

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUL 22 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Young Harris College Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

Young Harris College Campus, Appleby Dr

street & number See continuation, Section 7

N/A not for publication

city, town Young Harris

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Towns

code 281

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

4. Owner of Property

name Young Harris College/Dr. Ray Farley, President

street & number P.O. Box 98

city, town Young Harris

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30582

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Towns County Courthouse

city, town Hiawassee

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Towns County

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977

federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Young Harris College Historic District is located on a ridge at the center of the main college campus. Included in the district are the college's two oldest surviving structures, Susan B. Harris Chapel (1892) and Sharp Hall (1912), and a portion of the campus containing historic landscape features. The buildings are located to either side of Appleby Drive, the historic entrance to the college which runs along the ridge. Both buildings are constructed of brick with large sash windows set in segmental arches. Harris Chapel is detailed with brick corbeling, a brick string course at sill level, a denticulated cornice, and, on the front facade, a pedimented portico with an arcaded entrance and a two-story bell tower. Its hipped roof has vented gables, and the pyramidal bell-tower roof is topped with a finial. A 1900-1910 rear addition repeats the window design of the original structure. The interior of the chapel contains one large assembly room with three banks of wooden pews oriented to a stage. The stage, part of the 1900-1910 addition, is framed by fluted wooden columns and a simple entablature. Doorways to either side lead to dressing rooms. The room has been remodeled twice but retains a number of historic features, including doors and pews. Sharp Hall is two-story structure with central doorways at both levels of the front facade. It has a hipped roof with vented gables. The present flat-roofed portico supported by four square brick piers that extends across the front has two flights of stairs leading to central second-floor platform. It is a modification of the original portico, in which unprotected flights of wooden stairs led to a smaller protected area in front of the second-story entrance. A brick-and-concrete exit has been added to the rear. The interior of Sharp Hall is arranged around a central hall with rooms opening off to both sides. Grounds consist of grassed areas landscaped with a network of concrete walkways and large, informally placed trees. A segment of an older rock walkway, a 1945 rock well house covering a 1927 pump, flanking stone entrance gates at Appleby Drive similar in style to earlier stone entrance pillars at that same location, and a row of historic cedar trees are included in the district.

Boundary

The nominated property, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed map, encompasses the intact historic acreage associated with Young Harris College. Included are two historic buildings and a portion of the campus containing historic landscape features. Buildings outside the district are either contemporary or have been extensively altered.

Location (from Section 2)

Young Harris College Historic District encompasses the historic portion of the Young Harris College campus. It is located to the east of U.S. Highway 76, in the center of the community of Young Harris, Towns County, Georgia.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" 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 1892–1940s **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Young Harris College Historic District, a late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century complex founded by the Methodist Church, is historically significant in the areas of education, religion, community planning and development, architecture, and landscape architecture. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B and C.

Education and Religion

In terms of education and religion, the district is significant for its association with Young Harris College, an extremely important educational facility in this isolated mountain area of Towns County. Its existence documents the seminal role played by the Church in the development of education in Georgia. At the suggestion of the Towns County Methodist circuit rider, the institution was founded by the Methodist Church South in 1886 as a school for mountain youth. It expanded through donations of land and money, its chief benefactor being Judge Young L.G. Harris, for whom the college was named in 1888. Judge Harris, an influential Athens, Georgia lawyer who served in the Georgia General Assembly from Clarke County and earlier from Elbert County, had a deep commitment to the education of poor children. By 1888, a Board of Trustees had been formed, and by 1912, the institution had evolved into a junior college, which it remains to this day. Susan B. Harris Chapel, the oldest standing structure at the college, was built in 1892 to serve both the school and the community that grew up around it. It stands as an important reminder of the college's connection with the Methodist Church.

Community Planning and Development

In terms of community planning and development, the district is significant as the historic core of Young Harris College and the community of Young Harris, which developed around it. At a Board of Trustees meeting in 1890, a planned street layout for both the college and the town was developed, which includes as its center and focal point the soon-to-be-constructed Harris Chapel.

Architecture

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for the presence in its midst of two historic structures associated with Young Harris College. The buildings, constructed in 1892 and 1912, are good examples of vernacular turn-of-the-century

[See continuation sheet.]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 5 acres

Quadrangle name Hiwassee, Georgia-North Carolina

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	2	4	0	0	7	0	3	8	6	9	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	7	2	4	0	0	4	0	3	8	6	8	9	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	7	2	3	9	8	8	0	3	8	6	9	0	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	7	2	3	9	9	4	0	3	8	6	9	1	6	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

The nominated property, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed map, encompasses the intact historic acreage associated with Young Harris College. The boundary is justified in Section 7.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of National Resources

date June 29, 1983

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/14/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

f. Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 8/22/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

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college architecture of the type found on the small campuses scattered throughout Georgia. Susan B. Harris Chapel, with its bell tower, arcaded entrance, corbeling, and denticulated cornice, and the more utilitarian Sharp Hall are among the most substantial and highly detailed historic structures in the tiny mountain community of Young Harris.

Landscape Architecture

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significance for its landscape features that document early-twentieth-century college campus layout. The formally laid-out paths contrast with the randomly placed shade trees and the rustic stone walls and well house.

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 2

Andress, Robert P. "Young Harris College: Its Development, Resources, and Programs" (unpublished thesis), 1959.

Brogdon, Joseph Milton. "A History of Young Harris College" (unpublished thesis), University of Georgia, 1939.

Fatora, Elaine, and Jaeger, Dale. "Historic District Information Form: Young Harris College Historic District," July, 1982. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Atlanta, Georgia.

Lance, Jack. Joseph Astor Sharp. North Georgia Conference Historical Society, 1961.

Lance, T.J. History of Young Harris College, 1936.

Taylor, Jerry, and Powell, Wayne. "Towns County: A Historical Sketch" (unpublished college report), North Georgia College.

Interviews:

Dr. Ray Farley, president, Young Harris College, Young Harris, Georgia; July 7, 1982.

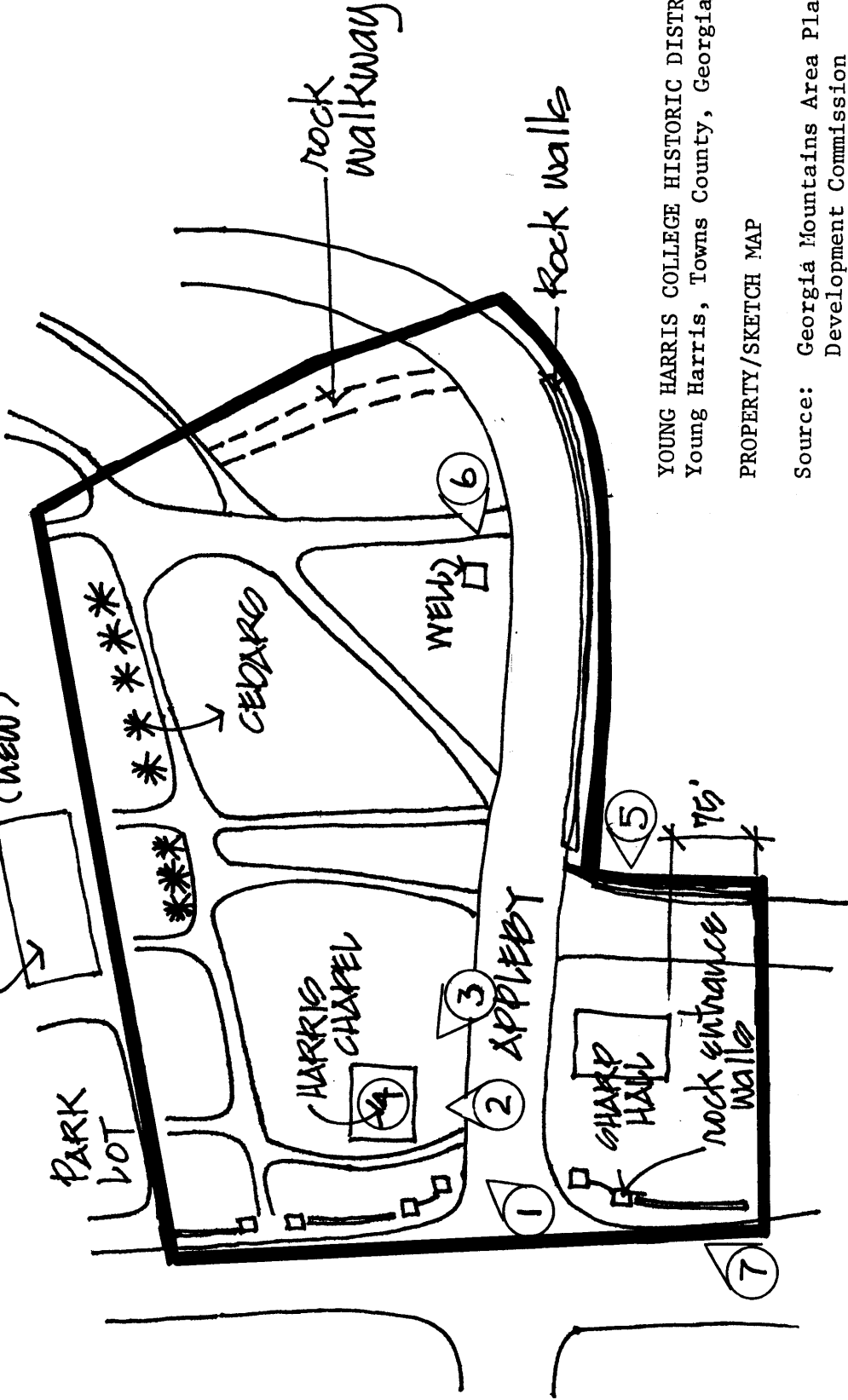
The Reverend John Kay, Young Harris, Georgia; May 7, 1982.

SKETCH MAP

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE
Historic District

← PEEL HALL
(altered)

WINSHIP HALL
(NEW)



← LIBRARY
(altered)
addition

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Young Harris, Towns County, Georgia
PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

Source: Georgia Mountains Area Planning and
Development Commission
Date: 1982
Scale: Not to scale
North: ←

Property Boundary: ———
Photograph/Direction of view: (1) →

1982
GNAPDC

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YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Young Harris, Towns County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

Source: Towns County Tax Map YH-1
Date: 1-1-82
Scale: 1":200'
North: ↑
Property Boundary: ————

