



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth St. ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27203
336-318-6806

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

6:00 pm

* 145 Worth St., Asheboro; 1909 Historic Courthouse – 2nd Floor Meeting Room*

A. Call to Order – *Mac Whatley, Chairman*

B. Old Business—Approval of Minutes from Special Meetings of June 28, 2017 and August 30, 2017.

C. New Business

1. Designation Application of Local Historic Landmark-Asheboro Female Academy—*Ross Holt*
2. **Public Hearing**-6:00 pm
3. Consider Adoption of Resolution Recommending Local Historic Landmark Designation for Asheboro Female Academy, 1839—*Mac Whatley, Chairman*
4. Updates and Announcements

D. Adjournment



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

June 28, 2017

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met for a special meeting in the Meeting Room of the 1909 Historic Courthouse at 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Mac Whatley at 6:04 p.m. Members present were Mac Whatley, Chairman; Warren Dixon, Vice Chairman; Ross Holt; Robyn Hankins; and Lynne Qualls. Hal Pugh, Don Simmons, and Dan Warren took their oaths where noted. Bill Ivey and Bill Johnson were absent.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Holt, seconded by Dixon, the HLPC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting.

Administration of Oaths of Office

Dana Crisco, Clerk to the HLPC, administered oaths of office to Hal Pugh, Don Simmons, and Dan Warren.

Role of Commission and Designation Process

Chairman Whatley welcomed the new members and briefly presented the role of the Commission. Ross Holt showed power point slides explaining the designation process the Commission uses.

Updates on Potential Designations

Chairman Whatley said that Warren Dixon had been working on a designation that would recognize many historic sites in the northeast part of the county. He said these could make up a Cultural Heritage trail. He provided a list of these which are all on private property: James Hunter Home Site, McGee's Ordinary, John McGee's Mill Site, Augustus Eugene Staley Home Site, Reuben Wood Home Site, Shiloh Methodist Church and Cemetery, Sandy Creek Friends Meeting and Cemetery Site, Herman Husband Home Site/Harmon Rd., Randolph Methodist Church and Cemetery, Blackhawk Mill Site, Dye Leaf Hollow, Melancthon Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Samuel Walker's Mill and Home Site, and the 1850's Miller's House. The Chairman explained that maybe these could be considered as one designation like a cluster, area or a multiple resource nomination. Most of the sites that make up this area no longer have structures but are still very significant to Randolph County history.

Lynne Qualls mentioned that there would be other areas around the county that would qualify for this type of designation. The Chairman agreed.

Other potential designations presented were the Asheboro Female Academy and the Coffin/Makepeace House.

Website Overview

Ross Holt explained that the County government website is undergoing a redesign and the HLPC website transitioned to a new platform in February. A much-desired feature of this new website is that each landmark or cultural heritage site is geo-located on a map of the county so that users can easily find its location. The new website is also mobile-friendly. The new website is transitional; a move to an even more user-friendly version is in the works.

Approval to Recommend Changes to the HPLC Ordinance

Clerk to the HLPC Dana Crisco explained that the HLPC Ordinance currently doesn't technically allow for "Cultural Heritage Objects." She suggested adding this to the Ordinance where Cultural Heritage Sites are discussed. She also explained that the minutes for the HLPC had always been kept by the HLPC Clerk in the County Manager's office and this change was missed in the last amendment to the Ordinance in 2015 and requested amending Section 4. B. (3) from County Planning Department to County Manager's Office. She presented a draft copy (attached) of the proposed changes to be presented to the Board of Commissioners for final approval if the HLPC is in agreement.

On motion of Holt, seconded by Qualls, the HLPC voted unanimously to approve the changes to the HLPC Ordinance and recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners.

Change of Monthly Meeting Date and Time

On motion of Dixon, seconded by Hankins, the HLPC voted unanimously to approve the change of the monthly meeting date to the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, on motion of Holt, seconded by Dixon, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

L. Mac Whatley, Chairman

Dana Crisco, Clerk to the HLPC



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

August 30, 2017

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met for a special meeting in the Meeting Room of the 1909 Historic Courthouse at 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Mac Whatley at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Mac Whatley, Chairman; Warren Dixon, Vice Chairman; Ross Holt; Bill Ivey; Lynne Qualls; Hal Pugh; Don Simmons; and Dan Warren. Bill Johnson and Robyn Hankins were absent.

Introduction

Chairman Whatley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Holt gave the introduction as follows:

Our purpose this evening is to hear a report from our Chairman, Mac Whatley, on the history and context of war memorials and monuments in Randolph County, not just on the courthouse grounds but throughout the county. Of course, the community discussion has centered on the Confederate monument outside, but for us it sparked a larger conversation about how the county has recognized its war dead and its veterans over the years. Among other things, the discussion has led us to recover from storage – and consider how to refurbish – a plaque that once hung in the courthouse lobby honoring service members who died in World War II. Another realization we had was that soldiers from Randolph County who died in World War I have never had their names properly memorialized. So Mac will be talking about those matters in his report, as well.

Let me state up front that there is no action or decision before the Landmark Commission tonight. Our purpose here is simply to inform and be informed and to learn.

And that's in keeping with the role of the commission. Our mission is to identify, preserve, and protect Randolph County's historic landmarks and to educate the public about those resources as well as historic preservation in general.

This courthouse was the first historic site recommended by the Commission for landmark designation. In fact, the Commission was established under the leadership of Hal Johnson, then Planning Director and now County Manager, after the splendid restoration of this courthouse caused county government and community members to recognize that there were many other physical manifestations of the county's heritage – historic buildings, sites that are important in terms of their cultural or natural heritage, even objects – that deserved preservation and promotion to raise awareness and educate people about our history.

The Commission was established in 2008 and since then we have designated 20 landmarks and 22 cultural heritage sites or objects. Landmark designations have included

the Pisgah Covered Bridge, the Sunset Theatre, Faith Rock, and many others. Cultural Heritage Site designations have included Ridges Mountain, the Strieby community and Randolph High School in Liberty among others (Randolph High School was the most visited page on our website last year – and speaking of our website, all the detailed history and information about our landmarks and cultural sites and photographs can be found there – please visit at www.rchlpc.org).

The home of the Landmark Commission is the Randolph County Public Library. Our Randolph Room – the center of the library's local history and genealogy services – is the repository for the county's historical records and documentation, as well as home to a wealth of research resources covering Randolph County's history and families, the region and the state.

In that regard Mac and I wear multiple hats. I'm Director of the library, and Mac is our Head of Local History and Genealogy Services – so we're in effect the staff of the Landmark Commission as well as members. I might also note that our Vice-Chairman, Warren Dixon, has a long association with the library, having served on the Randolph Public Library Board of Trustees, as Chairman of the Liberty Library Board of Trustees and as circulation supervisor at the Asheboro library. As a volunteer and now as a part-time staff member at the Liberty library, he's reorganizing the Swaim Room, the Liberty library's local genealogy collection.

So the library is “super” well-positioned to bring its resources to bear in support of the Landmark Commission's efforts to identify and highlight Randolph County's unique historic sites.

What you'll hear tonight is not a report OF the Landmark Commission, but a report TO the Commission – and to the community – based on Mac's comprehensive knowledge of Randolph County history and on research he has carried out using the documentation and resources, including primary sources and firsthand accounts, available in the library's collection.

Usually, Mac Whatley – “L. McKay Whatley, Jr.” – needs no introduction. But in the event some of you aren't aware of Mac's credentials, he is, in effect, the County Historian and probably the single living person most knowledgeable about the county's history. He is a native of Asheboro and a graduate of Asheboro High School; he holds a Bachelor's degree in Art History and Architecture from Harvard University, a law degree from North Carolina Central University and a Master's in Library and Information Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of The Architectural History of Randolph County and a photographic history book entitled Randolph County, North Carolina. He has documented the county's history at length on his blog, “Notes on the History of Randolph County,” and has crafted many of the landmark designations that the Commission has considered as well as applications for designations on the National Register of Historic Places, which are incredibly complex and detailed. He also has been instrumental in the preservation of historic sites in Franklinville, where he lives – in a historic house that was a stop on the Underground Railroad. He's now serving as a Franklinville Town Commissioner and formerly served as Mayor.

About a year ago, he left his career in the law to join us at the Library as Head of Local History and Genealogy Services.

Mr. Holt then introduced HLPC Chairman Mac Whatley.

Report on Monuments and Memorials in Randolph County

Chairman Whatley gave the following report on monuments and memorials:

Randolph County has a rather meager history of any kind of monuments or memorials. The county has no privately-erected monuments anywhere to battles, events or public figures; there are 12 state Highway Historical Markers, including one to Governor Jonathan Worth, which is on the Salisbury Street right of way on the courthouse property¹. This program has been operated since 1936 by the Office of Archives and History in the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources and has no connection with and requires no input from the County.

The Sheriff's Department has a Memorial Wall listing every Randolph County Sheriff. There are no memorials or even public lists anywhere on County property of the names of County Commissioners, Justices of the Peace, Clerks of Court, Registers of Deeds, or other elected officials. Group photographs of the Boards of County Commissioners since 1984 are displayed on the wall leading to the County Manager's office at the Randolph County Office Building so that visitors will have a historical image of those who made the decisions that have helped Randolph County get to where it is now, but no group photographs of the Boards of Commissioner prior to 1984 have been found.

There are and have been a number of Veterans' Memorials erected in the County both on public and private property. There are no known memorials or monuments to veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, or Spanish-American War (although there is, on the grounds of the State Capitol, a monument to the first casualty of the Spanish-American War – Worth Bagley, the grandson of Governor Jonathan Worth). There are, or have been in and around the Randolph County Courthouse, monuments and memorials to veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and subsequent national conflicts.

Taking them in reverse order, they are –

The Randolph County Veterans Memorial



¹ <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Results.aspx?t=Search&x=Randolph&f=All>

For many years the Pilot Club of Asheboro honored county veterans by placing paper bag luminaries on the sidewalks in front of the 1909 Courthouse. Beginning around 1993, Frank Rose, organizer of the Randolph County Veterans Council, together with members of the local Vietnam Veterans chapter, proposed building a Randolph County Veterans Memorial on the courthouse grounds. This was evidently triggered by the emotional popularity of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall which opened on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1982. This was one of the first war memorials in the United States to list the names of all servicemen and women who were casualties of a war. Their original plan of the veteran organizations was that donations from the public and contributions from family members could fund the memorial, but this did not prove feasible. At the January 1995 Randolph County Commissioners' meeting, the Commissioners approved spending \$31,700 for construction of a granite monument to be built on the courthouse lawn. At the request of County Commission Chair Phil Kemp and County Attorney Alan Pugh, Superior Court Judge Russell G. Walker, Jr. approved the final placement of the 900 square-foot memorial in a grassy area at the entrance to Courtroom C. Rose stated that the memorial was "open to all honorably discharged Randolph County veterans who served in any branch of the military since 1898 during war or peace." At that time Rose stated that there were 11,310 living veterans in Randolph County, comprising more than ten percent of the population.

The monument was designed to look like the veterans memorial in Hillsville, Virginia and was built by Wiley Brothers Marble and Granite Works. When dedicated on Veterans' Day 1995, it included the names of 3,333 living and deceased Randolph County veterans whose families or descendants applied for inclusion and paid a fee to have the name engraved on the granite panels. 400 additional names were added on Memorial Day 1996. In 2003, the names of some 20 soldiers killed in action were added, and in 2004, two additional granite panels were added to provide space for as many as 1800 more names. The Randolph County Commissioners approved spending \$8,439 for the expansion in November 2004. At that time it was clarified that to be added to the wall a veteran "must be a native of Randolph County, a county resident for at least two years, or have been inducted locally with active military service of at least two years;" members of the National Guard and Reserves are eligible only if called to active duty. The new panels were dedicated with 544 new names on Memorial Day 2005. Frank Rose stated at that time that the memorial honored 3,899 military personnel. Names have subsequently been added so that the memorial currently honors more than 3,900 persons, including the names of 165 service men killed in action. It is recognized that this does NOT include the name of every Randolph County casualty of war since 1898.

World War II

A concerted effort was made by North Carolina during World War II to keep track of service men and women and of the casualties of war. A War Records Committee was appointed with representatives from every county. In 1942, Mrs. Laura Worth, the county historian, was appointed War Records Collector for Randolph County, and Dr. C.A. Barrett, Principal of the Randolph County Training School, was appointed to collect "Negro War Records." Worth and Barrett regularly forwarded materials to the state archives.

Every town had a Wall of Honor; in Liberty and Asheboro, pictures of servicemen were posted in storefronts. In Franklinville a large wooden sign was erected on the baseball field. In Asheboro the names of everyone in service were painted on 4' x 8' sheets of plywood

erected in a grove of oaks at the present location of Wachovia/ Wells Fargo. The newspapers of the time printed short biographies of every serviceman, particularly when killed or wounded, and Miss Worth clipped those and created scrapbooks for the Army, Navy/ Marines and others.



Asheboro (top) and Liberty
Walls of Honor during WWII

There are also handwritten casualty cards for 113 men and women reported killed or missing in action. Reports of deaths were slow to be released by the military and trickled out into public knowledge. By late 1943, enough deaths had accumulated that the Asheboro Rotary Club decided that some official memorial needed to be erected. The club paid for a wooden plaque to be constructed by Lucas Industries, builder of furniture for the Army. That plaque was dedicated at the courthouse in a public ceremony on April 28, 1944. Names of those who died in service were engraved on Bakelite plates and affixed to the plaque, which was inscribed –

IN MEMORIAM

Dedicated to those men and women from Randolph County who have given their lives in service of our country during World War II.

Erected by the Rotary Club of Asheboro.



The Courier Tribune article about the plaque stated that it would be updated to “contain the county’s war dead to date.” But as the war continued, the names outgrew the space on

the plaque. So another larger plaque was made, and it was suggested that the smaller plaque could be converted into a memorial for the dead of the First World War (this was evidently never done). By the end of the war the plaque had 75 names affixed to it; but the official count as released by the Army and Navy lists in 1946 showed that there were at least 135 Randolph County residents killed in action or who died in service. That list evidently did not include all of those missing in action. But evidently, there was little interest in finalizing the list of war dead, and neither plaque was ever completed as a World War memorial. When the court house was renovated in 1964, the plaques were given back to Joe Ross, historian of the Asheboro Rotary Club. He stored them in the basement of his building at 100 Sunset Avenue, where I found them in 1998. They are now in the collection of the Randolph Room.

Several other projects began locally immediately after the war to memorialize those who fought and died in Europe and the Pacific.

Blue Star Highways

During World War I, families with relatives in service flew flags with a gold star for each loved one fighting overseas. In World War II (and still today) a blue star is used to designate a home with active military members; a gold star replaces the blue star to indicate the home of immediate relatives who die in service. In 1950, the Garden Club of North Carolina designated US 64 as a “Blue Star Memorial Highway” in “tribute to the National Armed Forces who served in World War II.” Bronze markers designed by the National Council of Garden Clubs were erected in Asheboro and Ramseur.



Asheboro Memorial Park

The Asheboro Memorial Foundation, Inc. acquired 12 acres of property in 1945 to build “An Everlasting Memorial to our Service Men and Women;” “A Tribute to Our Heroes of World Wars I and II.” Officers of the foundation were W.C. Lucas, President; A.I. Ferree, Vice President; Cleveland Thayer, Secretary; H.A. Millis, Jr., Treasurer; Roy Cox, Fundraising Campaign Chair; C.C. Cranford, D.W. Holt, J. Frank McCrary; S.B. Stedman; and W.L. Ward, Directors. Groundbreaking was held June 15, 1946, and grading work on the \$100,000 project began in August; the 235,000-gallon pool opened in June 1948. The contractor was A.H. Guion Co. of Charlotte with the bath house built by S.E. Trogdon and the Cox-Lewis Hardware Co. A substantial element of the fundraising campaign was the proceeds from the annual Kiwanis Easter Monday Horse Show at the county fairgrounds. A bronze plaque in honor of World War veterans was installed at the wading pool, but when

that feature was later removed, the plaque was also. The Asheboro Memorial Foundation transferred ownership to the City of Asheboro in September 1968; at that time the use of the pool was also opened to black citizens.



Memorial Pool dedication in 1948



Memorial Park Sign

The First National Bank Veterans Clock

On July 4, 1946, a bronze clock mounted on the corner of First National Bank at the southwest intersection of Fayetteville Street and Sunset Avenue was dedicated as a World War II Memorial. The dedication brochure states that “This beautiful and very living Memorial we are unveiling today was made possible by the graciousness of Mrs. J.B. Ward, Jr.”

The clock was made by the O.B. McClintock Company, which made street clocks, but specialized in bank clocks because they also made bank alarm systems. There was a mahogany Seth Thomas master clock inside the bank, and the mechanism of the clock repeated that time, with Westminster chimes striking each quarter hour. The iron frame of the clock was covered by a bronze and copper skin with stained glass panels customized for each locality. The four faces of the Asheboro clock had three slogans:

"Honoring All Who Served"/ "Lest We Forget" / "It's Later Than You Think"

The last slogan was from a poem by Robert W. Service, published in 1921 about an author in Paris.

Lone amid the café's cheer,
Sad of heart am I to-night;
Dolefully I drink my beer,
But no single line I write.
There's the wretched rent to pay,
Yet I glower at pen and ink:
Oh, inspire me, Muse, I pray,
It is later than you think!

The dedication brochure goes on to state –

“Lest We Forget Those Who Served...This big and useful clock is dedicated to those who served in World War II in any capacity whatsoever. As the years go by, may its chimes bring comfort to those whose sons did not come home. The victory is won. Now, we must not forget our obligation to those who shared in its cost.

The ideals on which America was founded still oppose aggression. Our sons and daughters of Randolph County took a large part in preserving America’s freedom. We still believe that all men are created equal. To pay tribute to them, we regard as a privilege.”

Asheboro and Randolph County’s memory for this kind of thing being not much more than a generation long, the clock was dismantled in 1968 when First National Bank was rebuilt. The clock was given back to the American Legion, where it laid outside until it was vandalized and stolen by metal scavenger thieves. The wooden master clock hangs on the wall of the bar inside the Legion “Hut”.



The First National Bank clock lies derelict behind the American Legion Hut.

World War I

The first veteran’s memorials listing the names of veterans were erected privately during World War I. In Asheboro a list of the members serving in Company K, the local National

Guard unit, was displayed on a painted wooden sign erected in the small park facing Fayetteville Street north of the Bank of Randolph. When a soldier was reported killed, a star was painted by his name. This list did not include all of the more than 1600 Randolph County men who served in World War I, but only those in Company K. Similar public lists were maintained by local municipalities such as Ramseur and Franklinville. When the war ended, these sign boards were not maintained and eventually were taken down.

Randolph County's official contribution to the war effort was Company K, the local National Guard contingent which had been formed in 1911. More than 200 Randolph and Montgomery County men were members of the company, which had also been involved in General Pershing's chase of Pancho Villa in 1916. On September 29, 1918, the 30th Division was involved in the Battle of Bullecourt. The men of the 120th Infantry breached the famed Hindenburg Line, German's last frontier defensive stronghold. Twenty-seven of the men of company K were killed, and eighty-seven seriously wounded. The last survivor of Company K, Ernest Bunting of Asheboro, died in 1984. North Carolina sent more than 104,000 men to Europe, and more than 1,600 were killed. Few World War I memorials were ever erected in North Carolina, and none in Randolph County until after the Second World War.



Company K in front of Randolph County Courthouse 1916 or 1917

Civil War

The Randolph County chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) was organized in 1906 at the suggestion of Mrs. E.E. Moffitt, the daughter of Governor Jonathan Worth. "The paramount interest of the organization" was to erect a monument to Confederate veterans in Asheboro. The ladies raised money for the statute through numerous public events: "Bazaar" sales, a "Biblical cantata," an "Old Maids' Convention," a "Bachelor's Congress," a "Spinster's Return," a "home talent concert," and through sales of post cards.



Elvira Evelina Worth Moffitt

Their final appeal to the general public was published in The Courier of 26 Feb 1909: “We have set our hands to the sacred task of erecting in the town of Asheboro, near our beautiful new courthouse, a monument to commemorate the bravery and valor of the Confederate Soldiers of Randolph County who fell in the War Between the States.”

“We would that all men in looking upon it might feel that it was a fit expression of the glory of the dead and of the love and reverence of the people for whom they died. It will speak to generations yet unborn of the simple loyalty and sublime constancy of the soldiers of Randolph County who fought without reward and who died for a cause that was to them the embodiment of liberty and sacred right.”

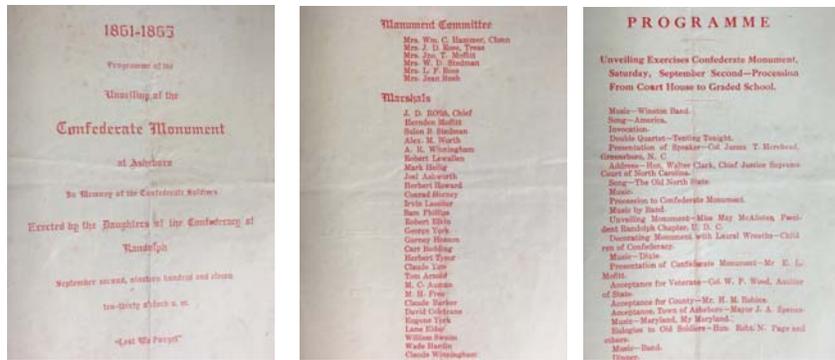
More than a hundred individual and business donors contributed to the final cost of \$1700. The monument was ordered through the “Blue Pearl Granite Company” of Winston-Salem. The base of Mt. Airy granite is 9’6” square and 22 feet tall. The 6’ tall statue itself was purchased from the W.H. Mullins Company of Salem, Ohio. It was Number 5608 in their catalog, “Confederate Infantryman/ Six Ft. high from top of base to top of head. One-eighth plate base 20x20x5 inches. Made in sheet copper, antique bronze finish; also in sheet bronze.” The company’s 1913 catalog featured a full-page photograph of the Asheboro statue atop its granite pillar.



W.H. Mullins catalogue

The Mullins Company sold statues of all varieties of soldier, both Union and Confederate, officer and enlisted man. After World War I they sold many more modern tin soldiers to memorials around the country. One page of the 1913 catalog prints a poem, “The Blue and the Gray”:

By the flow of the inland river,
When the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead;
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;
Under the one, the Blue;
Under the other, the Gray.
No more shall the war cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red,
They banish our anger forever,
When they laurel the graves of our dead.
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day,
Love and tears for the Blue,
Tears and love for the Gray.



Program for the dedication of the Confederate monument

The monument was unveiled Sept 2, 1911, at the two-year-old county courthouse at a public event attended by an estimated 3,000 persons (about twice the population of Asheboro at the time). The keynote speaker was North Carolina Chief Justice Walter M. Clark, a Confederate veteran and author of the Regimental History series *N.C. Troops*. Congressman Robert N. Page delivered a “Eulogy to Old Soldiers,” and the President of the Randolph Chapter of the UDC, Miss May McAlister (the grand-daughter of Dr. John Milton Worth), unveiled the monument. It was “presented by” E.L. Moffitt, the President of Elon College; “accepted for the veterans” by the State Auditor, W.P. Wood; “for the county,” by county attorney H.M. Robins; and “for the town” by Mayor J.A. Spence. Bands played, songs were sung, and the UDC hosted a dinner on the grounds of the Presbyterian Church across the street, at which 250 watermelons were cut and served to the crowd.

Chief Justice Clark’s speech was a lengthy and meticulous account of the regimental histories of each of Randolph County’s companies. “To some this recital of bare facts will seem tiresome, but to these veterans they recall memories that will never die. The ‘days of our youth are the days of our glory.’ Bear with me then as I recall the battles, marches and sieges of not long ago.”

He closed by saying “From what I have already said, it will be seen that from the very beginning of the war to its close, wherever there were hardships to be endured, sufferings to be borne, and hard fighting to be done, there the county of Randolph was represented, and represented with honor, in the persons of her gallant sons.” Absent from Clark’s speech was any “waving of the bloody shirt,” or any reference to “the Anglo-Saxon race” (features of many other such dedicatory addresses). Clark’s only overt political remarks concerned the perceived unfairness that southern states were taxed to provide pensions to Union veterans, but not to Confederate veterans – a position that no doubt resonated with the hundred or more Confederate veterans in his audience.

One hundred years later, just before Veteran’s Day in 2011, an additional footstone marker was installed at the monument to correct the misidentification of Company M, the “Randolph Hornets,” as Company D. The marker goes on to note eight additional companies which included large groups of Randolph County men.



Listing of Confederate units on monument and correction marker installed in 2011

In mid-September 1989, the remnants of Hurricane Hugo swept up from Charlotte and nearly toppled the statue from its granite pedestal. An iron armature inside the sculpture had corroded over the years, allowing the hollow statue (which weighs less than 100 pounds) to flip over. Ad Van der Staak of Van der Staak Restorations of Seagrove reconstructed the shattered shoe, rifle butt and arm crushed in the fall. The statute was also cleaned and coated with a preservative, under a bid of \$4,880. Cablevision of Asheboro donated half the expense with the County covering the remainder. Alice Dawson, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, told the newspaper that the statue would have to be known as “Hugo” thereafter, in recognition of his near ‘death’ in the hurricane.



Confederate monument toppled by Hurricane Hugo, 1989; sculptor Ad Van der Staak makes repairs.

Questions

Also included in the report were questions he had been asked along with his response.

Is Randolph County's Confederate Monument a monument to White Supremacy?

In my opinion, no. Many other monuments erected at or around the same period were used overtly to advance a racist agenda, but my reading of the record does not find any evidence that this was the case when the UDC planned the Asheboro monument.

Elvira Evelina Worth Walker Moffitt, Governor Worth's daughter, was involved with community improvement projects at all stages of her life. During the Civil War, she organized the women of Asheboro to sew tents out of material woven by the mills in Cedar Falls and Franklinville. During the Spanish-American war she helped establish the Soldiers' Aid Society in Raleigh; during World War I she was a leader in the War Relief Society of Richmond, VA.

Besides being honorary president for life of the Johnston-Pettigrew Chapter of the UDC,

she was honorary state regent for life of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She was an early member of the NC Literary and Historical Association and served as editor of the North Carolina Booklet, its history magazine. She was one of the first to suggest that Asheboro and Randolph County needed a public library; she was a founder of the Randolph County Historical Society and of the Women's Club of Raleigh.

She was instrumental in having a bronze tablet to "Ladies of the Edenton Tea Party – 1774" placed in the rotunda of the state capitol; and she was the chief fundraiser in building the Stanhope Pullen Gate, which stands at the entrance to the grounds of NC State University. When she moved to Richmond to live with her son, she joined the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and personally launched the movement to organize the Matthew Fontaine Maury Association, presiding just a few months before her death at the unveiling of a monument to America's first and foremost oceanographer. Maury's statue is perhaps the least Confederate of any on Richmond's Monument Avenue, excepting that of Arthur Ashe.

I think Mrs. Moffitt and the UDC members would have agreed with Chief Justice Clark (considered one of the most progressive political figures of his era) that the Asheboro Confederate Monument was first and foremost a Veteran's Monument. It depicts only a common infantry soldier, not any general or divisive political figure. While Confederate history can and has often been co-opted to advance a racist agenda, and lately has also been hijacked to provide rallying points for domestic terrorism, the history of the Confederacy is unavoidably the history of the American South, just as much as is the history of slavery. Monuments such as ours have been part of the civic landscape of the country for decades, and have now become intertwined with the history of two world wars, civil rights battles, and courtroom drama of all kinds. It may be unintentional that Asheboro's Confederate monument faces south, while the norm was to site them facing resolutely north. I prefer to see it as a subtle and intentional reference to Randolph County's reluctant participation in the war, and to the constant desire of its men to come back home.

The NC General Assembly in July 2015 passed the "Historic Artifact Management and Patriotism Act," (Senate Bill 22), which prevents the removal of monuments such as the Confederate Statue in Asheboro. But protestors in Durham recently ignored the law and pulled down a similar statue at the old Durham Courthouse. If such a law did not "protect" our monument, what would be a valid argument against removing or destroying it?

For an apt comparison out of history, consider the actions of the Allied forces occupying Germany after World War II. Directive 30, issued in May of 1946, directed the "denazification" of Germany by ordering the removal of all National Socialist emblems and insignia, and prohibited the "design, erection, installation or other display" of any monument, memorial, poster, statue, edifice or highway name marker "which tends to preserve and keep alive the German military tradition, to revive militarism or to commemorate the Nazi Party, or which is of such a nature as to glorify incidents of war..."

However, Article IV of the Directive states: "The following are not subject to destruction and liquidation:

- a. Monuments erected solely in memory of deceased members of regular military organizations, with the exception of paramilitary organizations, the SS and the Waffen SS.*

b. Individual tombstones existing at present or to be erected in the future, provided...the inscriptions... do not recall militarism or commemorate the Nazi Party.”



Monument for World War I & II soldiers in Luhmühlen, Germany.
Photo by Jan Luca Schmedt, CC BY-SA-3.0

I would argue that the Asheboro Confederate monument was “erected solely in memory of deceased members of regularly military organizations”, albeit members who served in a losing cause in rebellion against the constituted government of the United States of America. If it was removed at the request of any individual or group which is offended or disagrees politically with the history of the monument, I think a precedent would be created that would make it difficult to refuse an identical request made by any anti-Vietnam War activists.

But don't people have a point? Isn't Confederate history racist history?

Yes. Despite many modern attempts to re-write history, the war that began in April 1861 was fought by Southerners to defend and protect their “peculiar institution.” Attempts to recast and redefine the roots of the war began in Reconstruction and have continued ever since, particularly during the Jim Crow era in the South. The only reason for states to leave the federal Union was to keep slaves in bondage. “State's Rights” was an excuse put forward to maintain the system of Negro slavery. That was wrong then, and we fought a war to end it. The United States won. The Confederacy lost.

The more pertinent question in regard to this particular monument is whether Confederate history is Randolph County history. My opinion as a Randolph County Historian is that our local history was significantly different in many important ways from traditional Confederate history. And our unique local history has never been recognized, commemorated or memorialized in ways that would give it the educational value it deserves.

I've been told by those who object to the Confederate statue that their biggest objection is to the inscription, “Our Confederate Heroes.” I think this is a valid point. There were many more heroes in the conflict than just Confederate heroes. Randolph County history of the period is full of examples.

Our county had one of the lowest slave population percentages of any North Carolina county east of the mountains. It had one of the highest percentages of “free people of color,” former slaves who had been emancipated before the war years. This was due to the fact that Quakers historically made up the predominant religious group in the county, and the Friends had been in the forefront of manumission and abolition activities in North Carolina since the

18th century. The Quakers from Randolph and Guilford counties were in the forefront of those smuggling slaves out of the South on the Underground Railroad. It is perhaps no surprise that there are no Quaker monuments, as Friends did not even mark their own graves with more than an uninscribed rock until after the Civil War.

When the war did finally come, Randolph County residents were reluctant to embrace it. When the state legislature called for a referendum on secession, Randolph County's State Senator Jonathan Worth actively campaigned against it. The Greensboro Patriot editorialized, "The 28th of February, the day which perhaps will decide the fate of the Union, is close at hand.... Let every man then who loves his country be at his post... There is a battle to be fought. A battle upon the result of which hang the destinies of this Nation. The enemies of our Union have been marshaling their forces. The hand is already uplifted to strike down the flag of our country! Union men, to the rescue! To the rescue!"

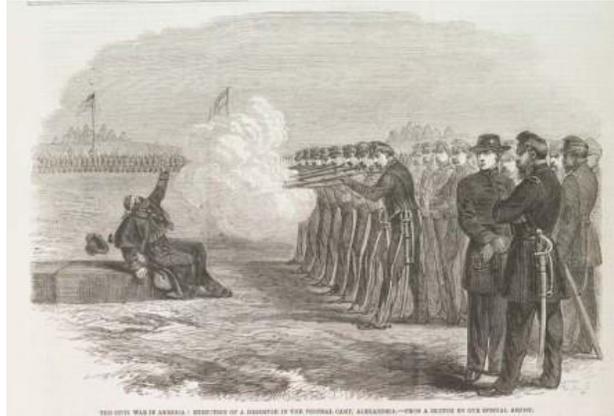
On that Election Day, the voters of North Carolina narrowly rejected the Secession Convention. But in the Piedmont, the traditional Piedmont Quaker counties overwhelmingly voted for the Union. Chatham County voted against by a margin of 15 to 1; Guilford by a margin of 25 to 1. In Randolph, Editor E.J. Hale exulted in the *Asheboro Herald* of March 3, 1861: "Listen to the thunder of Randolph!" The final vote of 2,579 against to 45 in favor of secession was the largest in the state – 57 pro-Union voters to every one pro-Confederate secessionist. That lopsided proportion struck newspapers in eastern North Carolina as fishy... the **New Bern Progress** [quoted in the April 11, 1861, *Greensboro Patriot*], headed its editorial "Something Wrong."

But whatever it was, it continued to be wrong throughout the war. Several times each year during the war, government troops were sent from Raleigh to restore civil order and arrest deserters and "outliers," or draft dodgers. The county was under martial law for much of the war. In the election of 1864, the anti-Confederate Peace Party or "Red String" candidates won every elected office in the county, from Confederate Congress to Governor to Sheriff. Again, the state newspapers cried foul. But that was the true voice of Randolph County, despite sending more than a thousand of its boys off to war.

Historian Bill Auman points out that Randolph County in 1861 had the third-lowest volunteer rate in the state. The enlistment rate for North Carolina as a whole was 23.8%; in Randolph it was 14.2%. As the war went on, conscription acts were passed by the Confederate States of America (CSA) to force men into service; 40% of the state's draftees in 1863 came from the recalcitrant Quaker Belt counties, with Randolph contributing 2.7% of its population to the draft that year. North Carolina as a whole contributed about 103,400 enlisted men to the Confederate Army, about one-sixth of the total, and more than any other state. But this does not mean those troops were all loyal Confederates; about 22.9% (23,694 men) of those troops deserted, a rate more than twice that of any other state.

The Confederacy did not publish statistics on desertion, but at least 320 of Randolph's nearly 2,000 men deserted from their regiments, with 32 deserting twice, five deserting three times and one deserting five times! Forty-four of these deserters were arrested, 42 were court-martialed, and at least 14 were actually executed. So many deserters and outliers hid in underground dugouts with their camp fire smoke seeping up out of the dirt that their rugged mountain hideout took on the name Purgatory Mountain- wreathed in the fires of Hell. Even

when they returned to Confederate duty, there was no guarantee that these men would stay. 196 captured Randolph County Confederates took the Oath of Allegiance to the Union before the end of the war, with 67 joining the Union Army.



A case in point is the service history of Frank Toomes, great-grandfather of Richard and Maurice Petty. William Franklin Toomes (Jr.) was born October 25, 1838 in the Sumner community of Guilford County, less than a mile north of the Randolph County line. Frank followed his father into the blacksmithing trade, and when the Civil War broke out, both of them were working as blacksmiths, probably at one of the factories in Franklinsville. Male employees of the Deep River cotton mills and ironworks qualified as exempt “indispensable” employees until late in the war, but at some point the regional Enrolling Officer decided the cotton mill could do without one of its blacksmiths. When the Enrolling Officer came for him, Frank Toomes hid, submerged in the mill race, breathing through a straw. But on December 2, 1863, Frank Toomes was captured and forcibly drafted into Company E of the 58th North Carolina Infantry. Within days Toomes was sent to the Tennessee western front, and within days, he deserted. On or around February 1, 1864, 23-year-old Frank Toomes entered the Union lines, surrendered and was taken prisoner to Nashville. On February 12th, he took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States and was assigned to Company H of the 10th Tenn. Cavalry regiment. There Toomes apparently became a good soldier, as he was promoted to 1st Duty Sergeant of Company H on July 16, 1864, and then to Quartermaster Sergeant on June 30, 1865.



There are also numerous stories about Quaker Conscientious Objectors, who even though

drafted, refused to bear arms despite humiliation and torture in the army ranks. Thomas and Jacob Hinshaw, Ezra, Nicholas and Simeon Barker, Simon Piggott and Nathaniel Cox, all Friends from Holly Spring Meeting, were forcibly enlisted in the 52nd NC Infantry when they refused to pay \$500 each as an exemption fee. They refused to hire substitutes and they refused to fight, even after being repeatedly “bucked down” – tortured by having their arms and legs bound so they could not move for hours. In camp they were harshly disciplined for refusing to carry guns or participate in military training. An officer wrote that “these men are of no manner of use to the army.” But they were kept in the ranks as virtual prisoners, hands tied and made to march at bayonet point. Finally left on the battlefield at Gettysburg, where they were nursing the wounded, the Quakers were captured by Federal cavalry and imprisoned at Fort Delaware as prisoners of war. A concerted effort by Quakers of Wilmington, Delaware resulted in their pardon and release by Secretary Stanton and President Abraham Lincoln himself.

Perhaps the most glaring omission in the Randolph County narrative of its Civil War history is the story of Howell Gilliam Trogdon (1840-1910), a native of the area south of Deep River between Cedar Falls and Franklinville. The Trogdon family is a classic example of one with divided loyalties; half a dozen served in Confederate uniforms and died on the battlefield or served all the way to Appomattox. Many of those who stayed at home became ring-leaders of the secret anti-confederate Peace movement, the Red String. Reuben F. Trogdon, who in 1866 won the vote for Sheriff and served as Randolph County's first Republican elected official, was said to have been the leader of the Red String during the war. His cousin Howell Gilliam Trogdon, on the other hand, moved to Missouri and became a Zouave in the Union Army. In the Siege of Vicksburg, under orders from Ulysses S. Grant, Trogdon led the nearly-suicidal charge against “Stockade Redan,” a Confederate fort. Of the 250 men involved in the charge, only Trogdon and two others made it to the top of the parapet. For his actions in 1863, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor– the first North Carolinian and the only Randolph County soldier ever to win that honor. Where is his monument?



Medal of Honor winner Howell Gilliam Trogdon in 1906 with daughters Isabella and Jane.

When I was at Harvard from 1973 to 1977, we took exams in Memorial Hall, a huge Victorian dining hall built in 1869 to honor the 150 or more Harvard graduates who died while serving in the US Army during the Civil War. We southerners would morbidly joke that Memorial Hall was the country's largest monument to Southern marksmanship, a pointed

gibe at the fact that nowhere among the marble tablets inscribed with the names of those dead Harvard boys were to be found the names of the 39 southern graduates who also gave their lives.

Southern monuments aren't the only one-sided stories of that conflict. But perhaps the lesson is that we need to learn from multiple perspectives, and tell many stories, to get the full picture of history. Erasing one side is just as harmful to real education as is ignoring another.



Holocaust memorial, Berlin (photo by Orator, CC BY-SA-4.0) Conscientious objectors monument, Sherborn, Massachusetts.

Recess

At 7:15 p.m., Chairman Whatley called a recess to allow citizens to sign up for public comment period. The meeting resumed at 7:28 p.m.

Public Comment Period

Wesley Fennell, 741 E. Salisbury St., Asheboro, stated that he met with Mr. Whatley and “asked Mr. Whatley a couple of weeks ago to invite some neutral speakers. I suggested some area Universities. That did not happen. My concern is that he works for Randolph County and there may be some conflict of interest issues involved in his presentation. Specifically, he gave many facts, at least to my limited knowledge they were facts. But he gave one opinion that he defined as his opinion and that was that he did not think the statue was a symbol of white supremacy. The facts pointed in that direction. He also seemed to minimize the anti-slavery issues that the Quakers had and that’s a major point that I presented in justifying that they be memorialized.”

Pam Schwingl, 1200 Hurdle Mills Rd., Cedar Grove (Orange County), said she came to this meeting as a Quaker representative. She learned of Mr. Fennell’s request for a monument honoring the Underground Railroad when she heard the story on the radio. She felt Mr. Fennell’s suggestion deserves to be discussed.

Roger Robbins, 1545 Idlebrook Trail, Asheboro, asked Chairman Whatley how many statues he knew of that were for African-Americans. Chairman Whatley responded that there was one in front of the Sunset Theatre. Mr. Robbins stated that he believed the Underground Railroad was run by free blacks and slaves.

Del Roy Wilson, Lee Layne Rd., Ramseur, said his grandfather was alive when the statue was erected and Mr. Wilson feels that his history is at risk. He stated that his grandfather’s fought for the South but it was the United States government that allowed slavery.

Jimmy Wagoner, Caudle Rd., Randleman, showed pictures of his great, great grandparents. He said that his great, great grandfather fought with Robert E. Lee. He stated that his older relatives had never owned slaves. He said all people deserve their history and everyone should get along.

Tyler Duvall, 3655 Pine Lakes Dr., Asheboro, said he is 22 years old. He stated that he did not understand why everyone can't get along and support each other.

Clyde Foust Jr., 3746 Midway Acres Rd., Asheboro, said that he is a Randolph County native. He said that he wants to hear the truth regardless of who benefits from it. He made the statement that the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Howell Gillam Trogdon, should have had a memorial instead of just the Confederate heroes. He said we need to agree that slavery was wrong.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

L. Mac Whatley, Chairman

Dana Crisco, Clerk to the HLPC

Waived
PA



**RANDOLPH COUNTY
HISTORIC LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
201Worth Street - Asheboro, N.C. 27203
Phone (336) 318-6806

LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

Preparing Your Application:

Please type or use black ink and use paper no larger than 11" x 17" for the required supporting information. Randolph County staff is available to advise in the preparation of applications.

Filing Your Application:

When completed, the attached application will initiate consideration of a property for designation as a local historic landmark. The application will enable the Randolph County Historic Preservation Commission to determine whether the property qualifies for designation.

**The guidelines developed for this application are based on the evaluation process adopted by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners which includes those used by the National Register of Historic Places. National Register evaluation principles regarding criteria, category classifications, and integrity have been adapted for local applications.*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Asheboro Female Academy _____

Current Name: Asheboro Female Academy _____

2. Location

Please include the full street address of the property, including its local jurisdiction. North Carolina Property Identification Numbers (PIN) can be found by contacting the Randolph County Planning Department.

Street Address: ¹¹²⁶1224 S. Park Street _____

City/Town/Jurisdiction: Asheboro, NC 27203 _____

NC PIN Number: 775067003 _____

3. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)

Name: Asheboro City Schools _____

Address: 1221 S. Park Street, Asheboro, NC 27203 _____

Phone: 336-625-5104 _____

4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner)

Name: Ross Holt, Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

Address: 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC 27203

Phone: 336-318-6806

5. General Data/Site Information

A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: 1839; restoration, 1976; restoration, 2014-2017.

B. Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: 0

C. Approximate lot size or acreage: approx. 0.5 (part of larger tract)

D. Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: Unknown, 1839

E. Original Use: School

F. Present Use: Vacant/Cultural Heritage Site/Interpretive educational use anticipated

6. Classification

A. Category (building(s), structure, object, or site): Building

- **Building** - A "building," is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. (i.e.: house, barn, hotel, church, school, theater, stable)
- **Structure** - The term "structure" is used to distinguish from buildings constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter (i.e.: tunnel, bridge, highway, silo)
- **Object** - The term "object" is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment. (i.e.: sculpture, fountain, monument)
- **Site** - A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure. (i.e.: battlefield, cemeteries, designed landscape)

B. Ownership: Asheboro City Schools

Can people tour the site? Yes No
Accessible for viewing? Inside Outside
What are the days and hours of operation? accessible during daytime hours
Is visitation by appointment only? No
Who is the contact person and what is the method of contact? Asheboro City Schools,
336-625-5104

C. Number of Contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

Buildings 1
Structures 0
Objects 0
Sites 0

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom): Carl Kessler for TreesNC, 2014
L. McKay Whatley, 1978-80; W. Fitzgerald Hill, North Carolina State University, 1953

Please contact the Survey Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office to determine whether the property has been included in a county survey (919-733-6545).

E. National Register Status and date (listed, eligible, study list): n/a

Please contact the National Register Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office to determine National Register status (919-733-6545).

7. Supporting Documentation (Attach to application on separate sheets)

A. Required Photographs

- Digital photographs on a CD can be submitted. Please include a printout of the images included on the CD. To save paper and ink, as many as nine images may be placed on a single 8 X 10 sheet of paper, though images should be a least 3 ¼ " X 2 ½". Proofs may be in black and white on regular paper.
- For **buildings** and **structures**, include all facades and at least one (1) photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources. Also include at least one (1) photo that shows the main building or structure within its setting. For **sites**, include overall views and any significant details. For **objects**, include a variety of representative views, as well as a view of the object within its setting.
- Photos must be identified with the name of the property, its address or location, and the date.

B. Maps

Include two (2) maps; one (1) clearly indicating the location of the property in relation to the local community, and one (1) showing the boundaries of the property. Tax maps with the boundaries of the property are preferred, but

survey or sketch maps are acceptable. Sketch maps should reflect, describe and label all buildings, structures, objects or sites, within the property boundary. Please show street names and numbers and all structures on the property. Mapping information may be obtained from the Randolph County G.I.S mapping program available at www.co.randolph.nc.us.

C. Historical significance (Applies to all classifications)

- Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Please clearly define the significance of the property in the history of the local community or of Randolph County. (For example, the property may have been the birthplace of an influential citizen, represent historical patterns of commercial or agricultural development, or served as an important center of community activity). Include all major owners.
- Please include a bibliography of sources consulted.

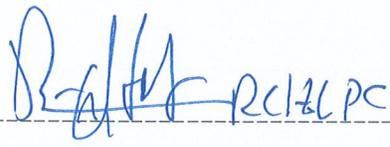
D. Architectural description, significance and integrity (Applies to buildings, structures and objects) See accompanying report

- For **buildings and structures**, describe, including exterior architectural features, additions, remodeling, and alterations. Also describe significant outbuildings. For **objects**, describe the physical appearance of the object(s) to be designated.
- Context of the history of the local community or of Randolph County. (For example, the building or structure might be one of a town's only surviving examples of a Greek Revival building, or it may be a unique local interpretation of the Arts and Crafts movement. An object might be a statue designed by a notable sculptor.)
- Include a statement describing how the building, structure or object currently conveys its historic integrity. For example, does it retain elements of its original design, materials, location, workmanship, setting, historic associations, or feeling, or any combination thereof?
- Please include a bibliography of sources consulted.
- The jurisdiction of the Commission over interior features shall be limited to specific architectural, artistic, or historical significant features for which the consent for interior review is requested by the property owner. Specify specific interior features to be reviewed and significance of such feature as it relates to architectural, artistic, or historical designation.

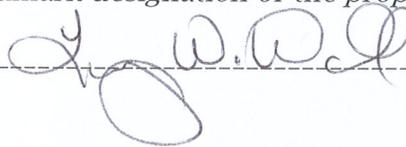
E. Property boundary, significance and integrity (Applies to all classifications)

- Describe the land area to be designated, address any prominent landscape features.
- Clearly explain the significance of the land area proposed for designation and its historical relationship to the **building(s)**, **structure(s)** or **object(s)** located within the property boundary or, in the case of **sites**, the historical event or events that make the land area significant. For **buildings and structures**, the designated land area may represent part of or the entire original parcel boundaries, or may encompass vegetative buffers or important outbuildings. For **objects**, the designated land area may continue to provide the object's historic context (i.e., a statue's historic park setting). For **sites**, the designated area may encompass a landscape that retains its historic integrity (i.e. a battlefield encompassing undisturbed historic view sheds).

8. Signatures

Applicant:  RCHLPC Date: 5/15/18

I have read the general information on landmark designation provided by the Randolph County Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and affirm that I support landmark designation of the property defined herein.

Owner:  Date: 5/16/18

Additional information concerning criteria used by the Commission in historical landmark designation may be accessed at www.co.randolph.nc.us/hlpc.



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

Asheboro Female Academy, 1839



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Asheboro Female Academy, 1839

Other Name: same

2. Location

Street Address: 1126 S. Park Street (facing Walker Ave.)

City/Town/Jurisdiction: Asheboro, NC

Zoning Jurisdiction: Asheboro, NC

Tax Parcel ID Number: 7750670033

3. Owner Information

Name: Asheboro City Schools

Address: 1221 S. Park St., Asheboro, NC 27203

Phone: 336-625-5104

4. Applicant/Contact Person

Name: Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission c/o Ross Holt

Contact: rholt@randolphlibrary.org; 336-318-6806; 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC 27203

5. General Data/Site Information

A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: 1839; renovation, 1976; renovation, 2017.

B. Number, type and date of construction of outbuildings: none.

C. Approximate lot size or acreage: approx. 0.5 (section of larger parcel)

D. Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: Unknown, 1839

E. Original Use: School

F. Present Use: Vacant/Cultural Heritage Site/Historical interpretive educational use anticipated

6. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

7. Function or Use

Historic Functions: School

Current Functions: Vacant/Cultural Heritage Site/Historical interpretive educational use anticipated

8. Description

Architectural Classification: 1839, Antebellum; 18'x36'; two-room building; mortise and tenon construction secured by wooden pegs on brick foundation.

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

Asheboro Female Academy, 1839

By Ross A. Holt, Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

Jessi Bowman, Historic Preservation Certificate Program, Salem College

Owen George, Trees NC

Research support by L. McKay Whatley Jr.

NOTE: The spelling of "Asheboro" has been standardized throughout as such, except when quoting original documents or referred to in a proper name.

LOCAL LANDMARK SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Asheboro Female Academy, opened in 1839 to offer formal education for girls in the region, is the oldest standing structure in Asheboro. Established in conjunction with a later male academy to address a dearth of educational opportunity in Randolph County, the school was organized and funded by prominent members of the community, notably among them attorney and future North Carolina Governor Jonathan Worth. It was located on the southwest corner of present-day Salisbury and Fayetteville streets. The Asheboro Male Academy opened nearby in 1842.

The Female Academy provided girls with a more expansive education than was generally available to young women in the era. Subjects taught included spelling, reading, grammar, geography, arithmetic, philosophy, rhetoric, needlework and music. Enrollment grew until the Civil War, when the both the female and male academies closed and served as a barracks for soldiers. Revived after the war, the academies operated under combined leadership. They remained the primary providers of formal education in Asheboro until the end of the 19th century, when the community recognized the need for public schools. The academies' trustees then helped lay the groundwork for the transition from private to public education.

After the Female Academy was closed, the property was acquired by W.J. Armfield Jr., founder of the Bank of Randolph. The Female Academy building was used for storage and later converted to living quarters for servants. After Armfield's death in 1968, the building was given to the Randolph County Historical Society and moved to its present location at 1126 S. Park Street on property owned by

the Asheboro City Schools. A restoration effort took place in the early 1970s that, while giving a sense of the original building and its purpose, was not historically accurate. The work, however, was sufficient to preserve the structure until a recent initiative underwritten by Trees NC, an Asheboro-based environmental organization, could restore the building to its original historical state for use as an interpretative historical experience for students and other community members. With work on the new restoration underway, the Female Academy was designated as a Local Cultural Heritage Site by the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission on January 26, 2016. The exterior restoration is now complete.

Although the Female Academy does not sit on its original site, the painstaking and well-researched restoration by Trees NC has returned it to its original appearance and documented its high level of originality. The building is worthy of landmark designation because it symbolizes the early stages of private education for girls in the region; because it represent an effort to educate girls beyond simply basic skills and the domestic arts; because it is Asheboro's oldest standing structure; because of the involvement of prominent local leaders; because of its architectural integrity; and because of its status as a bridge between an era of little formal schooling and the advent of public education in Asheboro. It also stands as a testament to the commitment of the community, in different eras, to preserve and restore an important part of Asheboro's history.

While the recently-undertaken restoration includes both the exterior and the interior of the Female Academy with some adjustments to the interior to make it habitable for interpretive educational use, the scope of this proposed landmark designation includes the exterior of the building only.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

Prior to the Civil War, state-sponsored formal education of children struggled to gain a foothold in a recalcitrant North Carolina.¹ Although the state's original Constitution, adopted in 1776, called for creation of a public school system, little movement toward this goal took place until well into the 19th Century. The absence of a state-supported school system left families and communities to fend for themselves where the education of their children was concerned. Educated parents often instructed their own children, and wealthy parents might delegate the task to governesses or bring teachers into the home.² Often, children of neighbors were included in these sessions. Very few educational opportunities, however, were available for people of more modest means; virtually none for the poor, or for free children of color and enslaved children.

A popular response to the dearth of formal educational opportunity was the creation of private academies in communities across the state. Among the limited number of schools for girls, the curriculum often was limited to basic academic skills and domestic arts.³ None served the Randolph County region. The mid- to late-1830s, however, saw a renaissance for education of young women as more communities around the state began to develop female academies or "seminaries."⁴ Many of the institutions would offer more than just a perfunctory education for young women.

At the same time, the Asheboro and Randolph County were experiencing burgeoning growth. Entrepreneurs were developing the textile mills along the Deep River that would power the county's economy for more than a century to come. In Asheboro, the county seat, a modern brick courthouse was constructed in 1839. The town had become a center of trade for the region's gold mining industry. The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1834; a Presbyterian church would be established in 1850. The main artery, present-day Fayetteville Street, soon would become a plank road to facilitate travel and

¹ William S. Powell, *North Carolina Through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 245 ff.

² Chris Myers and Jaquelin Drane Nash, "Education, Private," *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), 375.

³ *ibid.*

⁴ The term "seminary" as used in this era is interchangeable with "school" or "academy."

movement of goods, and there were efforts underway to bring a railroad through town. Asheboro's first newspaper, the *Southern Citizen*, began publication in 1836. Three general stores and two hotels operated in town.

It was in this milieu that a group of leading citizens of Randolph County coalesced in 1838 to establish a school for girls in Asheboro. On January 8, 1839, the General Assembly incorporated the Trustees of the Randolph Female Academy.⁵ The group was comprised of the most prominent men in the county: Johnathan Worth, Alexander Gray, John Balfour Troy, Hugh McCain, George Hoover, James M.A. Drake, Alfred. H. Marsh, Henry Branson Elliott, Jesse Lawrence, Sampson B. Glenn and Samuel Hill. Worth was an attorney and investor who would become state treasurer during the Civil War and governor afterwards. Gray was the largest property owner in the county, and a founder of the school that would become Trinity College and later Duke University; he also was the grandfather of philanthropist Bowman Gray. Hoover was a long-serving and iconic Randolph County sheriff, militia general and Asheboro hotelier who operated the stage coach line between Asheboro and Pittsboro. McCain was serving as clerk of the county court. Troy was a merchant in the northeastern part of the county and a county justice of the peace, and grandson of Revolutionary War hero Col. Andrew Balfour (whose gravesite is a Randolph County Historic Landmark). Drake was an Asheboro lawyer and hotelier. Marsh operated a store on the courthouse square in Asheboro. Elliott, with his father Benjamin, was founder of the Cedar Falls Manufacturing Company textile mill, the county's first such enterprise and eventually a major driver of the county economy (investors also included Marsh, McCain, Troy and Worth; Elliott, Troy and McCain also were investors in the Randolph Manufacturing Company, another major industry in what would become Franklinville).⁶ Lawrence was the Methodist Episcopal minister. Glenn was a carriage maker. Hill was a major property owner and investor in the Union Mill manufacturing concern near what would become Randleman.

⁵ "An Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Randolph Female Academy, in Randolph County," *Laws of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at the Session of 1838-'39* (Raleigh: J. Gales and Son, Office of the Raleigh Register), 1839, 95.

⁶ *Randolph County 1779-1979* (Asheboro: Randolph County Historical Society, 1979), 76.

Worth's involvement is particularly noteworthy. He was born in the Center community of northern Randolph County in 1802 to Daniel and Eunice Worth. His family background was Quaker, a faith that placed a high value on education. A follower of Archibald DeBow Murphey, a state senator known as the "father of public education" in North Carolina, Worth became an ardent advocate for public schools.⁷ He studied law under Murphey beginning in 1823. He would marry Murphey's niece, Martitia Daniel, in 1824.⁸ In 1817, Murphey had articulated a comprehensive strategy for public education in a report to the legislature that would lay the groundwork for the state's public school system – even if it would take several decades to come to fruition.⁹ It wasn't until 1839 that the General Assembly passed the state's first law creating a public school system; brief and somewhat vague, it required much further development.¹⁰ The legislator who in the following session drafted and championed the legislation providing structure to the 1839 law was the state senator from Randolph County, Jonathan Worth.¹¹

The 1839 legislation placed on each county's ballot a "yes" or "no" vote on establishing a public school system, to be funded by the local government and the state. Randolph County voted "yes" by 847-512.¹² The vote having passed, the county court appointed a group of school system superintendents that included Worth, who was elected chairman; he served in this capacity for 23 years.¹³ The superintendents divided the county into 21 school districts, each with a six-man leadership committee, and as more schools were built, into an eventual 71 districts. As was the case elsewhere in the state, the public schools in Randolph County came to life in fits and starts due to the scale of the project, inconsistent funding, the difficulty in finding qualified teachers, and the lack of centralized

⁷ Richard L. Zuber, *Johnathan Worth: A Biography of a Southern Unionist* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1965), 42.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 8-11.

⁹ Powell, 257 ff. See also H.G. Jones, "Murphey, Archibald DeBow," *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 4 (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1991), p. 345.

¹⁰ M.C.S. Noble, *A History of the Public Schools of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1930), 59 ff.

¹¹ Zuber, 42

¹² *Ibid.*, 47

¹³ *Ibid.*, 53

authority and standards. Statewide, it took more than another decade for the beginnings of an effective public school system to emerge.¹⁴

With three daughters ranging in age from three to thirteen, however, Worth would not wait for a state-supported school system to take hold in Randolph County.¹⁵ Parallel with his work on the public school system, he spearheaded development of the Female Academy. In early 1839, Worth, Drake, Hoover, Marsh and McCain began raising the initial capital needed to construct the building.¹⁶ “The friends of female education (and we hope there are many) in this section of the county,” they declared in an announcement promoting the “Randolph Female Academy” in the February 8, 1839, edition of Asheboro’s *Southern Citizen* newspaper, “will be gratified to learn that the citizens of Asheboro have agreed and pledged themselves to erect a female Academy at this place. A suitable building for the purpose is to be commenced forthwith. As the benefit to be derived from the institution will extend through a section of the country heretofore destitute, and considering that we are mostly mechanics and merchants of moderate capital and limited income – consequently not well prepared to raise funds for public enterprise, it is confidently hoped and believed that our fellow-citizens in this and the neighboring counties will be pleased to extend to us such aid as may be within their power.”¹⁷ They also noted that they already had \$300-\$400 in hand, more than half the money needed for the building.

Colonel Benjamin Elliott, Henry Elliott’s father, gave a half-acre plot of land where the Fayetteville-Salem road crossed the Salisbury road for the site of the school (today the southwest corner of Salisbury and Fayetteville streets), along with an additional donation of \$400.¹⁸ Part of a lot known as

¹⁴ Ibid., 55.

¹⁵ Worth and his wife, Martitia Daniel, would have eight children, seven of whom were daughters: Roxana Cornelia, b. 1826; Lucy Jane, b. 1828; Eunice Louisa, b. 1831; Elvira Evelynna, b. 1836; Sarah Corinne, b. 1839; Adelaide Ann, b. 1842; and Mary Martitia, b. 1846. Son David Gaston, Eunice Louisa’s twin, was born in 1831. William Underwood, “Miss Elvira” (manuscript), Worth Family File, Randolph Room, Randolph County Public Library, Asheboro, NC. Dates verified at findagrave.com.

¹⁶ Zuber, p. 42.

¹⁷ “Randolph Female Academy,” *Southern Citizen* [Asheboro, N.C.], 8 February 1839, in Charles Lee Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840: A Documentary History* (Raleigh, N.C.: Edwards & Broughton Printing Company, 1915), 337.

¹⁸ Randolph County Deed Book 25, 274-275.

Elliott's Green, the donated land sat on the opposite corner of the intersection from Elliott's house and about two blocks away from Asheboro's public square.

The academy trustees selected Eliza Rae of Boston, Mass., as their first teacher.¹⁹ Classes began on June 17, 1839. Among the first students were daughters of some of the founders: Roxanna and Lucy Worth; Martitia and Cornelia Marsh; Nancy Jane McCain and Betsy Hoover.²⁰ An article in the *Southern Citizen* on June 14, calling attention to an advertisement for the school elsewhere in the issue, announced, "Great pains have been taken to lay the foundation of our Seminary on a firm and durable basis; it is hoped and believed that it will be permanent, and extensively useful, not only to the inhabitants of our county and immediate vicinity, but also to youth at a distance, particularly in the Southern Direction."²¹

The advertisement also ran in the *Cheraw Gazette* and the *Fayetteville Observer*. Signed by Worth, McCain, Marsh and Hoover as trustees, it announced Rae as director of the school, noting that "The Trustees believe, from the testimonials she brings with her, that she is eminently qualified by her experience, her education and in every other respect, to take charge of such an institution."²² Sessions would last five months, and were "intended to give a thorough course of instruction, and to qualify pupils to take their places in society."²³ The curriculum included spelling, reading, grammar, geography, arithmetic, philosophy, rhetoric, "needlework, &c," and "music on piano," with an emphasis on spelling, reading and writing. Tuition was \$6 for spelling and reading (about \$150 in 2017 dollars); \$8 for grammar, geography and arithmetic; \$10 for philosophy, rhetoric and needlework, \$10; and \$20 for

¹⁹ "Asheborough Female Academy," *Southern Citizen*, 14 June 1839 in Coon, p. 338. Various spelled as "Rea."

²⁰ Elvira Evelynna Worth Moffitt, "Asheboro Randolph County Schools," [1915-1916] *Moffitt Papers – Randolph County (Envelope 3)*, Randolph Room, Randolph County Public Library, Asheboro, NC. Later compiled in "Reproduction of Education History by Mrs. E.E. Moffitt," *The Daily Courier* [Asheboro, N.C.], 12 August 1937, *Moffitt Papers – Randolph County (Envelope 3)*. Moffitt was a daughter of Jonathan Worth and an alumna of the Female Academy, writing from firsthand recollection. See also Underwood. Moffitt was married three times: to Samuel Spencer Jackson, Samuel Walker and Eli N. Moffitt. She is hereinafter referred to as Moffitt, her name at the time of her writing, and to distinguish her from Randolph County Historian Laura Worth, who also is cited.

²¹ "Asheborough Female Academy," *Southern Citizen*, 14 June 1839, in Coon, 338.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*

piano.²⁴ Although the school would not be residential, local families had agreed to board students at \$6 per month.

About six months after the school began operation, a writer identified only as “A Visitor” described the two-room building in a letter to the *Southern Citizen*: “I was surprised and astonished to find a House large enough to accommodate 60 Scholars, built and finished off, with 12 large glass windows, and every part of the materials of the best quality; and the workmanship of the finest order and the latest style; and furnished too with the necessary seats, tables and a fine Piano. There is a seat for every two Scholars, and a table in front so that every Scholar has a place for both writing and her other studies.”²⁵ In his definitive 1915 account of North Carolina private schools of the antebellum era, educator Charles L. Coon observed, “Here was a village of less than 150 inhabitants, which had a school house large enough for 60 pupils, furnished with tables and chairs, blackboards, and a piano. There are many North Carolina school rooms in these modern times which would not compare favorably with that Asheboro school room of 75 years ago.”²⁶ The piano, in fact, was the first in Asheboro.²⁷

The 1839 visitor went on to share observations on the girls’ rigorous tutelage under Rae: “The first class she examined consisted of some small ones who had commenced 4 months ago in the Alphabet. They could read, and read correctly. They spoke loud, and pronounced each word with distinctness, and after they had concluded the reading of their lesson, the tutoress gave out to them some of the most difficult words in the lesson, and they spelled them correctly – giving a distinct articulation to each letter and syllable. I never saw little children so correctly taught.”²⁸

An arithmetic lesson for the older girls was equally impressive – and apparently progressive. “This branch I am told is particularly attended to,” the visitor writes. “Emerson’s Arithmetic is used. They are taught the four principal divisions of Arithmetic *Orally* before they make use of a slate. This is a

²⁴ Ibid. Dollar value calculated at Inflation Calculator, <http://www.in2013dollars.com/1839-dollars-in-2017?amount=6>.

²⁵ “The Asheboro’ Academy, *Southern Citizen*, 1 November 1839, in Coon, 339.

²⁶ Coon, xiii.

²⁷ Laura Worth, “Asheboro Female Academy,” *The Courier-Tribune* [Asheboro, N.C.], 26 August 1945, 8. Worth was county historian when this article was written.

²⁸ Coon, 339-340

delightful and interesting study as taught in this School. I understand great pains is [sic] taken by the tutoress to make the pupils understand the *principles* and *reasons* of their operations. They are not permitted to pore over a question they can't understand, for an hour or two together. A question is performed by the tutoress whenever they commence a new rule; and the principles *Orally* explained and illustrated. When the question is correctly performed on the Slate, she is not content simply to say, 'It is right.' She makes the pupil explain the reason of each operation themselves or procure[s] the assistance of those further advanced... It is much the best method of teaching Arithmetic."²⁹

Initially, Rae was the only instructor at the academy, teaching all classes to a variety of age groups. Not only was she an effective teacher, but she also encouraged her students to expand their intellectual curiosity outside of the classroom, therefore increasing enrollment and the need for assistant teachers at the institution immediately after it started.³⁰ By January 1840, the trustees were anticipating recruitment of an additional teacher "from the North."³¹

By January 1841, Rae had departed to take charge of the Williamsborough Female School in Granville County.³² There is little evident information about her background before her tenure in Asheboro, but it is possible she was a graduate of the Troy Female Seminary in Troy, N.Y.³³ Troy was established in 1819 by Emma Hart Willard, a pioneer of education for women in the United States and an advocate of expanded educational opportunities for girls.³⁴ Willard's mission was to train young women as teachers and send them to areas of the country where formal education was lacking – most

²⁹ Ibid., 340. The *Emerson's Arithmetic* mentioned is *The North American Arithmetic* by Frederick Emerson .

³⁰ Worth.

³¹ "Asheboro, Female Academy," *Southern Citizen*, 17 January, 1840, in Coon, 342.

³² "The Exercise of the Williamsborough School...," *Raleigh Register and North-Carolina Gazette*, 22 January, 1841, 4 [GenealogyBank.com]. Unless otherwise indicated, newspaper articles cited herein were accessed at North Carolina Historic Newspapers, a product of Newspapers.com, via NC LIVE (www.nclive.org), or directly at Newspapers.com.

³³ Coon, xiii. Coon states on his own authority that Rae matriculated at Troy, but primary source documentation has not been found.

³⁴ For background on Willard, see "Willard, Emma Hart," *American National Biography*, Vol. 23 (New York: Oxford University Press), 1999, 408-410.

notably the south and west.³⁵ She had developed a rigorous teaching method that she instilled in her students. She also penned a number of textbooks on subjects including world history, U.S. history and geography. The school and its young teachers gained a mighty reputation early on, providing highly-qualified governesses and in-home tutors to wealthy southern families.³⁶ As schools for girls were established in North Carolina, Troy alumnae filled the ranks of teachers.³⁷ Troy graduates taught or served as assistants at schools in Hillsborough, Northampton County, Halifax County, Granville County, Caswell County, Statesville, Wilmington, Greensboro and Tarboro as well as Randolph County. In 1847, Troy graduate Angeline B. Crandall “went to the Southern states in company with six other Troy pupils, under the patronage of Mrs. Willard,” where “With the assistance of four teachers she conducted for some years a successful school in Tarborough.”³⁸ Even when a Troy teacher was not present, Willard’s influence could be felt: In Greenville, a Female Seminary was operated by a Mrs. Saffery, “[w]ho has adopted for her model, the justly esteemed and much celebrated system of Mrs. Willard, the Superior of an establishment for education at Troy.”³⁹

It was to Troy that the trustees turned for a succession of principals for the Female Academy. To follow Rae, they brought in Mrs. B.H. Whitney, “late of Troy, New York,” as principal – or as she styled herself in a December, 1842, newspaper advertisement, “Mrs. Dr. B.H. Whitney.”⁴⁰ The large and detailed ad provides a rare glimpse into the philosophy and curriculum of the Female Academy under Whitney’s tutelage, and her expectations of its students. Promoting a “New Seminary” on “Elliott Green, Asheborough, N.C.,” the ad notes that, “The location, in point of health and morality, is not to be surpassed in the South.” Whitney declares: “Unhappily the intellectual education of Females at the

³⁵ Mary Mason Fairbanks, *Emma Willard and Her Pupils or Fifty Years of Troy Female Seminary, 1822-1872* (New York: Mrs. Russell Sage, 1898) 14 [Archive.org. By 1872, over 200 schools employed the Troy teaching philosophy, half of them south [ibid., 15].

³⁶ Ibid., 14.

³⁷ See various references in Fairbanks and Coon.

³⁸ Fairbanks, 155-156.

³⁹ Coon, p. 335.

⁴⁰ “New Seminary,” *Fayetteville Observer*, 7 December 1842, 3. Whitney’s Christian and maiden names, and other background information are not evident; she does not appear in Fairbanks, which includes an exhaustive, if not necessarily complete, listing of Troy alumnae during its first 50 years.

present day is not what it should be, nor what it might be. A great number of Young Ladies think themselves fascinating than scientific. It is too true a large class are taught less to think than to shine. If they glitter, it matters little whether it be the glitter of gilding or of gold.”

She goes on: “In this Institute, it will be the constant aim of the Principal to call forth the powers of mind committed to her charge, and to direct them to the investigation of truth. Her Pupils will be taught to think, to reason, to feel, and that energetic effort and continued application are the only means by which the dormant intellect can be quickened, and the most contracted mind made to expand.” The course of study included no less than 24 textbooks, some of them by Emma Willard, on subjects including rhetoric, logic, history, geography, music, botany, chemistry, geology and philosophy.

The Whitneys also offered students the opportunity to board at their residence, with some requirements. “Young Ladies, placed under the immediate supervision of the Principal, are required to furnish their own Bedding, Napkins and Silver Spoons,” the ad states. “Young Ladies will not be permitted to leave the Boarding House, unless attended by someone in charge. Mrs. Whitney wishes the dress of her Pupils, during school hours, to consist of some unexpensive material made in plain style. Parents and Guardians are requested not to leave their Daughters or Wards the control of money.” Despite the strict curriculum and boarding requirements, Jonathan Worth’s daughter Elvira remembers Whitney introducing some frivolity into the school, including a May Day celebration that drew the whole community and a game called “grace hoops.”⁴¹

During this period, the academy added a kindergarten known as the “Infant Department,” which met at the Methodist Episcopal Church across the Salisbury road from the academy in the present location of the Asheboro City Cemetery, under the tutelage of Angelina Winborne.⁴² Elvira Worth was among the students.

⁴¹ Moffitt.

⁴² Ibid.

The role of Dr. Whitney in the operation of the school, if any, or his life otherwise in Asheboro is not clear. The Whitneys departed following the death of their one-year-old son, Henry Lee, in 1843.⁴³ In December of that year, Dr. and Mrs. Whitney still resided in Asheboro but were running a “situation wanted” ad in a Raleigh newspaper for a position at a girls’ school.⁴⁴

The trustees again recruited from Troy, hiring Louisa Olive Willard (no apparent relation to Emma Willard) to take charge of the Female Academy. Born in Canaan, Vermont, Willard graduated Troy in 1841 and taught two years in Elizabeth City, N.C., before coming to Asheboro.⁴⁵ Elvira Worth recalls that Willard “was considered an excellent instructress and filled her position with perfect satisfaction as testified by my Worth sisters who were her pupils.” In 1845, Willard returned to New York for a more lucrative teaching opportunity.⁴⁶

An interregnum of indeterminate length followed as the trustees searched for a qualified teacher. During that time, reports Elvira Worth, some students hiked a mile east of Asheboro “through a by path, reaching the bubbling spring” to a log house presided over by a strict but effective teacher, Isaac Lee. The trustees eventually recruited a Miss Judson from Massachusetts for the academy.⁴⁷ She “strictly adhered to the rules of the Methodist Church,” eschewing jewelry and wearing an “apostles linen collar... held in place by a simple gold stud.” Among her accomplishments was to develop a “Sunday School literature” book collection and make it readily accessible to the students.

Miss Judson’s first initial was “P.”⁴⁸ She may have been Phebe Judson, who taught at the Greensboro Female College from 1839 until at least through mid-1846, when she was identified as Assistant Governess and Preceptress of Natural Sciences.⁴⁹ By late 1847, she no longer appears in the

⁴³ Ibid. See also “Died,” *Fayetteville Weekly Observer*, 6 September 1843, p. 3.

⁴⁴ “A Situation Wanted,” *Raleigh Register*, 15 December 1843, p.1.

⁴⁵ Fairbanks, 254-255.

⁴⁶ Moffitt.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ P. Judson, letter to Marinda Branson, 1 June 1848, Branson Family File Box 1, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

⁴⁹ “Memoir,” *Raleigh Christian Advocate*, 24 September 1857, 4., referencing Phebe Judson as head of the Greensboro Female College in 1839; various 1939 newspaper articles refer to “Miss Judson” at the college. Also “Greensboro’ Female College,” *The Raleigh Register*, 25 August 1846, 4.

faculty list for the Greensborough institution.⁵⁰ There also is an indication that a Phebe Judson taught during 1837-1838 in the Juvenile Department at the Fayetteville Academy in Fayetteville, N.Y., suggesting a possible Troy connection.⁵¹ When Judson departed Asheboro at the end of the spring session in June, 1848, she relocated to New York.⁵² She was well ready to leave: "I am quite confident I would not endure to teach school in this way another year, at least without taking a long relaxation.... I believe the expectation of being so soon released from so severe toil sustains me in great measure under it," she wrote near the end of the session.⁵³

After Judson's departure, the trustees turned again to the Troy seminary and found Julia Anna Stickney, a native of Rockwell, N.Y., who began teaching in Asheboro after she graduated in 1849.⁵⁴ Stickney boarded with the Worth family and taught until 1853. That year, according to Jonathan Worth's 11-year-old daughter Adelaide Ann, the school had 26 students, including five of the Worth daughters. Six more of the students boarded with the Worth family.⁵⁵ Elvira Worth noted that Stickney was 17 years old when she arrived in Asheboro. "In full justice to this young lady no predecessor exceeded her qualification, or fitness for the place, and to the end of her term in 1853, she left a host of friends and patrons to regret her resignation," Worth states.⁵⁶ The reason for Stickney's departure was her marriage to David Worth following his graduation from the University of North Carolina.⁵⁷ David and Julia Stickney Worth relocated to Harnett County and then Wilmington, where David became a prosperous merchant.

From 1853 to 1855, the Female Academy also had a highly-regarded music teacher. Wilhelmina (Minna) Raven, emigrated from Osnabrück, Germany, to Asheboro in 1852, with her brother August

⁵⁰ "Greensboro Female College," *The Raleigh Register*, 18 December 1847, 3.

⁵¹ Kathy Crowell, "Fayetteville Academy," *rootsweb.ancestry.com*, 25 February 1999, and "Fayetteville Academy," *Fayetteville Academy: Nathan R. Chapman, A.B. Principal...*, Fayetteville, N.Y.: Fayetteville Academy, undated flyer [Google Books]. But she doesn't appear in Fairbanks.

⁵² P. Judson, letter to Marinda Brinson.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ Fairbanks, 396.

⁵⁵ Zuber, 43.

⁵⁶ Moffitt.

⁵⁷ Zuber, 43.

Eduard Raven, her sister Bertha and her sister's husband August Julius Brockman.⁵⁸ A well-trained and accomplished musician, she relocated to Greensboro in 1855 with her family, where she taught piano at the Edgeworth Female Academy.

The Asheborough Female Academy's counterpart, the Asheborough Male Academy, had opened in 1842 and had been incorporated on January 25, 1843; trustees of the two institutions overlapped.⁵⁹ James M.A. Drake and Alfred Marsh donated a half-acre each for the school along present-day Academy Street between Fayetteville and Cox streets.⁶⁰ A small house stood on the lot and would become the schoolhouse.

A formal merger of the two institutions took place 1855, as separate operation of the schools under two different boards of trustees was "inconvenient, and attended with difficulty..."⁶¹ The legislation incorporating the combined academies appointed a new set of trustees, including Jonathan Worth, Alfred Marsh, James M.A. Drake, Hugh McCain, A.J. Hale, Reuben H. Brown, Dr. John Milton Worth, Frances Cooper, John Albert Craven, Benjamin Frank Hoover, William B. Lane, and Hardy Brown.⁶² Dr. John Milton Worth, Jonathan's brother and prominent physician who would serve as North Carolina treasure from 1867-1885, would remain a trustee almost until the time of his death in 1902; in 1892, he purchased the Female Academy building from his fellow trustees when its utility as a schoolhouse had ended. By the time of the official consolidation in 1855, the academies appear to have become more Asheboro-centric; by this time "common" (public) schools were beginning to take root in

⁵⁸ "Wilhelmina (Minna) Raven," Unidentified family history excerpt, Asheboro – Schools – Female Academy File, Randolph Room, Randolph County Public Library, Asheboro, N.C.

⁵⁹ "An Act to Incorporate the Trustees of the Ashborough Male Academy, in the county of Randolph," *Laws of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at the Session of 1842-43* (Raleigh: Thomas J. Lemay, Printer, 1843) 16. Drake, Marsh, McCain and Worth were appointed trustees, along with William A. Hamlin and John D. Clancey. This school was located on the southeast corner of Fayetteville and Academy streets, the future location of the public Fayetteville Street School. The Male Academy building does not survive.

⁶⁰ Randolph County Deed Book 25, p. 274, June 13, 1843.

⁶¹ "An Act to Incorporate the Two Academies in the Town of Asheboro'," *Public Laws of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at its Session of 1854-55...* (Raleigh: Holden & Wilson, 1855), 12-13.

⁶² Ibid. Hardy Brown, Drake, Marsh, McCain and Jonathan Worth all had been appointed town commissioners when the legislature re-chartered Asheboro in 1845. "An Act to Appoint Commissioners for the Town of Asheborough, in the County of Randolph, and to Incorporate the Same," *Laws of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at the Session of 1844-45* (Raleigh: Thomas Lemay, Printer, 1845), 167.

parts of the county outside of Asheboro. Original trustees who were more associated with areas of the county outside Asheboro – Gray, Hill and Troy – were no longer serving, while the new trustees included newly-prominent Asheboro names.

Informal merger of the two schools, however, occurred earlier, as evidenced by the appointment of Julia Stickney’s successor. About the same time that Stickney departed, the principal of the Male Academy, Josiah Brooks, retired.⁶³ In December 1853, a newspaper article headed “Ashborough Male and Female Academies” carried an announcement by Secretary of the Board of Trustees James M.A. Drake that a nationally-known Presbyterian minister, Dr. Simeon Colton, would take over as teacher at the Male Academy, and his wife, Catherine, would do so at the Female Academy.⁶⁴ The Coltons purchased a farm from Hugh McCain behind the Male Academy in the block now bounded by Academy, Cox and Main streets, and established themselves in Asheboro.⁶⁵

Simeon Colton was a highly regarded, lifelong educator and minister born in Connecticut. A graduate of Yale College, he had served as principal of the Monson Academy in Monson, Massachusetts, and the Amherst Academy in Amherst, Massachusetts.⁶⁶ An unusually prestigious cohort of his former Monson students included Charles Merriam, who established the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*; Moses S. Beach, who served as editor of the *New York Sun* newspaper; Loring Norcross, uncle of poet Emily Dickinson; the Rev. James L. Merrick, the first American missionary to Persia; and other notables.⁶⁷ Called to take charge of the Donaldson Academy in Fayetteville, a new school established by the Fayetteville Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Colton arrived in North Carolina in 1834. He departed in 1846 for a stint as president of Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., returning to North Carolina in 1848 to serve as principal of the Cumberland Academy at Summerville in Cumberland

⁶³ Moffitt. Brooks had married Nancy Jane McCain, daughter of Hugh McCain, on September 28, 1849. “Married,” *Wilmington Journal*, 28 September 1849, 3.

⁶⁴ “Ashboro’ Male and Female Academies,” *Weekly Raleigh Register*, 21 December, 1853, 3.

⁶⁵ Randolph County Deed Book 29, 394, 395

⁶⁶ See Franklin Bowditch Dexter, “Simeon Colton,” *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College...*, Vol. VI (New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press, 1912), 19-23 [Google Books], and Charlesanna Fox, “Colton, Simeon,” *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Vol. 1, 408-409.

⁶⁷ See Simeon Colton, *Diary, 1851-1861*, Simeon Colton Papers, 1840-1861, Southern Historical Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill, p. 41, <http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/01394/>.

(now Harnett) County.⁶⁸ Shortly after arriving in Asheboro to take charge of the schools, Colton also was appointed to serve as the second minister of Asheboro Presbyterian Church.

Catherine Eleanor Raboteau Colton came from a prominent Raleigh family.⁶⁹ She was educated at the rigorous Raleigh Academy.⁷⁰ Their marriage in 1851 was his third and her second. Catherine's first was to the successful Fayetteville merchant Thomas Fuller, who died at age 32 when she was 25; their sons Bartholomew and Thomas became prominent in North Carolina civic life. Catherine was an experienced teacher and had taught girls at the Cumberland Academy.⁷¹ She was "a lady of unusual ability and attainments," according to Elvira Worth. "There are those now living," Worth writes, "who raise up to call her blessed for her rectitude and impartial administration of the affairs entrusted to her keeping." Catherine also appears to have had a role in providing education for the children of free people of color, who would not have been allowed to attend either academy. Worth reports, "The colored population owe much to her for we have none, other than the School in which she took the lead for many years."⁷² This is one of the few references to formal education of African American children in Randolph County prior to the Civil War.⁷³

An 1855 advertisement in the Fayetteville Observer identified Simeon Colton as superintendent of both academies; Catherine as principal of the Female Academy; and Colton's son from a previous marriage, James Hooper Colton, as principal of the Male Academy.⁷⁴ "Asheboro' is in direct communication, by tri-weekly stages, with Fayetteville, Salem, Raleigh and Salisbury," the ad states. "It

⁶⁸ The location of Summerville is now in Harnett County, which was created in 1855.

⁶⁹ See *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* entries for Robert Thomas Fuller, Bartholomew Fuller and Thomas Charles Fuller. It is interesting to note that details about this very accomplished woman's life must be sifted from information focusing on the male sides of her families.

⁷⁰ Coon, 465

⁷¹ Simeon Colton, "A Card," *The Raleigh Times*, 13 August 1852, 4. In an announcement about the upcoming term of the Cumberland Academy, Colton notes, "Mrs. Colton, who has long been engaged in teaching, will take charge of a class of females, in a separate department, aided by such assistance as may be required."

⁷² Moffitt. The pupils would have been free people of color, as education of enslaved people was illegal.

⁷³ Another was sifted from the 1850 Census by historian John Hope Franklin, indicating that six children were reported by their families as attending school that year. See John Hope Franklin, *The Free Negro in North Carolina 1790-1860* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1971), 169.

⁷⁴ "Ashborough Male and Female Academies," *Fayetteville Observer*, June 18, 1855, 3 [Digital NC]. James Hooper Colton graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1855.

offers a pleasant and healthy residence for those who would send their children away from the sickly localities of the low country.” James had graduated from the University of North Carolina in June 1855. He took over as principal of the Male Academy for its session beginning on July 5, 1855, during a period of indeterminate length when Simeon Colton was in ill health.⁷⁵ The previous summer, James had delayed his return to college to substitute for his father, who had taken a trip to New England for a reunion with his Monson students at the school’s Semi-Centennial Celebration.⁷⁶ By fall 1856, James had taken a position as professor of mathematics and ancient languages at the Fayetteville Female High School.⁷⁷

With the arrival of the Coltons, it appears that the trustees took a less direct role in the operation of the schools. The 1855 advertisement mentions the Coltons, but bears no signature of any trustees, as did ads in earlier years. With the exception of Whitney, previous teachers had been young single women hired by the trustees and provided room and board. These teachers do not appear to have been directly responsible for the financial well-being of the school. The Coltons, however, appeared to rely on tuition – and therefore enrollment – as a substantial part of their livelihood, perhaps indicating that they were more like independent contractors than employees. Thus when enrollment declined, so did the Coltons’ fortunes. “The school has been small numbering in all only 15 and a part of these were present during only a part of the Session,” Colton wrote of the Female Academy in 1856. “The whole amount of the tuition bills \$138.35, a small compensation for a four month labor.”⁷⁸

Nor were the academies immune from problems facing society at large. In March, 1855, a 17-year-old student at the Male Academy who was boarding with the Coltons died following an “ague,” or

⁷⁵ Colton, *Diary*, 56.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 37.

⁷⁷ “Fayetteville Female High School,” *The North-Carolinian* [Fayetteville, NC], 11 October 1856, 3.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 65

fever, and a “violent cold.”⁷⁹ The attending physicians were baffled at the cause of the illness, but on his deathbed the student confessed that immediately prior to the onset of his illness, he was “drawn into company where others were drinking” and took part himself. Later that spring, a measles outbreak affected the schools.⁸⁰ Disputes in the community could also take their toll. In the summer of 1855, some kind of harm allegedly caused by one male student against another led several parents – including founding trustee Hugh McCain – to pull their children out of both schools. “Asheboro is divided into family feuds and a great deal of bitterness prevails among them,” Colton wrote.⁸¹

Despite such tribulations, the schools continued to operate. Simeon Colton taught until his retirement from both the church and the school in 1862. Catherine remained principal of the Female Academy until Simeon’s death in December 1868, after which she relocated to Raleigh to live with her son Bartholomew.⁸²

It is at this point that the documentary history of the Female Academy – and that of the already scarcely-described Male Academy – flags, and local reminiscence takes over.⁸³ During the Civil War, both academies were closed and used as barracks for soldiers. The site of the Male Academy long had been used as public ground, serving as the county fairgrounds and as a muster site for militia as far back as the post-Revolutionary War era.⁸⁴ During the war, Catherine Colton continued teaching students, according to one account, in the Male Academy building until it was converted to a barracks later in the war. Another local woman, Jennie Page Hancock, was said to have conducted a school in her Main Street home.

⁷⁹ Ibid., 51-52. The student was John Beebe Strong, son of John McKay Strong, the mayor of Selma, Ala. The Strongs were originally from Fayetteville, and the boy had been placed under Colton’s tutelage in preparation for college.

⁸⁰ Ibid., 53

⁸¹ Ibid., 58. Colton had previous experience with the potential consequences this type of division: a dispute between two prominent community members had undermined his Cumberland Academy. Ibid., 11-12

⁸² Moffitt.

⁸³ See various accounts in vertical files on the Female Academy, the Male Academy and the Asheboro Graded School, Randolph Room, Randolph County Public Library, Asheboro, N.C. Many are written or collected by former County Historian Laura Worth, and some continue to rely on the memory of Elvira Worth Moffitt.

⁸⁴ Henry King “School Holds Memories for Many,” *The Courier-Tribune*, 11 June 1968, B1.

Classes resumed after the war, but the site at which they were held remains unclear. One history of Asheboro schools, written in 1934, has a one-room school constructed on the Male Academy grounds where Catherine Colton taught in the late 1860s.⁸⁵ The 1934 history also reports that Jennie Hancock took over teaching in the one-room school in 1872. “The schoolhouse was used each year for exhibits of the County Fair,” the account states. “A high, board fence surrounded the property and it was commonly spoken of as ‘The Fair Lot’. Mrs. Hancock, who was a good teacher, enjoyed the love and respect of her pupils.”⁸⁶

Classes had resumed in the Female Academy building by 1876. An advertisement in the *Randolph Regulator* announced the upcoming “Spring Session” lasting 20 weeks, with Eliza Spencer as teacher.⁸⁷ Alexander Worth (A.W.) McAlister, son of Adelaide C. Worth (daughter of John Milton Worth) and Alexander Carey (A.C.) McAlister, at age 83 in 1945, recalled that Spencer was “a very charming and talented lady from Virginia.” Spencer appears to have departed by July, 1878, when she was listed as a student from Forsyth County in the Normal School at Chapel Hill, a teaching institution associated with the University of North Carolina.⁸⁸

In addition to girls, the school was admitting “a limited number of boys under thirteen years of age” in this era (A.W. McAlister was one of these, according to Elvira Worth). Tuition for primary and intermediate classes was \$2.00 (about \$43 in today’s dollars) per month; those classes included spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar and history. “Higher English” and foreign languages also were offered, along with instrumental music, including piano and guitar, and vocal music. Mrs. E.E. Jackson – Elvira Worth, now married to attorney S.S. Jackson – taught three drawing lessons each week. Boarding with private families cost \$10-\$11 per month, with a \$1 charge for washing. The ad was signed by trustees John Milton Worth, Benjamin Moffitt, Sam Walker and A.C. McAlister.

⁸⁵ Mildred Lambe, “History of the Asheboro Schools,” [1934], Asheboro – Schools – History of City Schools and School Libraries file, Randolph Room, Randolph County Public Library, Asheboro, N.C., 2.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ “Asheboro Female Academy, *Randolph Regulator* [Asheboro, N.C.], 16 February 1876, 3.

⁸⁸ “State Normal School Second Annual Session,” *The Chapel Hill Ledger*, 20 July 1878, 1.

Other teachers following Spencer may have included a Mrs. Phillips, Fanny Bluford and Maggie Wilson, who is said to have taught from 1886 to 1887. Nannie Bulla, who was a Female Academy student of Minna Raven in the 1850s, was a longtime local music teacher.

It is possible that at some point during this period, the Female Academy building fell into disuse as the trustees made an effort to consolidate operations at the Male Academy/Fairgrounds site. Several accounts refer to multiple buildings on the Male Academy grounds operating as part of the school. The trustees also made continuing efforts to acquire contiguous property.⁸⁹ In 1875, John Milton Worth and his wife Sallie deeded land to his fellow trustees “for the purpose of being improved, and a female academy, seminary or college established and maintained thereon.”⁹⁰ This appears to indicate that the trustees were considering the need for a new female school or a school at the Male Academy location, although this particular initiative never came to fruition and the trustees were authorized to sell the lots in 1887.⁹¹

Wherever learning took place, the academies served as the main source of formal education in Asheboro through the late 1800s, although with what level of consistency is not known. There also were a number of small or “short-term” schools operating in the community.⁹² A December, 1891 advertisement in *The Courier* touted the spring term of the “Asheboro Academy (Male and Female)” opening January 7, 1892.⁹³ The school would offer primary, grammar and high school, and music in “Handsome buildings.” Students would be “prepared for any College or University, or for active life” under the tutelage of the Rev. J.B. Game. Game had left his post as principal of the Cedar Grove

⁸⁹ Randolph County Deed Book 29, p. 379, 1854; Randolph County Deed Book 31, p. 170, 1860; Randolph County Deed Book 32, p. 170, 1860; Randolph County Deed Book 38, p. 648, 1875.

⁹⁰ “An Act to Authorize Trustees of Ashboro Male and Female Academies to sell or donate and convey certain lots in the town of Ashboro, in Randolph County,” *Laws and Resolutions of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at its Session of 1887...* (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, State Printer and Binder, 1887) 907.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² Lambe, p. 2.

⁹³ “Asheboro Academy,” *The Courier* [Asheboro, N.C.], 3 December 1891, 3.

Academy in Orange County.⁹⁴ In August 1892, he was offered and accepted a position as principal of the Wymton School in Columbus, Ga.⁹⁵

By the 1890s, however, the public school system in North Carolina was expanding so rapidly that many smaller private schools closed to make way for public institutions. The citizens of Asheboro had determined that public schools capable of serving the entire community were necessary. In 1891, the legislature amended its 1855 incorporation of the Male and Female Academies, appointing trustees for the academies and for the defunct Randolph Agricultural Society (in regards to that organization's interest in the Male Academy lot, the old county fairgrounds), empowering them to sell the Female Academy property and instructing them to apply the proceeds "to the building of a larger and more suitable house... for educational purposes."⁹⁶ The trustees of the academies again were among Asheboro's most prominent citizens: Eli A. Moffitt, W.F. Wood, W.H. Moring, Dr. P.H. Morris, A.C. McAlister, J.E. Walker, John Milton Worth, G.S. Bradshaw, J.A. Blair and Marmaduke Swaim Robins. Appointed to represent the interest of the Agricultural Society were Thomas J. Redding and J.C. Fuller.

Proceeds from a sale of the Female Academy would go to establishment of the Asheboro Graded School on the site of the Male Academy and the fairgrounds – Asheboro's first public school.⁹⁷ On December 3, 1892, the Asheboro Female Academy was sold into private hands – to Dr. John Milton Worth – for \$250 (about \$6,500 in today's dollars).⁹⁸ Worth died in 1902; the next year, his executors sold the property to W.J. Armfield Jr.⁹⁹

In 1894, the Male and Female Academy trustees executed a 10-year lease of the Male Academy site, buildings and their contents to the School Committee of Asheboro, consisting of J.E. Walker, Eli A.

⁹⁴ "Hillsboro," *The Farmer's Advocate* [Tarboro, N.C.], 2 December 1881, 1.

⁹⁵ "News of the State," *The State Chronicle* [Raleigh, N.C.], 19 August 1892, p.3.

⁹⁶ "An act to re-enact and amend chapter sixty-five of the laws of eighteen hundred and fifty four and fifty-five..." *Laws and Resolutions of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at Its Session of 1891...* (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, State Printer and Binder, 1891), 1103.

⁹⁷ King.

⁹⁸ Randolph County Deed Book 73, 349. Dollar value calculated at <http://www.in2013dollars.com/1892-dollars-in-2017?amount=250>,

⁹⁹ Randolph County Deed Book 104, p. 500.

Moffitt, H.C. Rich, Romulus R. Ross and A.O. Redding, “for the purpose of running a school...”¹⁰⁰ The era being that of Jim Crow, the deed indicated that the school would be for white children; schools for African American children in Asheboro would develop separately. The School Committee members were the representatives of the Asheboro district of the Randolph County public school system. The Asheboro Graded School, a frame building, was constructed facing Academy Street, and opened in 1894 offering nine grades, with some high school level studies included.¹⁰¹

In 1905, the North Carolina General Assembly created the Asheboro Graded School District separate from the county school system, known today as the Asheboro City Schools.¹⁰² The Asheboro Graded School came under its auspices. In 1906, the Male and Female Academy trustees donated the leased property to the School Commissioners of the Town of Asheboro.¹⁰³ Thus concluded, after 67-years, the operations of the Asheboro Male and Female Academies.

The new public school quickly outgrew its frame building, which was replaced with a brick building in 1909 that would be known to generations to come as Fayetteville Street School. In 1911, the Randolph Bulletin reported that the “old Asheboro academy” – which could have been the original graded school or a building associated with the Male Academy – was dismantled, moved and rebuilt as a school for African American children.¹⁰⁴

The Female Academy property, meanwhile, was now in the possession of William Johnston (W.J.) Armfield Jr., founder of the Bank of Randolph, whose family would become one of the county’s wealthiest. He also had recently acquired adjoining property on the corner of Salisbury and Fayetteville Streets.¹⁰⁵ There he would build his family’s home, moving the Female Academy building several feet west, toward present-day North Street, to make room for the residence.¹⁰⁶ During the Armfields’

¹⁰⁰ Randolph County Deed Book 78, p. 450, 1894.

¹⁰¹ King.

¹⁰² “An Act to Build a Graded School Building in the Town of Asheboro,” *Private Laws of the State of North Carolina Passed by the General Assembly at its Session of 1905...* (Raleigh, N.C.: E.M. Uzzell & Co., 1905), 1035.

¹⁰³ Randolph County Deed Book 122, p. 311, 4 April 1906.

¹⁰⁴ “Randolph Bulletin,” *The Union Republican* [Winston-Salem, N.C.], 22 June 1911, 7.

¹⁰⁵ Randolph County Deed Book 122, p. 373.

¹⁰⁶ Worth.

ownership, the academy building was used for storage and later converted into living quarters for the servants. The building had sentimental value for Armfield's wife Sallie, as her mother, Cornelia Walker Millis, and other relatives were students at the school.¹⁰⁷

After Armfield's death in 1968, the building was given to the Randolph County Historical Society and became the focus of a restoration project to be completed in the early 1970s. A new location for the building was provided by the Asheboro City Board of Education near its Park Street headquarters, facing Walker Avenue. Restoration work began at the original site of the building and continued after the building was moved.¹⁰⁸ Exterior restoration was to be completed first, following with the interior.¹⁰⁹ A ribbon cutting ceremony was held and the newly-furnished schoolhouse was opened to the public for a tour on the night of the Asheboro City Schools' annual open house in November of 1976.¹¹⁰ This was the first time that members of the public were able to access the newly renovated building.

After the restoration in the 1970s, not much was done with the Asheboro Female Academy. Small events took place surrounding the building in the 1980s, but general interest, concern, and upkeep significantly decreased over the course of the 1990s and 2000s. By 2014, the building was again in need of restoration. Much of the exterior paint had peeled off, there were open gaps in siding and under the entry doors, and the building sagged in the center, indicating the need for structural support.

TreesNC, a grassroots environmental organization with deep roots in the Asheboro community, began seeking a solution for preserving the Academy around 2008. In 2014, TreesNC organized a meeting with Preservation North Carolina Regional Director Cathleen Turner, Asheboro Mayor David Smith and several concerned citizens, to discuss possibilities for preserving the Academy. TreesNC formed an *ad hoc* committee and commissioned a Historic Structure Report for the Academy by Restoration Contractor Carl Kessler. In 2001, Kessler had become the first North Carolina contractor to complete a newly established three-year Certification of Historic Preservation Technology Program,

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ "Female Academy, Schools Schedule Open Houses," *Randolph Guide* [Asheboro, N.C.], 10 November 1976, 1.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

established by the N.C. Community College system at Randolph Community College. Kessler's work on the restoration of private homes and museums had earned him Preservation NC's Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit in 2007 and Best Restoration of the Year from Preservation Greensboro in 2009. Kessler was particularly interested in the opportunity to work on the restoration of the 1839 Asheboro Female Academy as this was the very structure which served as his research project that had earned him the Certification of Historic Preservation Technology Program credential years before.

Kessler's Historic Structure Report yielded a highly detailed analysis of the current state of the Academy building, and proposed a plan for a historically accurate renovation. With the plan in hand and significant funding from local and regional donors in place, a second restoration got underway. By spring of 2017, the restoration was largely complete and the building now appears as it likely did in 1839, with much of its original bones intact.

The Asheboro Female Academy thrived as an educational institution through many decades, whereas most similar institutions that dotted the state's counties and municipalities were relatively short-lived.¹¹¹ The institution sent cohorts of young women into the world equipped with a schooling rivaling that of young men at a time when education for girls outside basics skills and the domestic arts was scarce. During its heyday, it drew the finest educators from one of the country's most prestigious teaching institutions. Along with its counterpart Male Academy, it acted as bridge between an era of little formal schooling and that of mature public schooling, and laid the groundwork – literally – for Asheboro's city school system. It also is associated with a number of prominent figures, including Gov. Jonathan Worth, the Rev. Simeon Colton, D.D. and, by association, Emma Willard. Architecturally, it retains much of its original integrity (see next section), and has undergone a carefully-researched restoration to return it to its original appearance; although moved from its original site, it sits on a small wooded lot that suggests the character of the original location. Finally, while not reaching all strata of society, it extended the opportunity for formal education beyond the domain of the very wealthy to the

¹¹¹ Zuber, 43

“mechanics and merchants” who comprised the community’s emerging middle class. The Female Academy also is emblematic of the desire of the community in more recent years to preserve its shared history, community members twice having invested significant resources to restore the physical remnant of the important early school.

ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY

The construction history of the Asheboro Female Academy centers around three significant events. The first event is the initial construction of the building in 1839. The second event occurs over a century later with a restoration and change of location by the Randolph County Historical Society in the 1970s. The third is a historically-accurate restoration just completed by Trees NC in collaboration with the Asheboro City Schools.



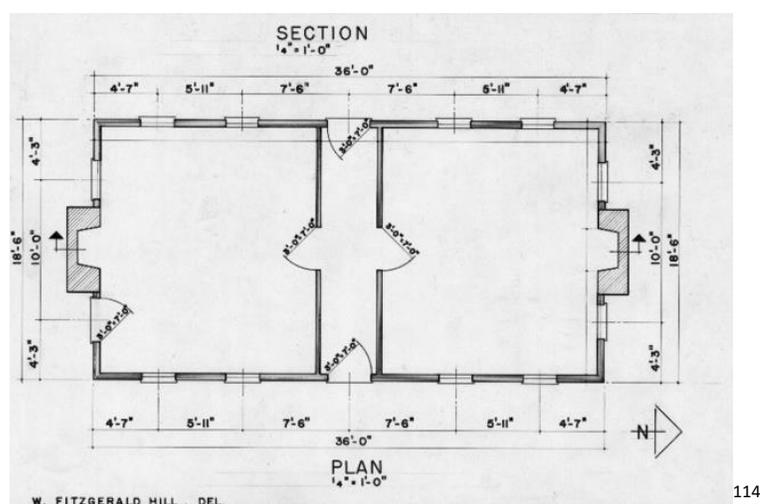
The earliest known photograph of the Asheboro Female Academy, probably circa 1890.

There is little documentation on the initial construction of the building; more emphasis was placed on its purpose as a place for female education in the rapidly expanding center of Randolph County. The earliest written record of the academy appeared in *The Southern Citizen*, a local newspaper, before construction began. Along with stating the function of the building, the article asked for monetary donations from “friends of female education.”¹¹² There is no record that credits an architect or builder for the school. The earliest description of the building after its completion came from a letter

¹¹² “Asheboro Female Academy” *Southern Citizen* (North Carolina), February 8, 1839.

to *The Southern Citizen* in 1839, approximately six months after the school opened for operation. A visitor states, “I was surprised and astonished to find a House large enough to accommodate 60 Scholars, built, and completely finished off, with 12 large glass windows, and every part of the materials of the best quality; and the workmanship of the finest order and the latest style: and furnished too with the necessary seats, tables, and a fine Piano.”¹¹³

The schoolhouse measures eighteen by thirty six feet, consisting of two rooms with a central hall, as depicted here:



The foundation was made of brick, with the remaining architectural framework, like the joists, sills, and piers, being made of wood.¹¹⁵ The original roof material is unknown, but it is possible that the building had a wood shingle roof based on the earliest known photograph. A standing-seam metal roof was installed between 1946 and 1953.¹¹⁶ The building also featured a moderately pitched side-gable roof, wood cornices and, weatherboard siding.

¹¹³ Chip Womick, “‘Friends of Female Education’: The Asheboro Female Academy Opened in 1839,” *The Courier-Tribune* [Asheboro, N.C.], 18 July 2015: 1B+.

¹¹⁴ W. Fitzgerald Hill, “Longitudinal Section, Floor Plan, and Detail, Asheboro Female Academy, Asheboro, North Carolina,” in *Built Heritage of North Carolina: Historic Architecture in the Old North State*, UA #110.041, University Archives, North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, North Carolina.

¹¹⁵ Randolph County Historical Society, “Plans for Exterior Restoration: Phase One” Asheboro Female Academy file, Randolph Room, Randolph County Public Library, Asheboro, N.C.

¹¹⁶ “Asheboro Female Academy before restoration, 1946” *Randolph County Historical Photograph Collection*, Randolph County Public Library, Randolph Room, <http://www.randolphlibrary.org/historicalphotos.htm>



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The original schoolhouse had symmetrical exterior brick chimneys in the center of the gable ends. There were three doors leading into the structure; two primary doors on the east and west elevations that led into the center hall, and one door on the south elevation that led directly into one of the two classrooms.¹¹⁸ The eight sections of windows in the building are distributed evenly in each classroom, with four on both the east and west elevations. The windows were a double-hung nine-over-nine sash. The door is topped with a four-pane transom, flanked by fluted pilasters the same height as the transom.



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The alterations to the school building after it closed down in 1892 and before it was restored in the 1970s are not specifically documented. However, the building was explicitly described as being “converted” into servants quarters under the Armfield family, giving the impression that it underwent

¹¹⁷ “Asheboro Female Academy,” *Randolph County Historic Photograph Collection*.

¹¹⁸ Charles Burkhead, “Details, Asheboro Female Academy, Asheboro, North Carolina,” *Historic Architecture Research*. Project Records (UA110.041), Special Collections Research Center at NCSU Libraries. <http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/bh011304501>, “NCSU Libraries’ Digital Collections: Rare and Unique Materials.”

¹¹⁹ Randolph County Historical Photographs, Randolph County Public Library, Randolph Room, <http://www.randolphlibrary.org/historicalphotos.htm>

prominent changes during this period.¹²⁰ This can be seen in an undated photograph of the building, simply referred to as a “before restoration” image. One major difference is the overgrown landscaping that surrounds the building, giving it a look of being uncared for or unkempt.



The photograph shows wooden lattice work around the doorframe as well as a screen door and a tin roof. These are significant aesthetic differences from the wood-shingle roof and plain weatherboard siding found in earlier documentation of the building’s construction.

Eventually, when the building was given to the Randolph County Historical Society by the Armfield family in the late 1960s, plans were formulated for the first official historic restoration of the building, beginning with the exterior changes.¹²² The goal of the restoration was to alter the building in such a way as to make it resemble its original state. However, the field of historic preservation was fairly new and constantly changing during this time period and that had a significant effect on the procedures of the project. The window glass of the building was replaced with an inadequate imitation of hand-blown nineteenth-century glass in an effort to keep the aesthetic while maintaining functioning windows. The chimneys were altered but are not the correct size or design for a historic restoration of the period. The tin roofing was removed and the original framing was covered by a half-inch thick

¹²⁰ “The Old Female Academy,” *The Courier-Tribune*, August 26, 1945, 8.

¹²¹ “Asheboro Female Academy before restoration,” Randolph County Historical Photographs

¹²² Randolph County Historical Society, “Plans for Exterior Restoration: Phase One.”

plywood sheathing before adding the new wood shingles.¹²³ Supposedly, the tin from the roof was salvaged but not used in any other part of the restoration. The Historical Society worked with local saw mills and painters to create reproduction window sashes, shutters, and weatherboard siding. The exterior restoration did not seek to remove old materials from the building, but to instead supplement the older materials with modern interpretations. For example, the original brick foundation of the structure was not removed, but new bricks were handmade by Old Carolina Brick Company of Salisbury, North Carolina to place alongside the original where they were needed.¹²⁴



The 1976 restoration after a period of deterioration.

The biggest effect of the 1970s restoration was the decision to move the building to property owned by the Asheboro City Schools, adjacent to the school system's Central Office building. This took the structure out of its original context and created a new landscape for the academy, complete with a new wooden sign, a small porch with white hand railing, and a white picket fence lining the property. Thus the building remained until the TreesNC restoration over the past three years.

The 2014 Historic Structure Report by Carl Kessler, commissioned by TreesNC, yielded a highly detailed analysis of the state of the Academy building by that time, and proposed a plan for a historically accurate renovation. A physical study of the four major areas of concern was performed:

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

- Crawl space, foundation and chimneys.
- Exterior walls, windows and trim.
- Interior walls, windows and trim.
- Attic space, ceiling joists, roof rafters and roof.

In addition to describing the general state of the structure, the Report detailed the amount of original/replacement material in the structure, as follows.

- **Frame.** The building is a center hall design with a post and beam frame that is mortised, tenoned and pegged. The post and beam frame of the structure was found to be in near original condition. The floor beams were original 10" diameter hand hewn logs placed on 36" centers. There were 11 floor joists with seven original logs and four replacement beams. One floor beam displayed heavy termite deterioration. All other floor beams appeared sound.
- **Floor.** The floor boards are a mixture of modern circular sawn planks and original sash sawn planks. Circular sawn boards were easily depicted by their radius saw marks and flame patterns on the backside of the boards. Historians have documented that all lumber in 1838 was dimensioned by sash sawn (vertical teeth marks) or pit sawn (slightly angled teeth marks) and the first circular saws were not in the area until 1852 when the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road came to Asheboro. The original sash sawn planks were quarter sawn, an old technology used to create the hardest wood for flooring.
- **Walls.** The exterior walls are clapboards and the interior walls, ceiling and floors are tongue and grooved wood planking. The windows are nine over nine double hung sashes. The 1976 restorations included the addition of a three tab asphalt shingle roof, the replacement of the foundation and both chimneys, and the replacement of all doors with replicas. The interior tongue and grooved wall planks were in good condition and consisted of a mixture of original and replacement boards. The saw marks were not visible as all the boards were planed and painted, but when a light was angled across the grain of the board the plane marks become

visible. Chatter marks from machine planned boards become very noticeable under these lighting conditions, while hand planned boards had smooth, light grooved paths from the plane. Many of the east and west walls boards had been replaced, while a large portion of the north and south walls were original.

- **Ceiling.** The ceiling boards are mostly original sash sawn boards as visible saw marks can be seen in the attic on the reverse un-painted side of the boards.
- **Interior Trim.** The mantel in the east room was determined to be original, as all of the wood had been hand planed and the moldings were simpler and filled with paint. The mantel in the west room was machined planed and the moldings were much cleaner. The chair railing in both east and west rooms were a mixture of original and new trim. It appeared that most of the north and south walls were original.
- **Attic.** Inspection of the attic revealed both the ceiling joists and the original roof rafters were hand hewn beams that were dimensioned by sash sawing. A few extra new rafters were added for support and plywood decking was laid for the shingle roof in the 1976 restoration. There were 11 original rafters and four replacements on 30" centers. As mentioned earlier in this report the ceiling boards were sash sawn indicating that most are original.
- **Roof.** Was the original roof a shake roof? This was very common at the time. The original roof rafters were inspected for evidence of attic ghost marks on the side of the rafter beams very close to the decking surface. If there was a roof leak that ran down a rafter it would show different color marks directly under the lattice. Several such marks were found and all of them were 5" long. This would indicate that originally there was a lattice system that supported a shake roof.

Over the years there had been significant replacement of materials and components throughout the Female Academy building. However, most of the post and beam framework was original, as was approximately 60 percent of the interior ceiling, floor, wall planking and trim work.

Following development of a restoration plan and a major fundraising effort by TreesNC, Kessler was appointed as contractor / specialist for the renovation of the structure. Restoration of the primary structure is now essentially complete. Every effort was made to use historically accurate materials and craftsmanship.

Improvements include:

- Repaired stress cracks and missing bricks in the foundation.
- Added support piers to the north wall. Coated and injected deteriorated beams and floor joists with cedar oil and similar products to harden and solidify wood.
- Removed lead-based paint (using permits and EPA guidelines) on the exterior siding and trim.
- Replaced or treated all deteriorated and soft wood with second growth or old growth heart pine siding machined to match existing clapboards and exterior trim. Primed and finish painted all siding and trim.
- Removed asphalt shingle roofing and replaced with historically accurate hand-split cedar shake roofing.
- Installed reinforcement rafters to support cedar shake roof.
- Custom built new entry doors, using historically accurate pegged construction.
- Sanded and sealed floor boards.
- Analyzed paint layers to identify original paint colors, and painted exterior in original color. Hand sanded and repainted ceiling and wall boards and all interior trim.
- Removed all glass from sashes, repaired glazing, replaced glass as needed with historically accurate restoration glass. (windows rebuilt by Double Hung Windows, Greensboro, NC)
- Replaced shutters with custom built historically accurate (pegged) shutters.
- Reworked finish grade at foundation
- Built 3 new stoops and steps.

- Installed HVAC system for heating and cooling as needed for proper use of building as an educational facility.
- Installed electric utility. Discretely installed electric wiring upgrades.
- Reinforced beams, joists and rafters as needed.
- Replaced door hardware with period locks and hinges.
- Researched and commissioned historically accurate student work tables and benches.
- Researched and purchased original period antique furniture and artifacts.

Future planned work includes new landscaping based on a report drafted by Tony Mayer of Piedmont Perennial Landscapes and Dr. Marie Weil of the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. This report proposes a landscape design that “doesn’t add anything to the landscape without evidence that it was present historically,” and which “make[s] it clear to visitors that this is not an accurate depiction but an interpretation of the historical site.”¹²⁵



The Asheboro Female Academy as restored 2014-2017.

¹²⁵ Tony Mayer and Dr. Marie Weil, “Asheboro Female Academy Restoration: Landscape Design Report,” Asheboro, N.C.: TreesNC), 27 April 2016, 3.

MAPS AND PHOTOS

A Geographical Information System (GIS) air photography map (produced by the Randolph County Planning Department) of this property reflecting the structure and its relation to nearby streets and other buildings is included with this report. Photographs reflecting exterior features are included. Photographs also include landscape features and physical settings.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH CERTIFICATION

Historical data used for this report will be reviewed in a public hearing by the Randolph County Historical Landmark Preservation Commission. A final record of approval will be reflected in the official minutes of the Commission.

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1 inch = 180 feet

Randolph County Planning and Development

Location: 1126 S PARK ST, 27203

This map was prepared by Randolph County, NC for the County's internal use. Randolph County, its agents and employees make no warranty as to the correctness or accuracy of the information set forth on this map, whether expressed or implied, in fact or in law, including without limitation the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Map is based on NC Coordinate System of 1983. Date: 5/17/2018 - Planning - pztvm

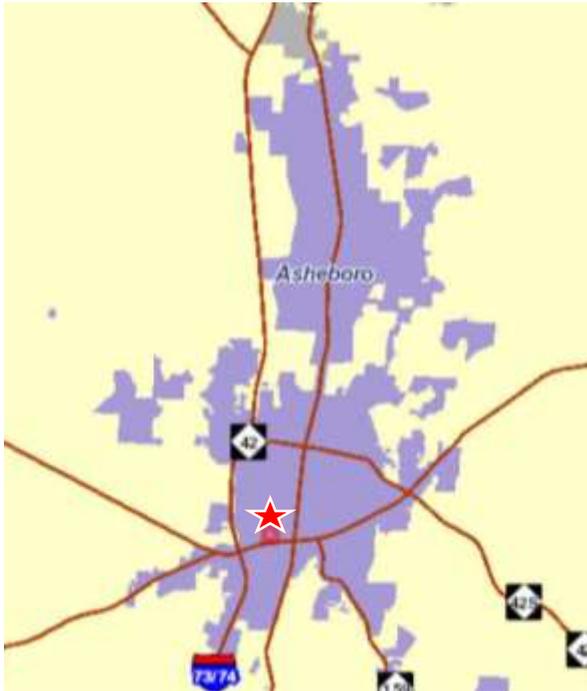


Asheboro Female Academy Site

Randolph County GIS



Proposed designation boundary

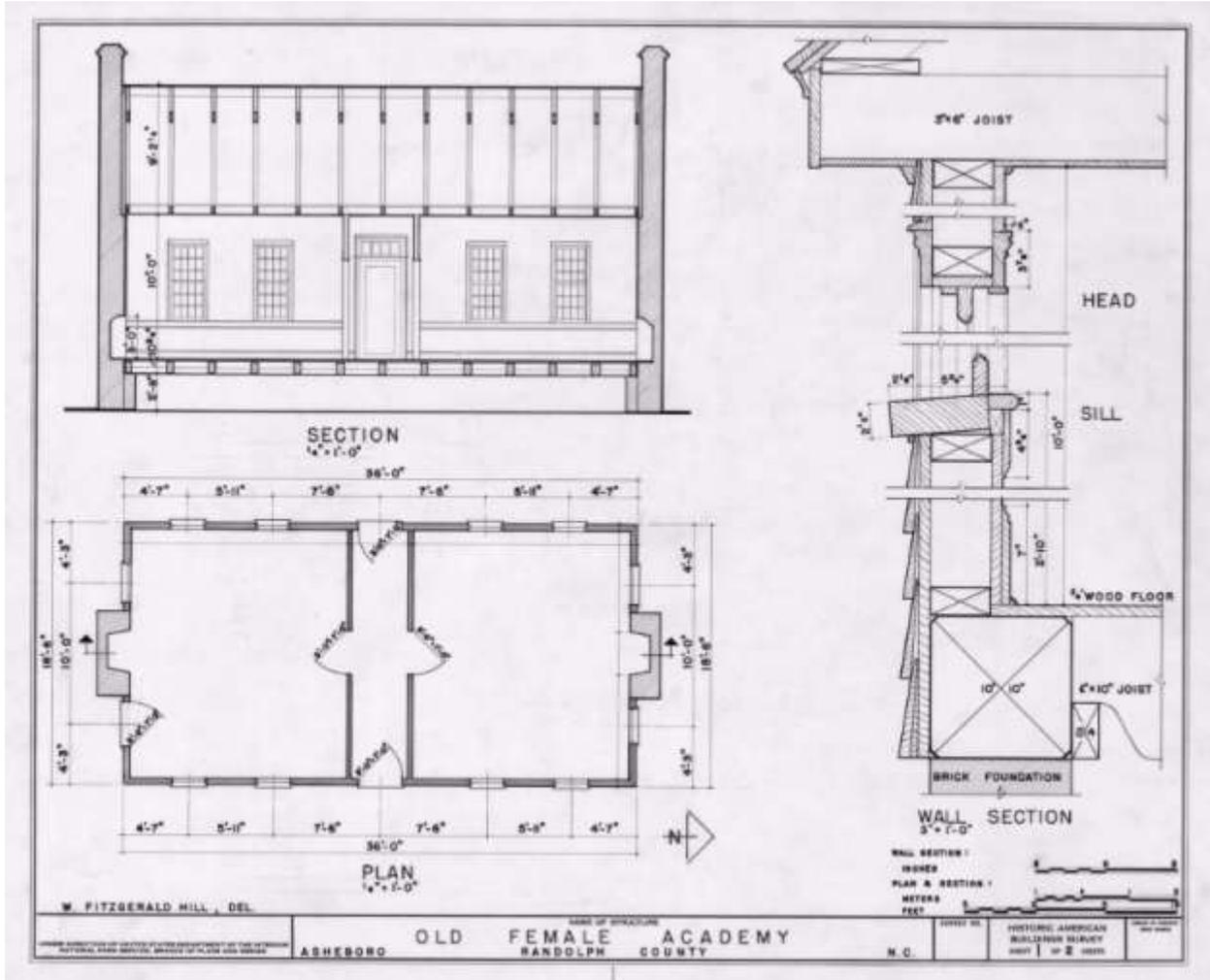


Approximate location in Asheboro



1126 S. Park St. full parcel

Asheboro Female Academy Floor Plan and Elevation



Hill, W. Fitzgerald. "Longitudinal Section, Floor Plan, and Detail, Asheboro Female Academy, Asheboro, North Carolina." In *Built Heritage of North Carolina: Historic Architecture in the Old North State*. UA #110.041. University Archives, North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, North Carolina.



South front facing Walker Avenue.



Southeast quarter facing Walker Avenue.



East side.



Northeast quarter facing interior of lot.



North front (window at right above foundation provides view of original post-and-beam construction)



West side



Southwest quarter



View from street showing rail fence put in place during 1976 restoration



View window showing post-and-beam construction detail



Roof detail



Ironwork detail



Foundation detail



Interior view of east room showing original mantle and recreated period desks.



Central hallway looking south during restoration.



Oldest known Female Academy photograph, circa 1890.



Female Academy building after conversion for storage or servant quarters by Armfield family.



1976 renovation largely complete — sign leaning against building would be placed on southwest lawn



Decorated for the holiday season following the 1976 restoration



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

June 13, 2018

Ross A. Holt
Randolph County Public Library
201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

RE: Landmark Designation Report for the **Asheboro Female Academy, 1126 South Park Street, Asheboro, Randolph County**

Dear Mr. Holt:

Thank you for the report for the Asheboro Female Academy located at 1126 South Park Street in Asheboro. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.4.

Constructed in 1839, during an era in North Carolina history famously lacking in educational rigor, the Asheboro Female Academy is physical evidence of the high value the community placed in educating young women. Though not open to women of all classes and races, the academy nevertheless significantly expanded the educational opportunities available prior to the advent of the public school system. The curriculum offered substantially exceeded the basic academic and domestic training typically available to women. The academy was moved from its original location at the southwest corner of Salisbury and Fayetteville streets in 1970 and substantially altered with the addition of non-historic materials; however, a more recent effort to appropriately reconstruct and restore the academy's historic fabric has yielded a building more capable of accurately interpreting a significant development in Asheboro's history.

We believe the report provides sufficient information for the Randolph County Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission and the local governing board to determine the Asheboro Female Academy is worthy of local landmark designation.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes the property is worthy of preservation because of its special significance and integrity in the local community. Any substantial change in the design, materials, and appearance is subject to the design review procedures of the preservation commission. The owner may receive an annual deferral of fifty percent of the property taxes for as long as the property is designated and retains significance and integrity. (N.C.G.S. 150-278 *et seq.*).

If the local governing board wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior, the owner must give written consent. The designation ordinance must specify the features and describe the nature of the Commission's design review authority over them.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the report. Our comments are advisory only and are not binding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Randolph County Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission and has proceeded in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance, the governing board may proceed with the designation decision. Once the designation decision has been made, please return the completed designation confirmation form, enclosed.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed landmark designation of the Asheboro Female Academy. Please contact me at 919-807-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amber E. Stimpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Amber E. Stimpson
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203 ♦ 336-318-6806 ♦ www.rchlpc.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION COUNTY OF RANDOLPH, N.C.

The public is advised that on Wednesday, June 27, at 6 p.m., the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission will conduct a public hearing at the Historic County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C., to consider Local Historic Landmark designation for the following property:

**ASHEBORO FEMALE ACADEMY, 1839
1126 South Park Street (facing Walker Avenue)
Asheboro, N.C.**

Historical data may be obtained by contacting the Randolph County Public Library, 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, N.C. Recommendations from the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission will be forwarded at a later date to the Asheboro City Council. Interested citizens are invited to attend this public hearing and will be given the opportunity to provide comment.

L. McKay Whatley Jr., Chairman
Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203 ♦ 336-318-6806 ♦ www.rchlpc.org

Resolution Recommending Local Historic Landmark Designation Asheboro Female Academy, 1839

WHEREAS, Chapter 160A, Article 19, Part 3C of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for the designation of local historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners has appointed the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission, having the authority to exercise all powers and duties given it by the Randolph County Historic Preservation Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission has taken into consideration all information contained in the Historic Landmark Designation Application for the Asheboro Female Academy, 1839; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, has been given the opportunity to review the Local Landmark designation report which contains the historical information necessary for the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission to determine special historical significance and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission conducted the require public hearing, having published legal notices with mailings to adjoining property owners; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission finds that the Asheboro Female Academy, 1839, meets the following specific criteria outlined in the Ordinance establishing the Commission: (1) Critical part of the City of Asheboro's and Randolph County's heritage by having value as an example of the cultural, historic and social heritage of the City of Asheboro and Randolph County; (2) Its identification with persons who significantly contributed to the architectural, cultural, economic, historical, social or other aspect of the development of the City of Asheboro and Randolph County; (3) Its distinctive theme, representing an architectural, cultural, economic, historic or other theme expressed through a distinctive building.

WHEREAS, the property is more specifically described as follows:

The Asheboro Female Academy is located on approximately 0.5 acres on the southwest corner of 1126 S. Part Street, facing W. Walker Avenue, PIN 7750670033, Asheboro Township, Asheboro, N.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 27th day of June 2018, that the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission approves the application for local landmark

designation, and recommends to the Asheboro City Council that the exterior of the Asheboro Female Academy, 1839, be designated as a Local Historic Landmark.

Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

L. McKay Whatley Jr. Chairman



Attest: Dana S. Crisco

Date: _____