

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

North Carolina School for the Blind and Deaf Dormitory

AND/OR COMMON

Old Health Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

216 West Jones Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

37

COUNTY

Wake

CODE

183

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

☒ PUBLIC

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

☒ PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☒ ACCESSIBLE

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☒ GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Bruce Lentz, Secretary  
Department of Administration

NAME

State of North Carolina: Attn: Nat Robb, Property Office

STREET & NUMBER

Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Wake County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## DESCRIPTION

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

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

The North Carolina School for the Blind and Deaf Dormitory is a massive, imposing brick building, designed by architect Frank Milburn in the Chateausque style. Sited at a busy urban corner near the head of a gentle hill, the three-and-one-half-story structure with its dramatic, complex roof form is a prominent landmark amid the office development that surrounds it. The structure measures 104 feet wide and 85 feet deep.

The building consists of a rectangular block covered by a very steep hip roof. From this block project on the south (main), east, and west elevations full-height centrally placed parapeted gabled pavilions; from the two south corners project engaged three-story towers, and from the rear extends a simple, functional three-story wing. The red brick of the building has been painted a dull gray, which diminishes the richness of the intended contrast between the smooth brick walls, projecting brick trim, and plentiful rough-cut gray stone trim. This trim serves to emphasize the interplay of arched and trabeated openings throughout the building. Consistently, arched openings are outlined by a slightly projecting course of brick, while trabeated ones are accented by thick lintels of rough-cut stone which project beyond the sides of the openings. The arched brick course motif is incorporated into the series of projecting brick pilaster strips that separate the bays of the main block, linked above the third level by a round-arched arcade echoing the third level arched windows. The repetition of horizontal bands of rough-cut stone appears in the consistent use of the material in the heavy sills that underline individual windows and extend unbroken beneath groups of windows. The same horizontal band of stone defines the water table around the building and is used to separate the gable from the lower portion of the pavilions. Corbel bands define the upper edges of each elevation, beneath a heavy molded cornice. The substantial brick and stone of the building provide a firm visual base for the dramatic slate-covered roof whose steep hipped form is interrupted by the projecting gables of the pavilions, the splayed polygonal forms of the tower roofs, and a series of small, hip roof dormers that accent the front and rear slopes--four on the front and five on the rear. Finials atop the dormers, towers, gables, and at either end of the main roof further enliven the roof treatment (some finials are missing but most remain). A small ventilator projects from the middle of the roof.

The main (south) facade is symmetrical, and is dominated by the central entrance pavilion. The first-level entrance has a double door with stone lintel, flanked by small windows with stone lintels beneath arched lights. The second level also features a triple opening: a central round-arched doorway flanked by slightly smaller arched windows; stone lintels interrupt each of the window arches at their springing points. The third level is lighted by a wide band of five arched windows, linked by continuous stone sill and lintel. From the lower corners of the stone and corbel band that defines the gable area rise small corbeled bartizans, formerly capped with finials. The gable itself is outlined with a corbeled band, interrupted midway by a secondary finial. The gable is lighted by a variation of the triple arch motif: three equal-sized arched windows are linked by a stone sill but lack the stone lintel.

The fenestration of the main block, filling the bays separated by the arcade-linked pilaster scheme, features trabeated windows at the first two levels and arched ones at the third. Three bays occur on either side of the pavilion before the facade is interrupted by the corner tower at each side. The three-story engaged hexagonal towers have knuckle joints at their corners and are capped by splayed hexagonal roofs. Windows occur on

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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alternate faces of the tower, and follow the already established pattern of two levels trabeated, the third arched.

Extending across the facade between the towers is a one-story plain, heavy masonry porch which breaks out to accommodate the pavilion. It has square masonry pillars linked by a paneled frieze beneath a second-level gallery with a plain balustrade. It replaces an apparently wooden porch that had posts linked by arches, and a wooden second-story gallery balustrade. The facade sheltered by the porch is stuccoed.

The side elevations of the building are somewhat similar to the main facade, each featuring the dominant central gabled pavilion. They differ in that the linking portions between the pavilion and the front corner tower are only one bay wide; three more bays fill the space to the rear of the pavilion, and there are no towers at the rear corners. The fenestration is similar, but at the first level of each pavilion there are three trabeated openings, the flanking ones smaller and higher than the door. At the second level, the treatment is similar to the main facade, with a continuous lintel. At the third level, small arched windows flank a double trabeated one in a reversal of the Palladian window motif. The gable features a pair of arched windows. The treatment of the pavilion is otherwise similar to the front.

The rear facade has five bays on either side of a three-story ell joined by a full-height hyphen. The same pilaster and arch scheme is employed as on the other elevations. The ell is simply finished, is two bays deep and somewhat wider than two bays. At its rear are bands of four short windows at the first two levels and four arched ones at the third. The same brick and stone trim is repeated.

The interior features a pair of halls, one longitudinal, one lateral, that cross near the center of the building. Large round arches frame the openings of the front and rear halls into the cross hall. Rooms now used as offices are arranged around these axes. The walls are heavy brick ones, covered with plaster, with simple baseboards. Doors are also simple, usually with transoms. The institutional character of the building is enlivened by the surviving stair and ceiling treatments. At each end of the lateral hall (east-west) a stair rises through the full height of the building; the stair rises in its initial flight from the center to the outer edge. A heavy molded handrail is supported by large square raised-paneled newels and posts, each with ball finial; above the closed string, is an ornate, graceful metal balustrade composed of sinuous S-shaped spirals of apparently wrought metal. This handsome balustrade carries to the third floor on both ends.

The first-floor hall ceiling is covered with acoustical tile, as are a few of the offices, but prevalent throughout the building is an unusually handsome pressed metal ceiling, outlined by a pressed metal egg-and-dart cornice. The ceiling is embossed with a variety of floral, leaf, and classical designs. Now closed off by a lowered ceiling, the ceiling of the upper floor is said to be dramatically peaked (reflecting the form of the roof) and covered with pressed metal.

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In the rear wing, and in the finished basement, are a number of vaults, the product of the York Vault Company of York, Pennsylvania; they have the patent date 1915.

# SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES      1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Frank P. Milburn

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Carolina School for the Blind and Deaf Dormitory, designed by architect Frank P. Milburn and built in 1898, is an impressive example of the Chateausque style, whose massive form and dramatic towered, dormered roofline make it a major landmark in Raleigh's state government complex. The building is vital to the history of state involvement in the care and education of the handicapped, for it is the only remaining structure of the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, begun in 1848 and expanded over the years, for which the present building was constructed as a dormitory.

A state-supported school for the deaf citizens of North Carolina was first proposed in 1816 as part of a comprehensive report on the pressing need for a general system of public education in the state. The report was submitted to the General Assembly by Archibald D. Murphey (1777-1832), prominent jurist, legislator, and leader of a movement seeking increased state expenditures for various internal improvements. "The number of the deaf and dumb in North Carolina is not great," Murphey wrote, "but, small as it is, it claims the humane attentions of the government."<sup>1</sup>

Despite Murphey's recommendation--and the subsequent support of other state legislators and newspaper editors--no provision was made for the education of the deaf until 1843, when Governor John Motley Morehead succeeded in convincing the General Assembly of the efficacy of such a school. The following year the assembly resolved "that there shall be annually appropriated, out of the proceeds of the Literary Fund, five thousand dollars for the maintenance and education of such poor and destitute deaf mutes and blind persons as are unable to pay for such maintenance and education. . . ." The legislature further provided that the appropriated funds should be spent "either by hiring teachers to open schools in this state, or by placing such pupils . . . in such institutions of the sister States. . . ." The law stopped short, however, of recommending construction of a school for the deaf at state expense.

In January, 1845, the State Literary Board employed W. D. Cooke, a teacher of deaf-mutes from Staunton, Virginia, to establish such a school in rented quarters in or near Raleigh. Two years later the General Assembly appropriated an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the erection of "suitable buildings for the accommodation of such deaf mutes and blind persons as now are, or may hereafter become, pupils or inmates of the institution established in the city of Raleigh, for their education and maintenance. . . ."<sup>3</sup>

The first building was constructed two blocks northwest of the Capitol and was known as the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind; its cornerstone was laid on April 14, 1846. The school opened its doors to students in January, 1849.

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By November, 1850, the school had achieved an enrollment of fifty-four pupils, all of whom were deaf. The basic curriculum was the teaching of trades, principally the craft of mechanical printing. The original school for the deaf at Raleigh remained open during the Civil War. Its 1865 enrollment of eighty-four students was the largest in its twenty-year history. By 1869 a school for the Negro deaf and blind--said to be the first of its kind in the United States--had opened, also in Raleigh.

In the 1890s, Frank Pierce Milburn, one of the leading architects in the South, was commissioned to design a new dormitory for the school, to be erected on the corner of Jones and Dawson streets, behind the school which then faced McDowell Street. The cornerstone for the new building was laid in 1898.

Frank Pierce Milburn was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, on December 12, 1868. He was educated in the common schools in Kentucky, and later studied in Arkansas and Kentucky.

In 1890 Milburn opened an office at Kenova, West Virginia, but by about 1893 he had moved to Winston, North Carolina, where he was architect for the Forsyth County Courthouse, the Wachovia Bank Building and a number of handsome dwellings. About 1896 his design was chosen for the Mecklenburg County Courthouse at Charlotte; here he also became architect of the first steel frame building erected in North Carolina.

After an active period as a resident of Columbia, South Carolina, Milburn in 1902 moved to Washington, D. C., where he became architect for the Southern Railway Company. During the next fifteen years, he designed nineteen railroad stations, twenty-six county courthouses, fifteen residences, nine college buildings (including five for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), and many other public buildings throughout the South, as well as the Bureau of Printing and Engraving for the Imperial Government in Peking, China. He died at the age of fifty-eight in Asheville on September 21, 1926.

The Treasurer's and Comptroller's Papers in the North Carolina Archives for the years 1897 to 1901 show that on February 26, 1897, a special appropriation of \$20,850 was granted to the School for the Blind and Deaf for whites. It was followed in September and October by two other special appropriations totaling \$13,650. The annual monthly appropriation at this time was \$5,000 so it would appear that the special appropriation was probably for the new building, though the records are not so specific. By 1909 the annual appropriation for the school, as regulated by the General Assembly, was \$65,000, with an additional \$15,000 for renewal of the physical plant.

This building was used by the school until 1923 when the institution was removed to Ashe Street, in Raleigh, and years later renamed the Governor Morehead School, to honor the man whose efforts resulted in the school's creation in 1843. During 1927 and 1928 the building was renovated at a cost of \$85,000 for use by the State Board of Health. It was probably at this time that the front porch was changed to its present appearance. In 1953 when a new health building was completed the main section of the old School for the Blind and Deaf was torn down, leaving the present dormitory building, and a one-story building behind it. In 1955 the present building was again renovated at a cost of \$6,100 for use as state offices.

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<sup>1</sup>Coon, Charles L. The Beginnings of Public Education in North Carolina: A Documentary History, 1790-1840, vol. I, 110.

<sup>2</sup>Laws of North Carolina, 1844-1845, c. XXXVII.

<sup>3</sup>Laws of North Carolina, 1846-1847, c. XLVIII.

<sup>4</sup>Wodehouse, Lawrence. "Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926), A Major Southern Architect." North Carolina Historical Review, L, No. 3 (July, 1973), 289-303.

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coon, Charles L. The Beginnings of Public Education in North Carolina: A Documentary History, 1790-1840. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1908.  
Education of the Deaf in North Carolina. Morganton: North Carolina School for the Deaf, 75th Anniversary Edition, 1969.  
Laws of North Carolina, 1844-1845.  
Laws of North Carolina, 1846-1847.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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ZONE EASTING

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Research by Robert Topkins and John Banton Flowers, III, survey specialists;  
architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

919/829-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

LOCAL     

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

CHIEF OF OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

DATE

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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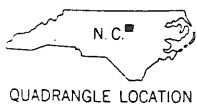
Waugh, Elizabeth Culbertson. North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh. Raleigh: Junior League of Raleigh, 1967.

Wodehouse, Lawrence. "Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926), A Major Southern Architect." North Carolina Historical Review, July, 1973.



#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- |                                    |                                              |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Primary highway,<br>hard surface   | Light-duty road, hard or<br>improved surface |
| Secondary highway,<br>hard surface | Unimproved road                              |
| Interstate Route                   | U. S. Route                                  |
| State Route                        |                                              |



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

#### RALEIGH WEST, N. C.

SW/4 RALEIGH 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3545—W7837.5/7.5

1968

AMS 5255 I SW—SERIES V842

