This work was designed by the firm of Martin, Boal, Anthony & Johnson of Charlotte who simultaneously refitted the former guidance offices, adjoining the principal's office in the main building, for expanded administrative office space. In 1995, that same firm completed plans for a new wiring system for computers which has involved a minimal lowering of the ceilings in most of the classrooms

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to conceal wires, etc.: this work was completed in the summer of 1995. When classes opened on Wednesday, 23 August 1995 there were 850 students enrolled at Salisbury High School.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The statewide architectural significance of Boyden High School derives from its position as the finest school designed by Christopher Gadsden Sayre, a South Carolina-based architect, with offices in North Carolina cities, who specialized in school design, and for its survival, in continual use, as one of the most distinguished public high school buildings erected in North Carolina in the 1920s. As demonstrated in the "Historical Background" there was a great deal of interest in the architectural profession in the design of the school and most of the principal architects working in the Piedmont in school design represented their work to the City Board of Education. These men included Willard G. Rogers of Charlotte, Willard C. Northup (1882-1942) of Winston-Salem who had just completed the Reidsville High School, and the partnership of Charles C. Wilson and George R. Berryman of Columbia, South Carolina, who had recently completed the Wilson (Charles L. Coon) High School in Wilson. At this point relatively little is known of the work of the firm of Starrett and Van Vleck of New York who also sought the design contract: presumably they had had an association with Drs. George Drayton Strayer and Nickolaus Louis Engelhardt of Columbia University who served as educational design/planning consultants for the school. The fact that Mr. Sayre was hired by the school board over Mr. Northup who had executed previous design work for Salisbury schools and was responsible, himself and in association with his partner Leet O'Brien, for over one hundred schools in North Carolina, demonstrates the strength of Sayre's ability and the well-placed confidence of Col. Boyden and his colleagues on the City Board of Education. While any of these architects might well have designed a fine new high school for Salisbury, the opportunity to do so was given to Mr. Sayre who produced the finest known school building of his career in North Carolina and a building which stands as one of the most impressive surviving public school buildings of the 1920s.

It must be admitted that a thorough understanding of Sayre's life and career awaits documentation and final analysis. At present there exists an unsigned six-paragraph biographical sketch and a list of sixty-three known North Carolina buildings which was prepared in the 1980s as part of the "Architects and Builders in North Carolina" project.³ This list, based primarily on citations taken from the MANUFACTURERS RECORD, does not note the status or survival of the buildings. Thirty-four of the sixty-three buildings were public schools and the others represent commissions for churches, academic buildings, public and institutional buildings (including the Moore County Court House of 1922), commercial buildings, and a small number of residences. These

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were designed between 1909 and 1926 either by Mr. Sayre himself or while he was in partnership with James J. Baldwin from 1909 until ca. 1915. Most of those school buildings are known to this author from some twenty years experience as an architectural historian in North Carolina; others, such as the Plymouth High School, Washington County, and the Hugh Morson High School, Raleigh--both now lost--are known from photographs. Of Mr. Sayre's public school buildings which survive--and including even those which have been lost--Boyden High School clearly stands apart as the culmination of his work in school design. It appears to have been the second costliest public school building he designed: Hugh Morson High School was built at a cost of \$533,771.94. Including the cost of land and its furnishings Boyden High School totaled just under \$500,000, a remarkable sum to have been expended on a single public school by a city the size of Salisbury at that time.

Christopher Gadsden Sayre was born on 21 November 1876 at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, near Charleston, to William Sayre and his wife Jane Dewers Gadsden. The couple moved to Anderson while their son was still a young boy; however, he was educated at Porter Military Academy in Charleston and at South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) from which he was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1897. During the years from 1897 until about 1906, when he is said to have begun a private practice as an architect and engineer, he is described as having been actively engaged in surveying and civil and mechanical engineering in South Carolina. The biographical sketch indicates that Mr. Sayre worked as resident engineer on the Ware's Shoals Manufacturing Company plant under the supervision of Gadsden E. Shand. About 1906 Mr. Sayre opened his own office in Anderson, South Carolina which remained the base of his practice until the early 1920s when he opened offices in Raleigh and Greensboro, North Carolina. In 1909 he took James J. Baldwin as a partner and the two practiced as Sayre & Baldwin with offices in the Bleckley Building until about 1915. Thereafter his office was in the Maxwell Building in Anderson.

For reasons that are yet unknown, Sayre moved to Greensboro about 1925 and remained there, as a resident, at least into 1929: at this same time he remained listed in the Anderson city directories as the president and treasurer of the Anderson Hosiery Mills. There is, presently, only one building in Greensboro known to have been designed by him, the residence of Alfred Moore Scales at Hamilton Lakes. It was designed in 1926. The final known projects of his career in North Carolina are three buildings in Buncombe County which also date to 1926. It appears that he ceased to practice as an architect in 1927. He returned to Anderson where he died on Thursday, 12 October 1933. His obituary in the Anderson DAILY MAIL identified him as "a prominent business man of this city" but did not mention his work as an architect. An editorial in the same newspaper described his death as having "brought to a close the career of a useful citizen of Anderson, a builder and a booster who has been for many

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years identified with the progress of this community." Later statements in the editorial suggest that he met with financial or business reverses near the end of his life.

During the storms and perils of the depression, which tore the soul out of so many men, Mr. Sayre retained his cheerful disposition, his eagerness to carry on, his alertness of mind and body. He met adversity with a countenance of good cheer and retained that precious ingredient so often lost in the bitterness of business--an abiding faith in God and his fellow-man.

His funeral was held in Grace Episcopal Church in Anderson and he was buried in the Old Silverbrook Cemetery there (CGS Biography File, NCSU, Anderson DAILY MAIL, 13 October 1933, Anderson city directories).

Upon its completion in 1926, Boyden High School joined a small but highly important group of public high schools in North Carolina that were distinguished for their modern plan and handsome appearance. Within this group it was the third major Collegiate-Gothic/Elizabethan Revival style-high school erected in the state. The Roanoke Rapids Junior-Senior High School, the first of the trio, was completed in 1921 to designs prepared by Hobart Brown Upjohn who specialized in church and institutional architecture. The construction of the building, enlivened by crenellated parapets and balustraded bays, was funded by a special bond issue; however, the choice of the nationally-recognized architect and the sheer beauty of the building surely owe to the role of Samuel F. Patterson, the industrialist and investor whose mills were the mainstay of the local economy. Whether Col. Boyden or Mr. Sayre had visited the Roanoke Rapids school cannot be confirmed; however, they would have known of it through educational publications and the press. The Gastonia High School, designed by Hugh Edward White and his firm of White, Streeter and Chamberlain and completed in 1922, was also known to the City Board of Education whose members decided that they would visit it and the Classical Revival-style Reidsville High School during a meeting in late 1923. Whereas the Roanoke Rapids school continues in use to the present, the Gastonia High School was abandoned as a public school in the 1980s and sold to a developer who has installed rental apartments within its exterior walls.

When the Collegiate Gothic Style was not adopted for important school design, the other popular choice was a building in the Classical or Colonial Revival style. The state's major Classical Revival-style high school of the 1920s is the Richard J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem which crowns a hill with its companion Richard J. Reynolds Auditorium. Like the Roanoke Rapids School, the Richard J. Reynolds High School owes its grand appearance and location to philanthropy and the largesse of its benefactor, Mrs. Richard J. Reynolds (1880-1924), whose donation of the land and the funds for the auditorium were a

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memorial to her husband, Richard Joshua Reynolds (1850-1918), the founder of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The school and the auditorium were designed by Charles Barton Keen (1868-1931) who had earlier designed Reynolda, the Reynolds's estate: it was built in 1922-1923. The planning for this building and the process of its design, including the participation of Dr. George Drayton Strayer of Columbia University, served as a model for the Salisbury City Board of Education who likewise hired the educational consultant for the planning of Boyden High School.

The final pair of buildings making up this elite group of public high school buildings are both stone buildings and both date to 1929. The Asheville (Lee Edwards High School) was designed in a highly personal manner heavily influenced by the Art Deco style which marks and distinguishes the work of Douglas D. Ellington. Needham B. Broughton High School in Raleigh is also highly individual, and Italian, in its design and appearance with a central campanile rising above the main three-story block with flanking projecting gable ends of stone and brick. Designed by William Henley Deitrick (1895-1976), Broughton High School was attended by many Raleigh students who began their education in one of four white elementary schools, including nearby Wiley School, designed for the capital by Christopher Gadsden Sayre.

EDUCATION SIGNIFICANCE

The statewide significance of Boyden High School in the area of education derives from its role as an important intact exemplar of modern school planning, design, and construction in the 1920s and for its association with a city school system that exercised continued leadership in public education during periods when the state's schools have been described as being among the nation's worst and were slowly moving forward. The chronology of the evolution of Salisbury's public schools for white students has been described at length in the "Historical Background" and it need not be repeated here; however, critical events and personalities should be noted.

As was the case throughout North Carolina in 1865-1866, whatever framework and system for public education that had been developed during the antebellum period in Salisbury was devastated by the Civil War and Confederate defeat. For the most part, private academies and schools had been the principal educational institutions in Salisbury as elsewhere in North Carolina and it was private schools which reopened or opened anew during Reconstruction. The city fathers in the county seat realized their larger obligation to educate Salisbury's students and they succeeded in opening a school in November 1866: while a small tuition was charged to help support the school, it was waived in some instances and in others needy students were directed to a free charitable school in the Lutheran Church.

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During the 1870s, the school(s) in Salisbury made important strides in part because of strong leadership for education. One of the most important of those leaders was the Reverend Francis Johnstone Murdoch (1846-1909) who came to Salisbury in 1872 as rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and remained in the pulpit until his death. Early in 1880 Salisbury became the third city in North Carolina to establish free public graded schools for its children at a time when the vast majority of students in the state were attending one-room, one-teacher schools of log or simple frame construction: the first system of free public graded schools had been established in Greensboro in 1875 and in 1877 Raleigh established the second such system (Knight, p. 313). In the summer of 1880, the Reverend Murdoch designed a four-room brick school house, in the shape of a cross, which was completed in 1881 on N. Ellis Street.

In the 1890s, two events occurred which would have dramatic consequences for Salisbury's schools through the first quarter of the twentieth century and arguably to the present. About 1897, Col. Archibald Henderson Boyden became a member of the city school board and he would serve as a member until his death, often times as chairman of the board. As the Salisbury POST noted in an editorial in 1924 saluting the decision to name the high school in his honor:

To Mr. Boyden more than to any other man, is due the credit for this magnificent school building program which Salisbury is carrying out with such gratifying results. From the first step taken in public school building to this good hour, he has been first and foremost in furthering the plans for giving the city a school system wisely planned and definitely executed to the consummation of a worth while achievement (POST, 17 December 1924).

Earlier, the newspaper had noted that it was during Mr. Boyden's mayoralty that the city's first high school was built (1904-1906) and that it "was made possible because of his determination to give this city a fine school program" (POST, 16 December 1924).

The second figure who made a vital difference in developing the Salisbury school system at its critical point at the turn of the century was Charles Lee Coon: Mr. Coon came to Salisbury as superintendent of the city system in 1899 and during a short four-year stay he added the tenth grade to the city school system and began to put in place the mechanism for the addition of the eleventh grade in 1904.

During his term as superintendent, he reorganized the school administration, drew up a new course of study, sought out qualified teachers, tightened student discipline, and organized a school building program; as a result of his efforts, school enrollment rose, the term became longer, more diverse subjects were offered, and a high school level

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of education became available. More importantly, Coon changed public attitudes and built up popular support for the public school system (DNCR, I, p. 427).

It was while he was superintendent of the Salisbury schools that he attended a state conference on education in Raleigh in February 1902, called by governor Charles B. Aycock and Charles D. McIver: Mr. Coon was the "author of its educational manifesto, the 'Declaration against Illiteracy.' Described by historian R. D. W. Connor as 'one of the most important documents in the history of education in the South,' the declaration was widely circulated as the birth announcement of North Carolina's educational awakening" (DNCR, I, pp. 427-428). He moved to Wilson in 1907 and there, during the final two decades of his life, he "created a modern consolidated school system at the county level that set a pattern for the rest of North Carolina" (DNCR, I, p. 428).

It would be fair to say Mr. Coon's experience in Salisbury helped to shape his future achievements and that same description can be applied to the tenure of Arch Turner Allen as superintendent of the city schools from 1910 until 1917. Having served for briefer periods as principal of schools in Statesville, Washington, and Charlotte, and superintendent of the Graham school system, his seven years as head of the Salisbury schools in the 1910s--when three new schools were built for white children--were the culmination of one stage in his career from which he moved to another: to the state department of education and to the superintendency of public instruction in North Carolina from 1923 until his death in 1934. Allen was succeeded in Salisbury by T. Wingate Andrews who was superintendent when the city passed major bond issues of \$500,000 and \$300,000 in 1921 and 1924, respectively, to fund the city's unprecedented school building campaign. By doing so, Salisbury put itself in a position equal to other progressive municipal governments in North Carolina, including Raleigh and Winston-Salem, among others, which addressed their educational responsibilities in a modern, comprehensive way.

A third figure associated with the Salisbury city school system who went on to a leadership role in public education in North Carolina was Guy Berryman Phillips (1890-1968). Phillips came to Salisbury as superintendent of the city school system in 1924 and remained in the post until 1929. During this period he oversaw the design, construction, and opening of Boyden High School and its first three years of operation. Having served as head of the Greensboro school system from 1929 until 1936, he became professor of education at the University of North Carolina in the later year. For the next three decades he was on the faculty of the university and dean of its School of Education from 1948 until 1954: during this long period he was a constant and active advocate for educational reform and progress in the state and the nation (DNCR, V, pp. 91-92).

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The study and deliberation which went into the planning, design, and construction of Boyden High School can be seen--like the building itself--as the culmination of a quarter-century of progress in public education in Salisbury. But the importance of this process and the building rise to a much higher level of significance, and they demonstrate a modern, scientific approach to school design and construction, guided by educational consultants from Columbia University, which characterizes the best buildings of the 1920s in North Carolina. The H-shaped three-story brick masonry building was designed so that it could be expanded or doubled in size as necessary. The plan of the building and the arrangement of classrooms reflected the then-current, progressive ideas of design and the arrangement of departments and facilities in an ordered fashion. Well-illuminated, standard-sized classrooms were provided for the traditional subjects while coordinated spaces were defined for specific departments such as home economics and clothing labs. For the first time in the city's high school, there was a series of classrooms/laboratories with related storage for biology, physics, and chemistry; these were proudly aligned across the front of the building on the third story. The library was situated in the center of the school, on the second story. The classrooms given to the commercial department recognized the need to teach skills which could be utilized at once and carried into post-high school jobs. Boys's and girls's restrooms, 725 student lockers, a cafeteria, and medical offices completed the plan. The 1,000-seat large auditorium in one leg of the "H" was matched by the gymnasium in the pendant projecting block. The only significant change to the arrangement and allocation of spaces in the building came in the 1950s when a new gymnasium was built and in the 1960s when the library was relocated in the former gymnasium, its original space being partitioned to form three classrooms.

Boyden High School survives today, in continuous use through seventy years, as one of a very small group of buildings which were educational landmarks in their day and which remain landmarks in the civic landscape of North Carolina to the present. In 1921 when Col. Boyden and the members of the City Board of Education were setting about to rebuild and enlarge the schools of Salisbury they sought the best of advice on how to proceed with the charge entrusted to them by the citizens of Salisbury. Doing so, they established a high standard which was the point of departure in 1923-1924 when they proceeded with plans for the city's new high school. Since 1921, a new high school, spacious in plan and modern in its fittings and instruction, had been seen as the climax of the board's long-range plan for providing Salisbury with a fine and complete school system. To accomplish this goal, the board engaged Dr. George Drayton Strayer and Dr. Nickolaus Louis Engelhardt, two of the nation's foremost experts in public education, as consulting planners for the school; they employed Christopher Gadsden Sayre as the architect of a building which would be handsome in appearance and provide classrooms and laboratories for the

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sciences, home economics, commerce, and all the liberal arts; and they let the contract for the building to Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw who, to his death, referred to the building as "my monument." Thereby, the City Board of Education produced a building that became "the pride of the people of this city and a blessing to the thousands of children now on the way to high school in Salisbury and to those who are to follow them in the years to come" (POST, 14 December 1924).

ENDNOTES

1. In the preparation of section eight of this nomination two principal sources were used: the minutes of the City Board of Education, and articles concerning the school and the bond issues which appeared in the Salisbury POST. For brevity, these sources are acknowledged within the text in parenthesis and are listed in the bibliography. Other sources are also cited, in appropriate fashion, within the text and they, too, are included in the bibliography. Unfortunately, there are few original blueprints for Boyden High School surviving in the possession of the Rowan-Salisbury School System. Three sheets of preliminary sketches for the school survive and bear Sayre's name: one large sheet showing the auditorium and hall sections, elevations, and details survives; however, it bears no title block. Four sheets (F-1, F-3-5) of the heating and ventilating system for the school prepared by Wiley and Wilson, engineers, of Lynchburg, Virginia, survive: they have the date of 10 November 1924. Earle Sumner Draper's general plan for the school grounds, dated November 1924, also survives in blueprint form. Thomas Hooper Yoe's 1938 drawings for the Industrial Arts and Music buildings survive in blueprint form. Blueprints also survive for the gymnasium and lunchroom added to the campus in the 1950s as well as later projects on the grounds. Blueprints survive for the refitting of the science rooms and the home economics department and the renovation of the former gymnasium space as the library in 1968-1969. All of these blueprints, and others, are located in the administrative offices of the Rowan-Salisbury School System at 110 S. Long Street, East Spencer. The minutes for the City Board of Education are located in the office of the superintendent, Rowan-Salisbury School System, in the administrative offices located at 314 N. Ellis Street, Salisbury. The school board minutes also record the board's activities concerning the schools for black students in Salisbury.

2. Nellie Howard, Ida Howard, Rose M. Parrott, Percy D. Howard and wife Mamie to E. A. and L. G. Goodman, 28 October 1921, Book 169, p. 159, Rowan County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Rowan County Office Building, Salisbury, North Carolina. E. A. Goodman and wife Francis J., and L. G. Goodman and wife Carrie A. to City of Salisbury, 8 December 1921, Book 170, p. 159, Rowan County Deeds. E. A. and L. G. Goodman purchased the ten-acre tract from the Howard family for \$500. They sold it to the City of

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Salisbury for \$21,000. It included the two-story frame house and outbuildings owned and occupied by the surviving children of William Howard (ca. 1830-1897) and his wife Elizabeth E. Dunn (1834-1904); through their father the Howard siblings--Nellie, Ida, Rose, and Percy--were the great-great-grandchildren of John Lewis Beard (ca. 1732-1788), a patriarch of Salisbury. The two-story frame house occupied by the Howard family was moved in the autumn of 1924 across Lincolnton Road to a new lot where it stands to the present at 517 Lincolnton Road.

3. Christopher Gadsden Sayre Biography File, Architects and Builders in North Carolina File, Special Collections, North Carolina State University Library, Raleigh, North Carolina. A photocopy of the Sayre file was made available to this author by David Jackson of the library staff. Phillip Cheney of the Anderson County Library, Anderson, South Carolina, provided to this author photocopies of Sayre's obituary and an editorial which appeared on 13 October 1933 in the ANDERSON DAILY MAIL (Anderson, South Carolina), together with listings for Sayre which appeared in the ANDERSON CITY DIRECTORY for the period from 1905 until after Sayre's death in 1933. Sayre is listed in the GREENSBORO CITY DIRECTORY from 1924 through 1929.

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8. Statement of Significance

Architect/Builder

Sayre, Christopher Gadsen--architect

Bradshaw, Leonidas Sloan--contractor/builder

Draper, Earle Sumner--landscape architect

Hartlege, John Richard Jr.--architect

Stone, Robert F.--architect

Wilson, J. H.--contractor/builder

Jarrell, A. L.--contractor/builder

Linn, D. C.--contractor/builder

Martin, Boal, Anthony & Johnson--architect

Yoe, Thomas Hooper--architectural draftsman

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Christopher Gadsden Sayre Biography File, Architects and Builders in North Carolina File, Special Collections, North Carolina State University Library, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundaries of the nominated property encompass about five acres of the eastern one-half of the ten-acre city block acquired by the City Board of Education in 1921. They are outlined on the enclosed general plan of the Boyden High School campus drawn on 15 December 1969 by John Richard Hartlege. (This plan, on a scale of one inch equals forty feet, represents a true account of the grounds of the acreage except on two points: the southwest end of the front walk is shown as carrying in a straight line to a secondary walk, set parallel with the west side of the building, rather than in a curve to Lincolnton Road as it was built in the 1920s; the second difference is that the plan does not show the front vehicular drive which was added in the early 1970s, after the plan was drawn.)

Boundary Justification: The boundary drawn for the nomination includes the location and setting of the historic buildings and resources which constitute Boyden High School. The boundary is drawn to exclude portions of the larger educational facility whose construction postdates 1946.

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Additional Documentation

Schedule of Photographs

The following information applies to all of the photographs included in this nomination unless otherwise noted.

Name of Property: Boyden High School
500 Lincolnton Road
Salisbury
Rowan County
North Carolina

Photographer: Davyd Foard Hood

Date of Photographs: 22-23 August 1995

Location of Original Negatives: North Carolina Division of Archives and
History
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

1. Boyden High School, overall view, looking northeast.
2. Boyden High School, center tower on facade, looking north/northeast.
3. Boyden High School, east, secondary entrance on facade, looking northeast.
4. Boyden High School, east side elevation, looking northwest.
5. Boyden High School, Reid G. Leonard Music Building, looking northwest.
6. Boyden High School, covered walkway with industrial arts building and lunchroom, looking north/northeast.
7. Boyden High School, auditorium, looking south/southeast from balcony.
8. Boyden High School, second story corridor in main block, looking east.
9. Boyden High School, typical second-story classroom.
10. Boyden High School, (former) clothing lab with clothing display cabinet and student lockers, looking northeast.

Boyden High
 School, Rowan
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