

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered **AUG 18 1983**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Morristown College Historic District

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 417 North James Street N/A — not for publication

city, town Morristown N/A — vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Hamblen code 063

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Morristown College

street & number 417 North James Street

city, town Morristown N/A — vicinity of state Tennessee 37814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hamblen County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 511 West 2nd North

city, town Morristown state Tennessee 37814

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Morristown College Historic District is located in Morristown, Tennessee (pop. 23,000) in the northeast corner of the state. The district comprises thirty of the forty-eight acres covered by the college campus and contains thirteen brick and frame buildings dating from 1892 to 1968 and ranging in height from one to three stories. The architectural styles represented in the district are Queen Anne, Eclectic, Georgian Revival, and vernacular. The college buildings are used for residential and educational purposes and all but three do not contribute to the character of the district. The nominated area retains its architectural and historical integrity to a significant degree.

Founded in 1881, Morristown College is situated in the residential northeast section of Morristown, Tennessee. The site of the campus district is a rolling hillside bordered by woods. The acreage of the campus was greater in the early days of the college, with a separate dairy farm of three hundred acres, including a creamery, which was sold in 1939. Of the current forty-eight acre campus, only the athletic fields are excluded from the nomination.

The buildings are categorized into contributing and non-contributing structures. Contributing buildings (C) are significant in the historic and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use and texture of the district. Non-contributing buildings (N) are less than fifty years old or have been substantially altered from their original appearance.

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES:

1. Laura Yard Hill Administration Building(1911)

Laura Yard Hill is named for the wife of Morristown College's founder, the Reverend Judson S. Hill. Begun in 1901 and completed in 1911, the oldest brick structure on campus is Eclectic in style. The raised stone basement, arched entrance, and central tower with bracketed cornice and pyramidal roof distinguish this structure, which visually dominates the campus.

Since interior renovation in 1972, Laura Yard Hill Hall has housed the administrative offices, library, bookstore, auditorium and communication center as well as a number of classrooms, and faculty offices. The exterior of the building is unaltered, except for the 1960's one-story addition for library stacks. The interior of the auditorium remains virtually unaltered.

(C)

2. Valentine-Branch Gymnasium (1927)

Originally known as the Kellog Gymnasium, it was renamed during the renovation in 1963, after Drs. Valentine & Branch. The original structure was a brick rectangular building with a frame gable roof and entrance portico. Eight of the round arched windows remain intact. They are fifteen-over-twenty paned double-hung sash windows with brick voussoirs and contrasting keystones, springers and sills. The portico was enclosed for storage space. The 1963 addition to the west elevation sufficiently alters the structure to consider it non-contributing to the district. However, future plans for the restoration and renovation of the gymnasium will possibly make it a contributing building at some future time. (N)

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DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES (continued):

3. Wallace Hall (1923)

An immediate need for dormitory space, after a fire at Crary Hall, prompted the building of Wallace Hall in 1923. The two dormitories, which flank the Refectory, were designed as a matching pair of Georgian Revival structures.

Wallace Hall, partially renovated in 1970, has floor plans very similar to Crary Hall. There are three floors for male student housing with the head resident's apartment and a lounge on the first floor, and a recreation room and laundry in the basement. The wood siding on the top floor was added over the brick to match Crary Hall's upper wooden floor. The building's most distinguishing feature is a Doric portico raised above a brick arcade. (C)

4. Kenwood Refectory (1923)

The function of Kenwood Refectory remains much the same today as originally. Built in 1923, and located between Wallace and Crary Halls, Kenwood is the present facility for campus dining. The belfry on the simple, gable-roofed brick structure houses the bell re-cast after the Crary Hall fire cracked the original. A brick arcade connects Kenwood to the two dormitories.

Dining room facilities are available on the first and second floors, operational only on the first. The interior is enhanced by an exposed wood roof structure and high wainscoting. A small student activities center is housed in the basement.

Renovation on the present structure was made in 1974, and in 1979 the kitchen and storage areas joining the kitchen were completely renovated. (C)

5. Crary Hall (1924)

The original Crary Hall, erected by President Hill, a four-story brick and stone building of a hundred rooms, was designed to house resident students and to furnish dining facilities and some classrooms. It was completed in 1898 only to be destroyed by fire on January 10, 1921. In 1922 additional property was purchased, and Wallace Hall was started. Crary Hall was completed in March of 1924. In 1926, Crary Hall was again partially destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt and reopened in September of the same year. Following a fire in the 1970's it was repaired with wood siding on the upper floor due to a shortage of the hand-made brick made on the site in the 1920's.

The newly-built dormitory, somewhat Georgian Revival in style, was built on the same pattern as Wallace Hall. The first floor of Crary Hall is composed of sixteen rooms, student lounge and head resident's apartment. The second and third floors have twenty-six rooms each and bathroom facilities. The laundry room and infirmary are located on the first level of the basement. The student center is on the lower level. (C)

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DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES (continued):

6. New Jersey Home (1892)

New Jersey Home, built in 1892 and bearing some characteristics of the Victorian period's Queen Anne, is the oldest structure on campus. The porches, clapboard siding, steep roofs, projecting gables, and tall windows are its significant features. During its long history, this building has been slightly altered on the exterior and renovated to use for various purposes: private residence, dorm (1978-1979), faculty apartment, and classroom facilities (1979-1980). Originally conceived as a "model home" for teaching the women students domestic skills, it is vacant at the present time. (C)

7. William and Sarah Boyd Memorial Shop (1903)

This building was used initially as a boarding hall, but has been used primarily for an industrial training shop for boys and is not in use at the present. This rectangular vernacular structure has a gable roof and a shortened monitor window in the center of the roof structure. The fenestration has been altered by the filling in of one window on the east elevation and the total remodeling of the north elevation, which was entirely filled in with cinder blocks. All windows have been boarded up. (C)

8. Sheeley-Drew Centennial Science Hall (1968)

A two-story, flat-roofed modern structure, the science hall is not considered a contributing structure, but, due to its low profile, does not compete with the landmark structures on the campus. (N)

9. Steam Plant Building (1923)

Dominated by a tall, tapered chimney, the coal-fired steam plant continues to serve the heating needs of the entire campus. The 60' x 60' structure is built of hand-made brick and the roof is slate. (C)

10. Braden House (C.1925)

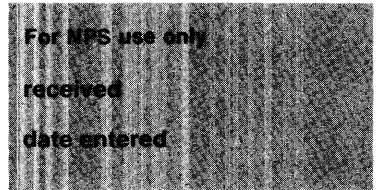
This simple one-story, wood-frame vernacular residence adjoining Carriger House is vacant at present. The structure has had several one-story frame additions attached to it and was built to serve as a hospital. (C)

11. Carriger House (C.1925)

This wood-frame structure is preserved in excellent condition and serves as the college president's home. It is a modest two-story vernacular house with gable roof and several secondary roof structures. (C)

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DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES (continued):

12. Woolson Cottage (1901)

This modest one-story frame vernacular residence, on the west edge of the campus which has served as a home for teachers since its construction, now serves as the dean's residence. The building has been determined to be non-contributing because of the changes in fenestration and the application of the brick veneer. (N)

13. Child Development Center (c. 1925)

This small one-story gable-roofed vernacular building of frame construction has a one-story aluminum sided addition on the north elevation. Previously, the building served as the residence for the caretaker of the physical plant and now houses the Progressive Child Development Center. (C)

Also included within the boundaries of the district is the site of the college's first school building (1830). There are no above ground features remaining of the building. Although no excavation at the site has been undertaken, there is the possibility that some archaeological material may be recovered at the site.

An architectural survey of the Morrystown campus was conducted by Holli Eckert, research assistant, Office of Gene Burr, Architect, and by Arthur Reed, student, School of Architecture, University of Tennessee, during the fall of 1982 and the winter of 1982/3 at the request of Morrystown College. Historical research was done at Morrystown College and the University of Tennessee. The boundaries were determined in consultation with the staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1881-1931 **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morristown College Historic District is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its significance in the education of Appalachian black youth and its local importance in academic architecture. Founded in 1881 by the national Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Morristown College has historically been one of only two institutions for black youth in East Tennessee, the other being Knox College (1875). Following a pattern typical of black colleges in Tennessee, the college was primarily an elementary and secondary level institution until the 1920's when junior college courses were added. The district has local architectural significance by containing some of the best examples of Georgian Revival and Eclectic architecture in Morristown and Hamblen County.

Despite the concentration of Tennessee's black population in the western section of the state, two Protestant denominations began black institutions in the eastern portion of Tennessee after the Civil War. In 1875 the Presbyterian Church founded Knox College in Knoxville. A few years later in 1881 in Morristown, the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church established Morristown Seminary, whose name was changed in the 1890's to Morristown Normal and Industrial College and later to Morristown College.

Because of the poor educational background of most black youth in Tennessee, black colleges in the state at first stressed elementary and secondary education. In 1915 at Morristown the school's total enrollment of 258 students was divided into 183 pupils in the elementary grades and 75 in the secondary. Another distinguishing feature of the institution and other black colleges in Tennessee and the South was the emphasis on industrial, agricultural, and teacher training. It was not until 1927 that Morristown College began to offer traditional freshman and sophomore level courses. Throughout the period from 1865 to 1920, when the state's first normal school for blacks was founded, Tennessee's black citizens were completely dependent upon private denominational institutions financed largely by Northern philanthropy.

The Morristown College Historic District is locally significant as an important example of academic architecture with elements ranging in style from the Queen Anne, Eclectic, and Georgian Revival, to the vernacular. The Laura Yard Hill Administration Building is architecturally the best Eclectic educational structure in Hamblen County. Although somewhat altered, the Kenwood Refectory, Wallace Hall, and Crary Hall are still the finest Georgian Revival group in the area. In local vernacular architecture, the Boyd Memorial Shop and the Steam Plant are noteworthy buildings illustrating the aesthetic interest of structures which clearly express their function and materials.

The history of Morristown College began in November, 1869 when Mrs. Almira Stearns and her twelve year old daughter stepped off the train in Morristown, Tennessee. Widowed by the War, she was answering a missionary call to serve "...among the people for whom her husband laid down his life". She came as teacher to that unlettered mass, only so recently freed from intolerable bondage. (Under the rescinded laws, slaves could not be taught to read, even by their masters.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 30 acres

Quadrangle name Morristown, TN.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 7	2 9 3 9 7 0	4 0 1 0 9 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 7	2 9 4 1 2 0	4 0 1 0 6 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 7	2 9 3 7 1 0	4 0 1 0 4 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	1 7	2 9 3 5 6 0	4 0 1 0 7 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Holli Eckert, Research Assistant		
	Arthur Reed, Student		
organization	Office of Gene Burr, Architect	date	January 1983
	Architecture School, Univ. of TN.		
street & number	121 W. Jackson Avenue	telephone	615-525-7731
	1704 E. Fifth Avenue		615-522-8778
city or town	Knoxville	state	Tennessee 37902
	Knoxville		Tennessee 37917

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Herbert E. Haysen*

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date August 5, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allene Byers **Entered in the National Register** date 9/15/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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The seat of Hamblen County, Morristown is located on the plateau of Bay's Mountain.

"It would be difficult to find a spot in the United States possessing climatic conditions of such desirability as Morristown. Healthfulness - Morristown has a perfect natural drainage, and this, in connection with its splendid elevation and its superb climatic advantages, renders it one of the most healthful places in the Union. Malaria is practically unknown. By vote of its citizens, Morristown is free from the baleful influence of saloons."

"Miss Hattie" Stearns did her teaching first in a church provided by the Presbyterians of Orange, New Jersey. "The House was for economy built into a steep hill, and while one side was close to the street and on a level with it, the other was set up on stilts so that a horse or cow could walk beneath it with ease." A hundred at a time, she taught black people to read.

Two blocks north was the Reagan High School for Boys. Here, the Reverend Mr. Wilson conducted a college preparatory course. A Baptist congregation had built the one story frame structure as a meeting house in 1830; it had been used as a hospital for both Confederate and Union wounded; it had served as a slave mart "...as occasion required" "...wherein its walls human beings had been bought and sold".

"Before the states seceded from the Union, meetings were held in different sections of the state to discuss the question of secession. The last gathering of this kind held in the state prior to Rebellion took place in this building. Hon. A.G. Watkins advocated the rights of the state to secede from the Federal Union and the Hon. Wm. McFarland spoke against it."

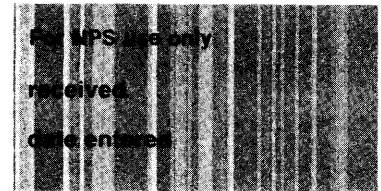
In 1881 Mrs. Stearns and her pupils took possession of this building at the request of Reverend W.D. Graves, Presiding Elder of the Morristown District of the East Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. "Having the interest of the Colored people at heart, he saw the need of a higher than ordinary school." For \$525, half provided by the Board of Education for Negroes of the M.E. Church, he had purchased Reagan High School and its one and one-half acre plot. Reverend Graves became the President of the Board of Trust of Morristown Seminary.

Likewise, he supplied the school's first president, Dr. Judson S. Hill of Trenton. Dr. Hill had received his degree from Madison University, now Colgate, and had earned his Doctorate of Divinity at Crozier Theological Seminary. Accompanied by his bride, Laura Yard Hill, he came "...South as a Christian minister and teacher." He replaced the Methodist pastor of Chattanooga who had been overcome in the yellow fever epidemic. In addition to his work from the pulpit, he undertook the teaching of the mostly illiterate pastors of the Conference of the Colored. From Chattanooga, he had been transferred to Elizabethton and thence to Morristown. In that first year Dr. Hill and Mrs. Stearns taught one hundred and ninety students in that 60' x 40' three room shack.

The reception of the town was often less than cordial, with open expressions of bigotry yet prevalent. "...despised, ostracized, insulted, hated...the child (Anna Stearns) ill treated, called hard names, sneered and spit at." "'Nigger Hill' ...often had to walk in the gutter in order to save himself from being shoved off the sidewalk. He was taunted by threats of tarring and feathering...more than once his life was

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threatened. There was the "...not unusual initiatory" of fires threatened and set. "Fire!" - a cry to become all too horribly common in the years ahead. Yet the loyalty of the black citizens, the kindness shown by a few whites and their satisfaction with their work as educators kept them going in those most difficult early years.

By the hundreds both young and old - sometimes three generations of a family - would sit together on the crude benches puzzling out the unfamiliar words. "Uncle Dick" with over a hundred years, was unable to unlock the mysterious symbols but stayed to tell of escape and capture, flaying and conversion. From nine to eleven hours a day they toiled, some walking ten and twelve miles to and fro, or swimming the river to have their chance at education. Young Azalee, undaunted by a lack of shoes, walked to school in the snow, but was felled by consumption soon after. And Andrew Fulton: sold in 1861 after a lively auction for \$1,166 on the steps of that first school building; receiving some education in Mrs. Stearns' school; graduating from Morristown in 1887; teaching for 45 years thereafter on the site where he had been sold, "...which covers his journey from slavery to freedom."

Under Dr. Hill, Morristown Seminary began to grow. Soon another teacher, Miss Nannie McGinley, joined the two. In 1883 a dormitory, later Stearns Hall, was constructed for \$2,500; "...large and commodious", this three story frame building contained 22 rooms for students. Primary, Normal and Preparatory courses were offered, they ranged from Spelling and Learning to Count to Sallust and Anabasis to Algebra and Geometry. Christian education and comportment were emphasized throughout the school. Students from eight states attended in the early years.

In 1884 an Industrial Department was planned. Dr. Hill was always to give special emphasis to a coordination of mind and hand, and all students participated in manual training. The Industrial Department was conducted in buildings west of Cumberland along Turkey Creek. "A large two and one-half story brick building, 30 x 62 feet and a good building 40 x 80 feet, one story high, have been purchased and are being furnished with machinery and tools for the purpose of teaching carpentry, shoe making, and iron working." However, due to an ongoing lack of funds to match Dr. Hill's ambitious ideas for expanding the scope of education and physical plant, these plans for industrial education had to be introduced in stages.

In 1892 funds donated by the Women's Home Missionary Society of the New Jersey Conference were used to construct a "Model Home". In this two-story, sixteen room frame building instructions were given in "...sewing, dressmaking, millinery and house-keeping." The New Jersey Home was the first building erected on the higher plateau of the hill and is the oldest remaining on campus.

It was not until 1901, however, that other industrial plans could be initiated:

"By the purchase of a Foundry Machine and Blacksmith Shops, together with Woodworking Machinery and Carpentry Tools, complete in all their departments, the institution is now prepared to teach young men the following trades or industries: Molding, Blacksmithing, Machinists, Carpentry and Woodworking, under competent instructions."

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With the completion in 1903 of the William and Sarah Boyd Memorial Building, the Industrial Department moved; at the same time printing and broommaking were added to the curriculum. The broommaking department became a point of pride with the school. "The best handmade brooms in the market, parlor, warehouse, garage, barn, boat, barber, whisk, hearth and toy."

Another project long delayed was the erection of a new dormitory. From the first, Stearns Hall and the New Jersey Home had been jammed beyond capacity. Although plans had been drawn in 1889, limestone courses laid, and other materials at hand, the "...fearful depression in finances all over the country struck the work with paralysis, and the fine stone foundation fifteen feet high still stood waiting." Finally, in 1900, "the money came as a result of the President bathing the feet of Thomas Crary, (of Binghamton, New York) who was suffering with gout. The relief was so pleasing that he have a sufficient sum to complete the building." Of magnificent Georgian Revival design, the four-story Crary Hall was the showpiece of the campus, "...one of the best buildings in the South."

During this period, the size of Morristown College was increasing: 13 acres in 1892, 50 acres in 1897, 75 acres in 1901. Among the purchases was the President's House built in 1890 by the railroad and obtained by the school in 1895. A Music Department was added, "arranged in three grades for the piano". There were around three hundred and fifty students, attending during these years.

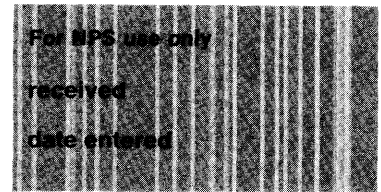
In 1907 Miss Lillian Woods joined the faculty and for 46 years remained as teacher, librarian and counselor. She sponsored the Friends of Africa Society, whose purpose was to "...foster and stimulate missionary enquiry and a love for the work in Africa". Correspondence committees were established and students were attracted from Liberia and other West African nations. Prizes were awarded for essays and hymns on Africa. One such prize went to Mrs. Willa Mae Crawford. She began at Morristown as a student in 1919, served as teacher and administrator, and yet remains active in Alumni Affairs. Another teacher long involved with the school is Mrs. Nina Goins, who began in 1907 and who has only recently retired from active service there. This is only to mention a few of the loyal teachers who have given so generously of their talents for so little material compensation.

Another urgent need of the school was for an updated teaching plant. In 1909 planning was completed and construction undertaken for an Administration Building. It was completed in 1911. Renamed Laura Yard Hill Hall in the early 1930's, the building contained administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, science laboratory, library and chapel, which seats 700. Limestone for the foundation was quarried on campus; bricks were produced by the students; woodwork was milled in the college shops; much of the labor of construction was provided by those working their way through school. Mr. William Coleman acted as overseer for the project. So proud was Dr. Hill of the finished product that he stated, "Hats must not be worn in this building."

Upon completion of the Administration Building, Stearns Hall was apparently lifted from her foundations and joined with the first school building; the whole was turned to use by the Industrial Department. The school boasted of "...one of the largest and most complete Industrial plants connected with any school in the South". Among the products

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of the woodworking department was the Bishop's Table. Dr. Hill had issued an appeal to the hundreds of worldwide missions of the Methodist Church requesting samples of wood from the countries in which they were stationed. These pieces were worked into a parquet table. Sold for \$2,600 to pay debts in 1912 at a meeting of the General Conference, the Bishop's Table has since been returned to the school where it is on display in the Miriam Partin Library.

In 1916, through a donation of \$19,500 by Frank B. Wallace of Detroit, Michigan, a dream of Dr. Hill's for creating "...a model and successful college farm" was realized. With the addition of a barn the total investment was \$30,000. The complex contained a dairy barn (36' x 120'), 2 silos (12' x 35'), hog house (24' x 60'), tool and machine house (16' x 60'), and a house for the students. The Kellogg Creamery (25' x 35'), was added through a gift from Mrs. Frances D. Kellogg.

An Agricultural Department was thus added to the school. The Wallace Farm was to serve many other needs of the school besides. In 1918, 45 acres were given to wheat, 5 to alfalfa, 30 to clover, 75 to corn and many other acres to vegetables: corn (sweet and broom), potatoes (Irish and sweet), cowpeas, soy beans, apples, tomatoes, and pumpkins. Shortly there was a herd of 17 sheep, 22 cows, 16 calves, 43 hogs and pigs; and there was an abundance of trees: pine, red and white oak, poplar and hickory, gum and walnut and chestnut. Tracts were written extolling the virtues of the rural life; assistance in home gardening was offered to the townspeople.

Still, students were being turned away for lack of dormitory accommodations. Cots were set up in all of Crary Hall, as students were crammed three to a room. Thus, Dr. Hill issued an appeal to secure funding for a boys' dormitory. By 1916 plans had been drawn by noted Knoxville architect Albert B. Bauman. Although not sufficient to cover all construction, some monies were collected; work that could be done at the college by the students went forward. By 1921, 240,000 feet of timber had been cut from Wallace Farm; then dried in a kiln at the school, it was milled into flooring, sashes, doors, trim and lathing at the college shops. The slabs and cordwood were used for burning lime and 500,000 bricks. Construction of the walls was set to commence.

However, on January 10, 1922, shortly before the usual rising bell at 5:30 a.m., an alarm was sounded. Some personal belongings were saved and an evacuation was effected.

"Soon calmness disappeared, and dismayed grief weighed our spirits downward. The stream of water was making no headway against the flames which were spreading in all directions in the wings. Sometimes it quenched the burning in one spot while a hundred flames sprang up in other spots. Then, demon possessed, the flames rushed onward and upward toward the front of the building. In a few minutes it was plainly seen that there was no hope whatever of saving the building. Teachers, students and citizens of the town stood helpless, watching the fearful and beautiful sight. The fire ate the woodwork and crushed the brick and stone with cruel fingers. With a horrid crash the east wall fell blinding the spectators on that side with a cloud of dust and ashes. The beloved president stood on the north side watching the pride of his life for over twenty years

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dissolve as a summer cloud. A teacher approached him and said: "Come, you are too near! This side will fall, too." He stood unmoved and in a few minutes the wall fell, bricks rolling to his very feet. We removed to watch the front of the building. The huge bell, the chimes of which could be heard for ten miles, was melting with the intense heat and dropping to tiled floor beneath. The maddened flames were now devouring the front hall rooms, offices, and parlor, and the proud front was hurled to the ground as thousands of broken bricks! Crary Hall was no more."

Many in the town, both black and white, responded by opening their homes to the students. However, as the story goes, a heckler at the scene taunted Dr. Hill: "Guess that puts you out of business, Doctor," to which he replied, "There will be more and better buildings starting tomorrow." The cause of the fire was never determined.

On July the first, Mrs. Hill laid the first brick of the three building complex containing Wallace Hall, Crary Hall and Kenwood Refectory. Insurance covered some losses and the Mayor and the Board of Alderman raised \$10,000 toward the rebuilding. As the boys were most crowded, construction was expedited on Wallace Hall; it was completed in August 1923, in time for the Fall term. Kenwood Refectory was serving meals the following October. Crary Hall was readied for the girls by March, 1924. "Each dorm has rooms for 175 students and the Refectory seats 300. The buildings are connected by walks ...covered by an arcade, thereby avoiding exposure in going to meals." In conjunction with these buildings, a steam heating plant was built and connected to Laura Yard Hill Hall, as well as to this complex.

The new Crary Hall was only to stand for two years until, on March 23, 1926, it too was consumed by fire while the students were attending classes.

"The way in which the citizens of the town have offered their homes to help care for the teachers and students is most gratifying. As before, when old Crary Hall burned, several small donations were voluntarily sent to purchase shoes and clothing for the students who had lost these things in the fire."

Again, Dr. Hill set to raising the estimated \$15,000 beyond the \$45,000 insurance coverage required to replace the walls. Again, the nationwide supporters of the school responded and rebuilding was completed in time for the fall term.

By using salvage materials and through careful supervision, \$10,000 was saved. This money, in addition to a donation by Mrs. Frances Kellogg, made possible a ground breaking in August, 1926, for a gymnasium. In February, 1927, Dr. Hill announced that several prominent persons had been invited to speak at the dedication of the facility. He added, "It is understood, of course, that the building must be free from debt before it can be dedicated." The dedication was held as scheduled on May 25, 1927. With the completion of this expanded physical plant, a two year junior college was added to the curriculum.

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In 1930, the city of Morristown undertook the elementary education of its black children. On land donated by Morristown College, the Judson S. Hill Grammar School was opened in 1931. Many students from the college did practice teaching there and many remained with the school. They made do with worn-out books cycled through the rest of the city school system; such was the operation of the "separate but equal" doctrine.

On September 14, 1931, amidst the preparations for his golden anniversary with the school, Dr. Hill passed away after a short illness at the age of 77. During his era, the school had grown from a shack on 1½ acres to twelve buildings and a farm with 375 acres. More than 15,000 students had passed through his care. "Not less remarkable than Dr. Hill's success in building up the school property has been his skill in transforming opposition and persecution into tolerance and cooperation." "The grandeur of the physical plant wanes in significance when compared to the unfettering of minds and the elevation of souls."

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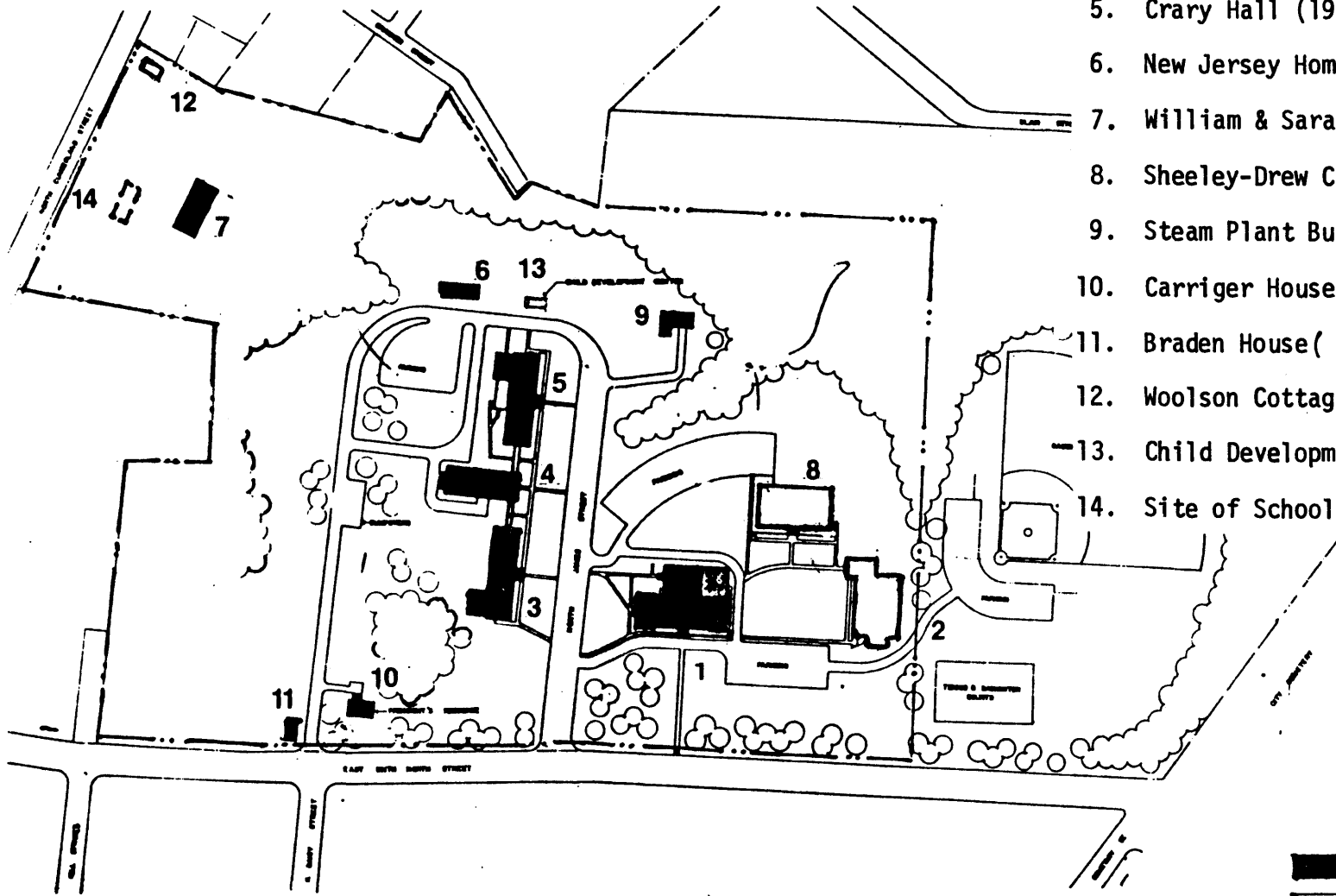
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The district is bounded on the north by an adjoining property line, on the east by an imaginary line running southerly to E. Fourth N. Street, on the south by E. Fourth N. Street, and on the west by adjoining property lines and N. Cumberland Street. The nominated area contains all of the historic buildings on the campus. Although the Science Hall (1968) and the Gymnasium (1927) are listed as non-contributing buildings, they have been included within the boundaries to preserve the architectural and historical vistas of the campus. Future rehabilitation of the Gymnasium may return it to contributing status.

MORRISTOWN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 417 North James Street
 Morristown, Hamblen Co., Tennessee

BUILDINGS





1. Laura Yard Hill Admin. Bldg. (1911)
2. Valentine-Branch Gym (1927)
3. Wallace Hall (1923)
4. Kenwood Refectory (1923)
5. Crary Hall (1924)
6. New Jersey Home (1892)
7. William & Sarah Boyd Memorial Shop(1903)
8. Sheeley-Drew Centennial Science Hall(1968)
9. Steam Plant Building (1923)
10. Carriger House (C.1925)
11. Braden House(C.1925)
12. Woolson Cottage (1901)
13. Child Development Center (C.1925)
14. Site of Schoolhouse (1830)



MORRISTOWN COLLEGE



LEGEND

-  Contributing Structure
-  Non-Contributing Structure
-  Site Only
-  Historic Zone Boundary

1" = 300'

MORRISTOWN COLLEGE

EXISTING SITE PLAN

DATE: 7-20-01

NO. 101	DATE: 7-20-01	SCALE: 1" = 300'	PROJECT: MORRISTOWN COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT	DATE: 7-20-01	NO. 101
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