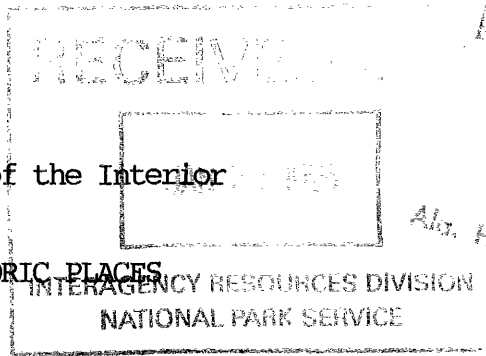


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



1. Name of Property

historic name Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute

other names/site number Colored Industrial & Literary Institute of Snow Hill; Snow Hill Institute

2. Location

street & number N side of County Rd. 26, NW of Snow Hill not for publication N/A
city or town Snow Hill vicinity X
state Alabama code AL county Wilcox code 131 zip code 36778

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 1/19/95
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register _____
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register _____
 removed from the National Register _____
 other (explain): _____

[Signature] Entered in the National Register Feb. 24, 1995
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	<u>Education</u>	Sub:	<u>School</u>
	<u>Education</u>		<u>Education-related</u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
	<u>Funerary</u>		<u>Grave</u>
	<u>Vacant</u>		<u>Not in Use</u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne
Late 19th & Early 20th Century American
Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Asphalt Shingle
walls Weatherboard
Brick
other Wooden Porch

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Ethnic Heritage: Black
Social History

Period of Significance 1893-1944

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Edwards, William J. (founder)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance on continuation sheet/s.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 50 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	496920	3542920	3	16	496940	3541990
2	16	497125	3542820	4	16	496740	3542030

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Edward Hooker, III (Private Consultant)

organization _____ N/A _____ date 25 July 1994

street & number 700 Dallas County Road 142 telephone (205) 872-0455

city or town Selma state AL zip code 36701

USDI/NPS Registration Form
Property Name Snow Hill Normal & Industrial Institute
County and State Wilcox County, Alabama

Page #5

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

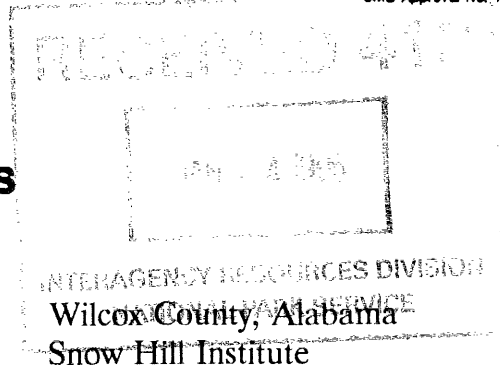
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Architectural Classification

No Style

Materials

walls brick

roof tin

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

Narrative Description

Snow Hill Institute is located two miles west of the town of Snow Hill, Alabama. The land is mostly flat, open fields, with the exception of one area. From the entrance to the grounds of the Institute, there is a gradual slope upwards. The buildings were situated along a common drive leading from the farmland in the valley to the crest of the hill, upon which the school founder's residence is located. Today, the road still exists, and continues to be utilized as access to the remaining structures of the Institute site. The remaining buildings include three residences, one being the founder's home, circa 1897-98, two teachers cottages, circa 1910-1912, the campus inn, circa 1940, the county school and vocational buildings, circa 1926 and 1930 and the cafeteria and staff housing, circa 1958 and 1959. Also included in this area are a bell monument and brick arched gateway (both NC,) dating from the 1960's and the grave of William J. Edwards, founder of Snow Hill Institute (NC site.)

The contributing buildings of Snow Hill Institute either illustrate no particular style or are modest representations of late 19th & early 20th century styles, including Queen Anne and Bungalow. However, their means of construction is of great historic significance. A majority of the Institute's buildings were designed and constructed by students learning the trades of carpentry, bricklaying and black smithing, similar to the history of Tuskegee University. Students learning a trade were allowed to work in return for schooling and room and board. The students learned a valuable trade while the Institute got badly needed space. This reciprocating relationship was beneficial to both the Institute and its students (Snow Hill Institute Catalogs, 1898-1918).

The remaining wooden frame structures incorporate turn-of-the-century Victorian architectural elements common in the rural South into their designs. All of these buildings are clad in horizontal weatherboard. Roofing materials range from tin to asphalt shingles, and at least some of the buildings still possess porches with square-columned chamfered porch posts. The three residences still retain their original character-defining features, including original mantles, doors and windows. Today these residences are home to descendents of William J. Edwards. The two teachers cottages are still intact, but are in need of stabilization. One cottage, Rose Cottage, was remodeled in the mid-1980's for use as the William J. Edwards Memorial Library, but is presently closed due to safety conditions. Poor renovation has resulted in increased foundation failure and settling. Inappropriate vinyl siding also detracts from the appearance of the structure.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

The public county educational and vocational school facility added by the State of Alabama Department of Education in 1926-30 is of conventional construction with brick veneer. The floor plan and interior/exterior detailing is one that was commonly used state-wide. Wallace Buttrick Hall, as the academic building is called, served as offices and classroom space. The floor plan consists of a formal symmetrical arrangement of rooms, and the front facade boasts a central arched gabled entry. The entrance hall intersects a central hallway flanked by classrooms. Each end has a wing, making an "I" shaped plan with the gymnasium/auditorium on center in back of the building. The stage in the school gymnasium is currently used for rehearsals by the Spring Tree/Snow Hill Institute for the Performing Arts. Other classrooms are used for storage. The vocational building, circa 1926, provided classroom space for home economics, carpentry, black smithing, and other classes in vocational education. The vocational building is currently used for after-school tutoring of children in the area. Both buildings retain their original character-defining features, and are in relatively sound structural condition.

The cateteria and staff housing, circa 1959, are constructed of concrete block. Although these structures are non-contributing due to their date of construction, they still retain their original character-defining features, including metal casement windows.

A brick duplex building, circa 1957, is also a non-contributing element within the campus of Snow Hill Institute. Built to provide teacher housing, the duplex is constructed of brick veneer with a low-pitched hipped roof of asphalt shingles.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

CONTRIBUTING AND NONCONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

Below are the resources comprising the proposed Snow Hill Institute District. In the following descriptions, C stands for contributing; NC stands for noncontributing:

1. NC Duplex (c. 1957)
This one story, rectangular shaped brick veneer residence has a low-sloped hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete slab. The duplex was used as teacher housing, and is of standard construction. The floor plan is mirrored. The duplex is considered noncontributing due to age.

2. C Vocational Building (c. 1926)
This one story brick Bungalow-style building has a combination hipped/gable roof with asphalt shingles. The foundation is conventional. The design is asymmetrical, with the building's entrance to the right of the front facade. The floor plan consists of a series of large rooms, designed to accomodate classes in home economics, wood working, etc. One room located in the rear was utilized for black smithing and metal working, and contained a fireplace with open hearth.

3. C Wallace Buttrick Hall, Academic Building (c. 1930)
This one story brick building has a combination roof. The central portion is hipped, and a pair of gabled wings occur at each end. The floor plan and front facade is symmetrical in design and has a central arched gabled entry. The entry hall is flanked by administrative offices, and intersects a central hallway flanked by classrooms. The central hall has exits at each end. On transverse axis with the entry hall is the auditorium/gymnasium. A raised stage is located in the rear of the auditorium/gymnasium. Locker rooms and rest rooms are concealed under the stage area. This classical type of architectural style was used state-wide.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

4. NC Teacher Housing (c. 1959)
This one story concrete block structure with gabled roof rests on a concrete slab. The roof is metal, and the windows are wood six-over-six. This structure served as teacher housing. Due to date of construction, this building is considered noncontributing.

5. C Campus Inn (c. 1940)
This one story, one room frame building is sheathed in horizontal weatherboard and has a tin roof. A shed porch extends across the front of the structure. The poles of the porch appear to be whitewashed tree trunks. The front door is vertical wood batten. This structure was used as guest accommodations, and for a brief time served as the commissary and store.

6. C Teachers Cottage
Rose Cottage (c. 1910)
This one story cottage is of frame construction and rests on brick piers, with spaces filled in with concrete block. The gabled roof is covered in tin. A small front porch is carved out of the front. This cottage has been covered in vinyl siding, and still retains the original six-over-six windows. Interior rooms have corner fireplaces, but chimneys have been removed.

7. C Teachers Cottage
Todd House (c. 1912)
This one story, L-shaped cottage is of frame construction and rests on brick piers. The floor plan of the three room cottage is simple. The front is divided into two main rooms, with a wing extending back from the left of the cottage. The exterior is sheathed in horizontal weatherboard. The gabled roof is tin.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

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8. NC Cafeteria Building (c. 1957)
This "T"-shaped concrete block building has a gabled asphalt shingle roof. The floor plan consists of one large open room, with the leg of the "T" containing the kitchen area. The windows are metal casement.
9. C Edwards House (c. 1898)
This one story frame structure is sheathed in horizontal clapboard siding. The floor plan follows the the four-square plan, with central hall flanked by two rooms. The central hall is divided by a partition wall, and the back half has a stairway leading to a full basement. A hipped roof front porch supported by square chamfered columns stretches the length of the front facade. The hipped asphalt shingle roof has two gables in the front with irregular decorative wood shakes. The front left room of this house contains the library containing the collected works of William J. Edwards, founder of Snow Hill Institute.
10. C Lee House (Barnes House) (c. 1898)
This one story frame structure is sheathed in horizontal clapboard siding. This Victorian vernacular-style cottage has a gabled roof with diamond-shaped asphalt shingles. The front facade has a hipped roof porch with decorative columns.
11. C Lee House (Rivers House) (c. 1897)
The oldest remaining structure on the Snow Hill Institute campus, this two story L-shaped cottage is sheathed in horizontal wood siding. A hipped roof porch with square chamfered columns and balustrade wraps around the front and side facades. The gabled roof is covered with diamond asphalt shingles. The front gable has a cloverleaf window.

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Wilcox County, Alabama

LISTING OF PROPERTY SALES

Deed Book	WW	p.591	July	10, 1919
	28	p.240	March	31, 1916
	WW	p.357	Oct.	15, 1918
	WW	p.432	Dec.	30, 1918
	XX	p.309	Dec.	30, 1919
	ZZ	p.338	Dec.	27, 1920
	3E	p.167-68	Feb.	2, 1923
	3B	p.469	Dec.	20, 1921
	3D	p.459	Mar.	24, 1923
	3F	p.214	May	19, 1924
	3G	p.172	June	5, 1925
	3D	p.410	Jan.	25, 1925
	3I	p. 75	May	14, 1926
	3I	p.431	Jan.	20, 1927
	3I	p.433	Jan.	20, 1927
	3I	p.435	Jan.	20, 1927
	3K	p. 69	June	27, 1927
	3J	p.311	July	26, 1928
	3L	p.289-90	Dec.	10, 1928
	3M	p. 51	Oct.	4, 1929
	3M	p. 58	Oct.	17, 1929
	3M	p.228	Feb.	19, 1930
	3P	p. 74	Dec.	14, 1934
	3P	p.207		
	3S	p. 42		
	3T	p.460		
	3U	p.581		
	3U	p.584		
	3V	p.565		
	4A	p.401		

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Snow Hill Institute
Wilcox County, Alabama

4A	p.404	
4A	p.434	
4A	p.435	
4B	p.391	
3U	p.469	
4B	p.420-21	
4C	p.342	
4E	p. 93	1944

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT:

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is high. Foundations of extant buildings are scattered throughout the remaining structures that comprise the Snow Hill Institute District. Buried portions may contain significant information that could be important to interpreting the entire property.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

CRITERION A: EDUCATION/ETHNIC HERITAGE - BLACK

The Snow Hill Institute, which operated from 1893 - 1973, is locally significant as containing the last remaining buildings associated with the Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute. Founded in 1893 by Tuskegee graduate William J. Edwards, Snow Hill not only served the Wilcox County and surrounding areas, but reached out all across the nation attracting students from southern and northern states. Snow Hill Institute provided blacks with a private liberal arts education, as well as preparing young men and women for work in industrial and vocational areas. Snow Hill represented no religious or political organization. Local contributions and generous benefactors provided assistance for operation of the Institute. The school's most significant period occurred in the first half of the twentieth century. During this period, Snow Hill Institute's campus boasted 27 buildings, had a student body of 400, and owned 3,950 acres of land. Today, all that remains of Snow Hill Institute is 11 structures, the grave of founder William J. Edwards, and approximately 1,372 acres.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

**CRITERION B: SIGNIFICANT PERSON
WILLIAM JAMES EDWARDS**

William James Edwards, founder of Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute, played a significant role in providing African American youths in Wilcox County, Alabama instruction in the advancement of their economic and educational status.

Edwards was born in the Snow Hill vicinity on September 12, 1869. His birthplace, located on the R. O. Simpson plantation, was "three-quarters of a mile from where Snow Hill Institute now stands" (Edwards, p. 3). Edward's mother died before his first birthday. Originally named Ulysses Grant Edwards, his grandmother changed his name to William and he later added James in memory of his grandfather. Edwards had a difficult childhood plagued with illness and poverty, but he persevered.

In 1889, Edwards entered Tuskegee Institute under the direction of Booker T. Washington. He worked his way through school experimenting with the different trades. He was greatly impressed by the teachings of Dr. Washington, and was especially interested in returning home to help the people of the Snow Hill community. Edwards graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1893, second in a class of 20. After graduation, Edwards returned home to Snow Hill with the intention of starting a school. Edwards began teaching in a one-room log cabin on the R. O. Simpson plantation, with three students and fifty cents. The next year, Edwards had built a two room training building, hired two teacher aides (fellow graduates of Tuskegee Institute), and had a student body of 150.

In 1895, the Colored Literary and Industrial School at Snow Hill was incorporated, with Edwards serving as principal. The school's name was officially changed to Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute in 1904. Other appointments and duties held by Edwards included Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Financial Committee, Director of the Industrial Department, professor of mental and moral philosophy, and teacher of geometry (Snow Hill Institute Catalogs, 1898-1918).

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

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By 1907, Edwards had established this philosophy, which was expressed in his presentation to the Board of Trustees:

We believe that the ultimate end of education for one people should be that of any people. Our purposes are to influence young men and women to go into the communities where they propose to work and, by precept and example, encourage the people to build better school houses and lengthen the terms; to influence the people to buy land and build dwelling houses having more than two rooms, and to bring about any needed reform that is essential to economic and upright living. Our ultimate end is character building; our books are not ends, but they are means to an end (Edwards, p. xii).

Edwards served as principal for 31 years, from 1893 until his forced retirement in 1924 due to ill health. After his retirement, Edwards continued to travel, lecturing and promoting the cause at Snow Hill Institute, and procuring donations for funding of the Institute. Edwards died in 1950, and was laid to rest on the grounds of his beloved Snow Hill Institute. The epitaph on his grave echoes the Tuskegee Institute Class of 1893 motto, "Deeds, not Words," a tribute to his philosophy of life. The area comprising the proposed Snow Hill Institute District and the buildings located within the area best represents William J. Edwards' life work and his contribution to the history of Wilcox County and the State of Alabama.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

Historical Narrative

Snow Hill Institute is located in rural Wilcox County, Alabama. "The School is nearly 100 miles west of Montgomery, and two miles from the town of Snow Hill, on a branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. It is about 18 miles from Camden, the county seat of Wilcox County" (Snow Hill Institute Catalogs, 1898-1918). Begun as a private boarding school for the advancement of African-Americans, Snow Hill Institute developed into a state-supported public black school. Dates of construction of existing buildings range from the humble beginnings of the Institute to the Alabama State Department of Education's administration to the final demise and closing of the school in 1973. William J. Edwards, a Wilcox County native and graduate of Tuskegee University, founded the Institute in 1893 based on the teachings of Booker T. Washington, Edward's teacher and mentor. Then called the Colored Literary and Industrial School at Snow Hill, the school began instruction with fifty cents and three students in a one-room log shack on the R. O. Simpson Plantation (Edwards, p. 35). With private monies, donations and gifts, Edwards, his supporters, students and local residents increased the Institute's land holdings and constructed necessary educational buildings to provide African American youths instruction in the advancement of their economic and educational status. At its peak, the Snow Hill Institute boasted 27 buildings, a staff of 35 and a student body of over 400.

In 1893, after graduation from Tuskegee Institute, William J. Edwards returned to his home in the Snow Hill Community. He began researching the conditions and availability for education of black children in the area. A current census at the time revealed that the ratio of black to white was 7 to 1 (Snow Hill Catalogs, 1898-1918). However, education possibilities were non-existent. Rural black schools were held in church buildings, with school terms lasting 2-3 months out of the year. Edwards believed this situation to be deplorable, so he began his efforts to provide educational opportunities to the children and young adults of the community.

Edwards began the Colored Literary and Industrial School in a one-room log cabin (nonextant) on the R. O. Simpson Plantation. His first class had three students, and his operating capital was fifty cents. The next year Edwards had constructed a two room training building (nonextant), hired two teacher aides, and increased his student body to 150. On June 15, 1895, two years after Edwards began teaching, the Colored Industrial and Literary Institute was incorporated

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

(Probate Judge's Minutes 26 p. 599). Nine years later, in 1904, the Board of Trustees of the Colored Industrial and Literary Institute, represented by President R. O. Simpson, petitioned the court to change the school's name to Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute (Articles of Incorporation Book A, p. 95)

Mr. Simpson recognized Edward's efforts early in Snow Hill's existence by supporting the school through donations of land and money. His donations began with 7 acres, then 33 acres, and later 60 acres, all totaling 100 acres. Later, the remaining acreage of the plantation was sold to the Institute (Edwards, p. 39). Simpson also served as president of the Board of Trustees for several years. Throughout the history of Snow Hill Institute, a member of the Simpson family has had an appointment on the Board to continue the family interest in the school.

Land acquisition by the Snow Hill Institute began early in the life of the school, beginning with the initial gift by R. O. Simpson of 100 acres. In 1905, 7 acres was purchased for \$185 from S. E. Mathews (Deed Book KK, page 171-72). On February 19, 1906, Snow Hill Institute purchased 12 acres of land for \$1,020 dollars from Rebecca Crook (Deed Book LL, page 16-17). On November 8, 1906, 122 acres was purchased for \$1,449 from Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Holtsclaw (Deed Book LL, page 202). The Holtsclaws were employed by Snow Hill Institute. Mr. Holtsclaw served on the board as treasurer, was on the financial committee, and taught bookkeeping and physics. Mrs. Holtsclaw was the school copyist (Snow Hill Institute Catalogs, 1898-1918).

In 1908, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Simpson sold Snow Hill Institute 3,200 acres of land for \$30,000 (Deed Book MM, page 453-54). The following year, in 1909, Snow Hill Institute sold 1,817 acres back to R. O. Simpson for \$10,000 (Deed Book OO, page 45-46).

An undated map (see enclosed map) drawn by Snow Hill Institute student John W. Robinson, later identified circa 1925 by Alberta Edwards Lee, daughter of founder William J. Edwards, provides a bird's eye view of the campus. Building inventory includes:

various cottages	tailor shop
blacksmith shop	Washington Hall (classrooms, offices)
veteran's work shop	Simpson Hall (boy's dorm)
training building	chapel
laundry	dining hall
girl's dorm	barn and farm
power plant	

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

In 1911, a fire destroyed three campus buildings. Messenger Hall, the dining room and girl's dorm, Simpson Hall, the girl's dormitory, and the commissary building. Immediately, a pamphlet titled SNOW HILL INSTITUTE: A Light in the Black Belt was published by concerned citizens and endorsed by "prominent citizens of Boston, New York and other sections of the Country" in an attempt to encourage donations and support.

In 1928, the State of Alabama purchased 10 acres in the heart of the Snow Hill Institute Campus for the purpose of constructing a county school. Snow Hill Institute conveyed the property to the state for one dollar (Deed Book 3-L, page 289-90). At that time, Wallace Buttrick Hall was constructed on the site of one of the buildings destroyed by fire in 1911, and served as the classroom and office building.

One of William J. Edwards' educational goals was to encourage ownership of property and the improvement of living conditions in an attempt to achieve a higher standard of living. One way of promoting his philosophy was by selling parcels of land owned by Snow Hill Institute to families to develop and farm. Deed records from 1919 to 1944 contain some 42 entries of lands conveyed by Snow Hill Institute to private individuals. Another interesting fact is that Snow Hill Institute held the mortgage for these properties (see continuation sheets 7.10 & 7.11).

Snow Hill Institute operated under the direction of William J. Edwards until 1924, when he retired as principal. Edwards continued to travel promoting the Institute and accepting donations on behalf of the Institute. Snow Hill Institute combined with the State of Alabama in 1925 and continued operation as a segregated public school until a court-ordered desegregation edict forced the school to close in 1973.

In 1980, the National Snow Hill Institute Alumni Association was formed to preserve the legacy of William J. Edwards and to preserve and conserve the buildings and grounds of Snow Hill Institute. Since that time, yearly gatherings have been held. Also that same year, 1980, Consuela Lee, granddaughter of William J. Edwards, returned to Snow Hill and formed the Springtree/Snow Hill Institute for the Performing Arts, which operates out of Wallace Buttrick Hall. The Little Childrens' School, founded in 1981,

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

operates out of the circa 1958 cafeteria building. Area children are taught art, drama, music appreciation and other aspects of fine art and represent the Springtree/Snow Hill Institute for the Performing Arts all over the state and the country. In 1993, Snow Hill Institute held a 100 year anniversary celebration to commemorate the founding of the Institute and to honor the memory of founder William J. Edwards and his influence and impact on the advancement of African Americans in Wilcox County, the State of Alabama and the nation.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

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1. Catalog of the Records of Black Organizations in Alabama, p.73-78.
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3. Lee, Consuela. Grand-daughter of William J. Edwards, founder of Snow Hill Institute. Interview, 15 January 1994.
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10. Wilcox County Deed Book LL, p.202.
11. Wilcox County Deed Book OO, p.45
12. Wilcox County Articles of Incorporation Book A.
13. Wilcox County Deed Books, Miscellaneous WW through 4E.

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Wilcox County, Alabama
Snow Hill Institute

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Snow Hill buildings comprising the proposed National Register historic district are north of County Road 26 and line the east and west sides of Alumni Avenue (which heads north/northwest) for approximately 3000 feet. Beginning at a point approximately 500 feet east of the junction of Alumni Avenue and County Road 26 the boundary heads north/northeast for approximately 3000 feet. It then heads west/northwest for about 750 feet. At this point, the boundary turns and heads south/southwest for roughly 3000 feet until it reaches the north R-O-W of County Road 26. Then the boundary turns east, returning to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although historically the Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute once encompassed several thousand acres, much of this land was utilized as crop land, pasture and forest. Some of this acreage, particularly to the north of the proposed district, underwent residential development in the 1960s and the 1970s. The boundaries proposed for this district take in 50 acres and encompass those buildings that are historically associated with Snow Hill Institute. They are drawn in such a way as to create the greatest ratio of contributing to noncontributing resources.

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Snow Hill Institute
Wilcox County, Alabama

NAME: Snow Hill Institute
ADDRESS: General Delivery, Snow Hill, Alabama 36778
Snow Hill Vicinity
Wilcox County, Alabama
PHOTOGRAPHER: Edward Hooker, III
DATE: June, 1994
NEGATIVES: Alabama Historical Commission

- Photo # 1 Snow Hill Institute, entrance sign
view looking northeast
- Photo # 2 Snow Hill Institute
view looking northeast down main drive
- Photo # 3 Teachers Housing, looking southeast
- Photo # 4 Vocational Center, looking west
- Photo # 5 Wallace Buttrick Hall
view looking northwest
- Photo # 6 Wallace Buttrick Hall
view looking southwest
- Photo # 7 Grave of William J. Edwards
view looking west
- Photo # 8 Cafeteria Building
view looking west
- Photo # 9 Rose Cottage
view looking east
- Photo # 10 Campus Inn
view looking north

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National Park Service

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Snow Hill Institute
Wilcox County, Alabama

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- | | |
|------------|--|
| Photo # 11 | Todd House, Teachers Cottage
view looking northeast |
| Photo # 12 | Snow Hill Institute
view of campus looking west |
| Photo # 13 | Rivers House
view looking northwest |

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National Park Service

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Snow Hill Institute
Wilcox County, Alabama

Campus of Snow Hill Institute



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

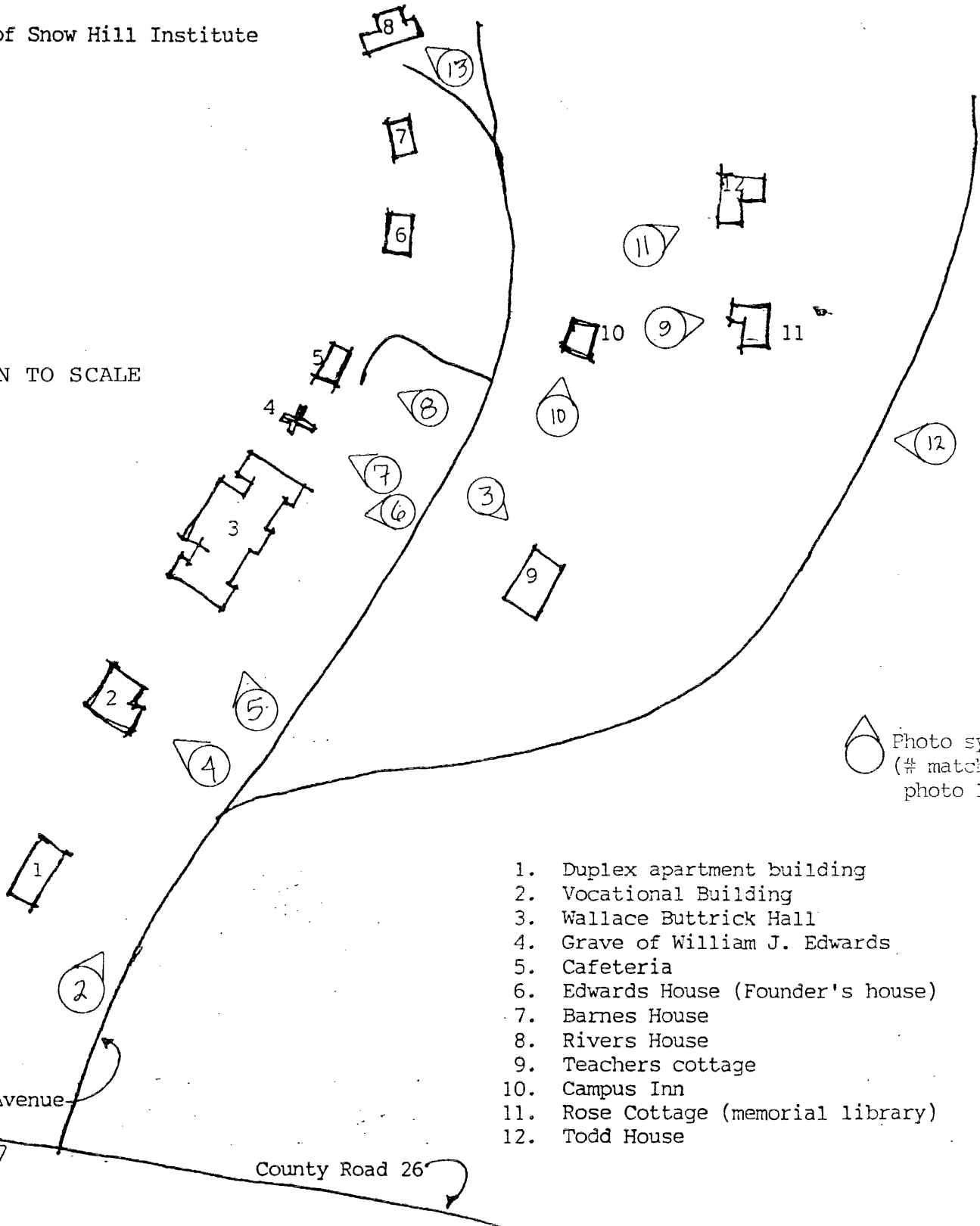


Photo symbol
(# matches
photo list)

- 1. Duplex apartment building
- 2. Vocational Building
- 3. Wallace Buttrick Hall
- 4. Grave of William J. Edwards
- 5. Cafeteria
- 6. Edwards House (Founder's house)
- 7. Barnes House
- 8. Rivers House
- 9. Teachers cottage
- 10. Campus Inn
- 11. Rose Cottage (memorial library)
- 12. Todd House