

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000184

Date Listed: 3/30/89

Salem College Administration Bld.
Property Name

Harrison
County

WV
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

3/30/89
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Two categories have been entered under property category (building and object). Only one should be entered. Rod Collins with the WV SHPO says that building is most appropriate. Also, the property is nominated under Criterion A for its association with education and for its role as the town's social center. Education is listed as an Area of Significance, but nothing is selected to represent its social function. Mr. Collins agrees that entertainment should be listed as an additional Area of Significance. The form is now officially amended to make these two changes.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 13 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Salem College Administration Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 223 West Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Salem N/A vicinity
state WV code WV county Harrison code 033 zip code 26426

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____

Date 2/6/89

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. 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:) _____

Patrick Andrews

3/30/89

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/College

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/College**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls BrickLimestoneroof Asphaltother ConcreteTin

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located at 223 West Main Street, in the town of Salem, Harrison County, West Virginia, the Salem College Administration Building is two-and-one-half story, stone and stretcher-bond brick building with a truncated hipped roof and full basement that provides an example of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture. Interior spaces on the main and basement levels have been maintained and renovated as necessary to provide satisfactory finished space. The second and upper half stories house an auditorium which remains largely unaltered. A later addition projects from the rear of the building, but is obscure and does not affect the overall integrity. Constructed in 1909-1910 as the college's second edifice, it stands today as its oldest existing building. It was called from the beginning the Administration Building, a designation it still holds. Once adjacent to a frame classroom building which burned in 1914 and its brick replacement destroyed in 1976, the Administration Building is the focus of the old campus. It is situated on a landscaped terrace on the north side of West Main Street. Because of its elevation and architectural style, the building is an imposing and integral component of the streetscape of this small Appalachian town.

The building is of brick, laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, on a rusticated stone base comprising an English basement, with stone quoins, string courses, window headers, and embellished stone panels. The windows are vertically accented with large rectangular panes surmounted by smaller square panes. The window frames are balanced and pinned at the mullions, allowing them to tilt when opened.

The south (front) facade consists of an imposing central tower flanked by two symmetrical wings with large, two-story, parapet-gabled wall dormers supported by cantilevered stone brackets. The wings are each three bays wide. The large central tower is cornered by smaller, octagonal towers with asymmetrically placed narrow windows and topped with corbeled crenelations. A platform projects from the ground floor, and is flanked by steps leading to the building's entrance. The entrance is recessed under a large Tudor arch of rusticated stone and consists of a double-leaf door with Tudor arched side lights. The existing doors are not original to the building but are Gothic influenced and therefore do not diminish the historic integrity.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Salem College Administration Building

Two bays of windows are above the entrance and exhibit deep wooden tracery at the mullions. Each bay consists of three large vertical, Tudor-arched panes topped by six smaller Tudor-arched panes. Rising above this configuration is a single bay of three windows topped by three small Tudor-arched windows. This configuration is surrounded by rusticated stone quoins, sill, and flat arch with radiating stone voussoirs forming a label molding. Directly above, a cantilevered section with stone brackets supports a band of crenellations between the two octagonal towers.

A truncated, hipped roof with projecting gables, originally covered with slate, is now of composition shingling. A simple molded tin cornice conceals the gutters. A small, hipped roof cupola on the truncated portion of the main roof houses a Henry N. Hooper bronze bell, cast in Boston, Massachusetts in 1850.

The east and west facades are identical. Both are symmetrical and continue the use of rusticated stone for the English basement, quoins, string courses, and window headers. Windows are arranged in groups of two with main and second floor windows of equal proportions while ones arranged in groups of three, are not original but are in keeping with the buildings character. A parapet gabled, central tower contains a side doorway. A platform extends from the main floor with steps rising to meet it. A flight of steps leading to the basement descends under the platform. A large, bracketed, hipped roof door hood projects over the side entrance. A large bay of Tudor-arched windows is located directly above the door hood. It consists of three arched windows surmounted by six smaller arched windows. This configuration is surrounded by stone quoins, sill, and a flat arch with radiating voussoirs forming a label molding.

The north (rear) facade has symmetrical window placement with windows arranged in groups of two. Two bays of Tudor-arched windows each consists of two large arched windows topped by a series of four small arched windows. Two interior and one exterior chimney, all with stone caps, rise above the roofline from a non-operating, gas-fired boiler system in the basement. Two glass skylights, providing additional light to the classrooms below, are located along the edge of the roof's truncated section. An addition was added to the rear of the building in 1957 to house a library. It is now used for office space. It is constructed of brick covered concrete block walls with steel interior framing and wood joists. Access to the addition from the main floor is provided through doorways original to the building. Therefore,

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3 Salem College Administration Building

no new openings were cut into the original building. While not in keeping with the original character of the building, this addition is recessed from the side facades and is partially obscured by a hillside. Therefore, it does not significantly interfere with the visual integrity.

The Administration Building is basically rectangular in shape. All of the interior structural system is of wood except for a series of steel pipe columns which extend, independent of intermediate floors, to footings under the basement floor slab. The ground floor, renovated in 1982, is of an English basement configuration and contains finished office space for various college departments. Access to the ground floor is by an interior staircase in the east end of the building and by two exterior stairs located under the projecting main floor platforms.

The main floor provides administrative office space for the college and was renovated in 1980. The office rooms on this level open into a central hallway running east to west, which is bisected by a hallway extending to the main entrance. Present arrangement of space consists of five offices and a large reception area in the original section of the building. Inner-offices for college administrators follow original wall systems or have been partitioned. These partitions extend only to the level of the drop ceiling and may be easily removed. The rear addition adds additional work space to this level and has been partitioned to accommodate the needs of the business office.

The second floor is occupied by an auditorium consisting of the main seating area, and two wing rooms. The top, half-story contains balcony seating, four classrooms, and a projection room. Access to the auditorium is by two wood staircases located just inside the east and west entrances. The main seating level has a seating capacity for approximately 450 on a sloping wood floor. This sloping floor provides a semicircular pitch to allow better seat-to-stage viewing. The stage, flanked by two wing rooms, also slopes to its front edge to enhance viewing. A long oak-paneled box along the edge of the stage contains footlights installed sometime after the building was wired for electricity. All door frames and doors leading to the wing rooms and the front facade towers are Tudor-arched. These Tudor-arched doors, along with at least one bay of Tudor-arched windows existing on each exterior wall, and the Tudor-arched stage opening, carry out the Gothic theme on the building's interior as well.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4 Salem College Administration Building

Access to the balcony level is provided by two staircases with solid side railings of oak wainscoting. The balcony is a five-angled projection providing seating for approximately 125 on a stepped wooden floor. The front edge and railing of the balcony are also of oak wainscoting. Two classrooms exist on either side of the balcony along the stage wall. Both of these rooms contain an original skylight. Because these rooms are in the half-story section of the building, ceilings are angled to meet the exterior walls. This angling is also evident in the balcony area. Two additional classrooms separated by a projection room exist along the building's front (south) wall. All doors, including closet doors, on this level are Tudor-arched. Located in the building's central tower, the projection room originally provided additional seating for approximately 25 on a stepped wooden floor. A simple partition erected to enclose this section could easily be removed.

The auditorium was closed circa 1970 due to inadequate fire escapes. It has since been used for storage. Various leaks from the roof have caused damage to the plastered ceilings and isolated sections of flooring. However, this area retains a high level of integrity with its fine oak woodwork, Gothic detailing, and original graining on all doors and window frames.

The Administrative Building stands on a landscaped plot with large maple, oak, and walnut trees, evergreens, and flowering shrubs. Original sidewalk configurations have been maintained. A contributing object known as the Salem College Arch stands in front and to the right of the Administration Building along Main Street. The arch is a gift of the Senior Class of 1930. It is constructed of cement and consists of two large square pillars connected by a keystone arch with "Salem College" spelled out in deep recessed letters. Rising behind and part of the arch, is a flight of cement steps flanked by low cement walls connecting to smaller square pillars. An adjoining sidewalk leads to the Administration Building.

Although most of the building has been in constant use since 1911, and has undergone several minor renovations, it still retains much of its original fabric. Most of the alterations and additions that have occurred are reversible while the auditorium remains largely unchanged. Overall, the Salem College Administration Building retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Education
Architecture

1909-1930

1909
1930

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architects: Holmboe and Lafferty
Builders: Short and Hartley

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Salem College Administration Building, designed by Holmboe and Lafferty in 1905, and constructed by Short and Hartley in 1909, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A because it provides evidence of the growing need for and importance of higher education in North Central West Virginia at the turn-of-the-century. It is also eligible under Criterion A because of its role as a social center in the community. The building's auditorium served the needs of the area high school and numerous civic organizations and provided a means by which various programs could bring culture and entertainment to a rural Appalachian town. The building is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance in the surrounding area. Demonstrating fine craftsmanship and detailing, the Administration Building, constructed in 1909-10, is significant local example of Collegiate Gothic architecture. It survives today as the college's only example of this building style. While the nearby Van Horn Elementary School, constructed in 1921, and various churches in the town are executed in the Gothic style, none can be considered Collegiate Gothic nor can they compare to the Administration Building's proportions and fine detailing.

Salem College was established in 1888 to meet the need for higher education in rural Appalachia. The idea of a college in Salem came as a result of an announcement in 1887 by the Methodist Episcopal Church of its intent to establish a college in a community whose residents showed an interest in supporting a school. Consequently, a committee of fifty men was appointed by the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church in order to promote Salem as a possible site. The choice was narrowed to two towns, Salem and Buckhannon. Buckhannon won five votes to Salem's four mainly because some were concerned that the noise from the nearby Baltimore and Ohio Railroad would distract the students from their studies. The committee from Salem, still determined to have a college, sent a representative to the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey in order to seek financial assistance. The result was a gift of \$3,000.00, which was used to establish the Salem Academy, a forerunner of Salem College.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bond, Sirus Orestes The Light of the Hills: A History of Salem College. Charleston: Education Foundation, Inc., 1960.
- . Salem College: Its Past, Present, and Future., 1924 Booklet, available from: Salem College Archives, Benedum Library, Salem, WV.
- Dirigo - Salem College Yearbook, 1938, available from: Benedum Library, Salem College, Salem, WV.
- Preliminary Inspection Report, Main Building, Salem College, June 30, 1977. Available from: President's Office, Salem College, Salem, WV.
- Record of Salem College Activities, 1904 - 1956, available from Salem College Archives, Benedum Library, Salem, WV.
- Smith, Myron J., Jr. 100 Years of Opportunity: A Pictorial History of Salem College. Rough draft - to be published in 1988. Available from Myron J. Smith Jr., Head Librarian, Salem College, Salem, WV.
- Smith, Myron J., Jr. "Tones that Touch and Search": The Greenmanville Church Bell and Salem College. Article available from: Myron J. Smith Jr., Head Librarian, Salem College, Salem, WV.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Specify repository:

Salem College, WV

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.33 Acres

UTM References

A 17 537320 4348120
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Salem College Administration Building is shown by the hatching on the accompanying tax map (27-30). The property incorporates that portion of lot 31 indicated by the hatching.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn to include the Administration Building, historic landscape, and the contributing Salem College Arch. The property is bordered on the south by West Main Street, on the north by High Street, on the east by Pennsylvania Avenue and on the west by the property line shown on the accompanying tax map (27-30) between #31 and lot #32.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy G. Zinn date December 4, 1987

organization Center for Historic Preservation telephone (615) 898-2947

street & number P.O. Box 80, MTSU state TN zip code 37132

city or town Murfreesboro

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Salem College Administration Building

During its first year, classes were held in the town's public school building. The following year, the college constructed a two-story frame building containing six classrooms and an auditorium. As the institution continued to grow, the need for additional space became obvious. On February 23, 1904, a building committee was appointed "to devise means by which a building fund may be started." In 1905, Holmboe and Lafferty, a local architectural firm from Clarksburg, West Virginia was engaged to prepare plans for the new building. The plans, however, were not accepted until April, 1906. After three years of fund raising,

"the contract for the second Salem College building was let with Short and Hartley of Shinnston [West Virginia] on February 23, 1901 in consideration of \$21,445.00 exclusive of heating equipment."

Construction began and the cornerstone laying ceremony was held in March, 1909. The new building, adjacent to the original building, was completed in 1910. As noted by S. Orestis Bond, past president of the college:

"The contrast between the two [buildings] clearly showed the progress that had been made in the thinking of the people and in their prosperity during the intervening twenty years."

From the time the building opened in 1911 until approximately 1970 when its auditorium closed, the facility served the needs of the college and community as well. Various college and civic organizations sponsored activities in the auditorium. From college commencements to community talent shows, the auditorium helped to provide entertainment for students and townspeople alike. Recitals, plays, and lectures helped to bring cultural refinement to a culturally deprived, rural Appalachian community. It was also used by Salem's Junior and Senior High School for the presentation of class plays. Thus the building served as a social gathering place for the community and fulfilled its educational function as well.

The Salem College Administration Building is also eligible under Criterion C because it provides a significant example of Collegiate Gothic architecture. This style was no doubt selected to give a sense of permanence and stability to a newly established educational institution. Its fine

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3 Salem College Administration Building

detailing, including Tudor-arched windows and doors, octagon-shaped towers, stone quoins, string courses, and window headers, are all executed with craftsmanship of exceptional quality. Quoins and towers accent its verticality while string courses and window placement accent the horizontality of the building. Few changes to the building's exterior and the interior's high content of original fabric provide the building with a significant level of historic integrity.

A contributing object, located on the property, is the Salem College Arch. This large concrete arch, a gift of the Senior Class of 1930, adds to the visual integrity of the landscape.

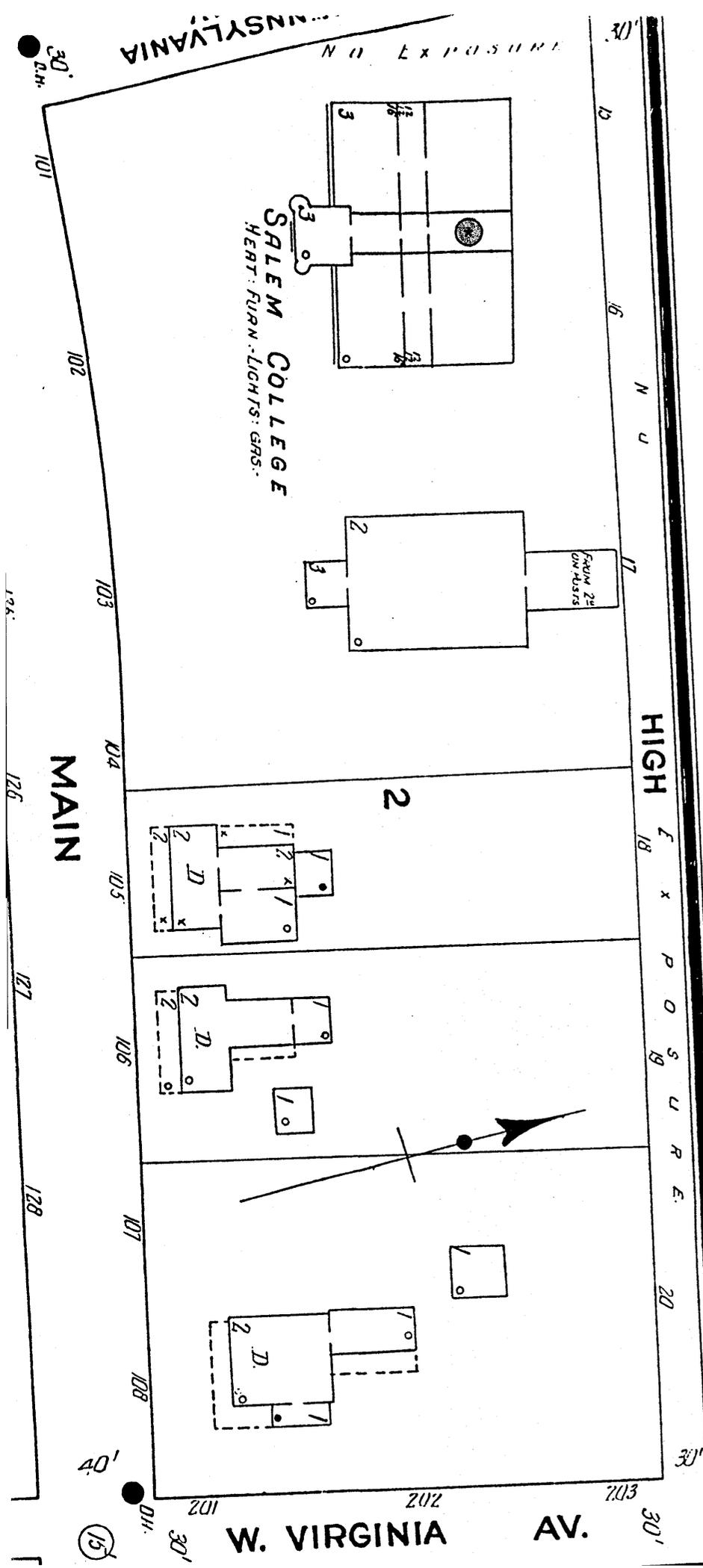
For its associations with higher education in North Central West Virginia during the early twentieth century, for its function in the community as a social gathering place, and for its architectural significance as a fine example of Collegiate Gothic architecture, the Salem College Administration Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

ENDNOTES

Dorothy Davis, History of Harrison County. Clarksburg, WV: American Association of University Women, 1970, p. 657-659.

Myron J. Smith, Jr., 100 Years of Opportunity: A Pictorial History of Salem College 1888-1988.

S. Orestes Bond, The Light of the Hills: A History of Salem College. Charleston, WV: Education Foundation, Inc., 1960, p. 265.



 Salem College
 Administration Building

Sanborn Map of Salem for the
Exclusive Use of Standard
Fidelity Company Agents.
 Sanborn Map Company: New
 York, 1913

