

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old East; East Building

AND/OR COMMON

Old East

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Cameron Avenue, campus of the
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CITY, TOWN

Chapel Hill

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

135

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

STREET & NUMBER

Office of the President, South Building

CITY, TOWN

Chapel Hill

___ VICINITY OF 27514

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Available descriptions apply to portion of the University campus
and do not provide specific information relating to Old East

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE North Carolina Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE

in progress

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Section

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

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

Old East stands on the north side of Cameron Avenue just west of Alumni Place at the heart of the original campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Just west of the building is the Old Well, the original source of water for the university, covered in 1897 with a temple-style structure of eight Doric columns supporting a low dome. With the neighboring South Building (begun 1800) and Old West (1822-24), Old East defines the lower end of the university's present northern quadrangle, a tree-dotted open space known as McCorkle Place.

Designed by James Patterson and built by Samuel Hopkins, Old East was begun in October, 1793, and completed in January, 1795. Constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, the building was two stories high and ten bays long (approximately 96 by 40 feet) with a gabled tin roof. Entrances were located in the third and eighth bays on the long front and rear (east and west) facades. In 1822-24, William Nichols, North Carolina's state architect, raised the building one story to match the three-story West Building (now Old West) which he was then constructing.

New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis made further changes in Old East in 1844-45. He extended the building five bays at its northern end, created a new northern facade with three-story pilasters flanking a center entrance, and added a bracketed cornice typical of his work in the Italianate style. The brick of both the addition and the 1822 story is laid in common bond. Davis also added one-story porches on the eastern facade of the building covering the original entrances and a window in the center of the five bay addition; the center porch is three bays wide, those flanking it one bay.

Old East was condemned as unsafe in 1922 when it was discovered that some of the building's walls had bowed as much as three inches. By 1925 the firm of Atwood and Nash had installed a fireproof concrete frame in the building and it was put back in active use. The eastern porches were restored at the same time but no significant alterations in the exterior lines of the building were made.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 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 1795; 1822-24; 1844-45 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Patterson; William Nichols; Alexander Jackson Davis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old East is the first state university building constructed in the United States. Dedicated in 1795, it was the original home and for many years the entire physical plant of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the first state university in the nation to open its doors to students.

When completed Old East was a simple brick building, two stories high and ten bays long with a gabled roof. During the 19th century the building was raised one story, lengthened five bays, and given Italianate detailing designed by noted architect Alexander Jackson Davis. Necessary repairs were made to the frame of the building in 1922-24 but its exterior lines were not altered. Now in good condition, Old East is still in active use as a freshman dormitory; the building is not open to the public.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Revolutionary era witnessed both a growing interest in higher education and a broader acceptance of education as a public responsibility. The result was the development of a new concept in American education--the state university. The first state university to be chartered in the United States was the University of Georgia (1785), but the first to open its doors to students was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In accordance with Article 41 of the State constitution of 1776, the University of North Carolina was chartered by an act of the State legislature on December 11, 1789. Ten days later a companion act was passed providing for the construction of academic buildings and for support of the university through escheats and arrearages due the state. After an initial State donation, however, the university was maintained with difficulty through private donations until 1881 when the legislature began making annual appropriations for it.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	6 7 5 8 9 0	3 9 7 5 7 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the National Historic Landmark designation for Old East are the foundation lines of the building including the porches.

(Note: Old East also lies within the boundaries of the Chapel Hill Historic District nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Frank B. Sarles Jr., Historian, 9/16/60

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service</u>	<u>6/6/75</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>1100 L Street NW.</u>	<u>202-523-5464</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Washington</u>	<u>D.C. 20240</u>

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: [Signature] DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) DATE 2/15/77

Landmark Designated: Dec 21, 1965
 Boundary Certified: 2/15/77
Dorise Fleming

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The site chosen for the new university was New Hope Chapel Hill, named for the nearby Anglican New Hope Chapel. The cornerstone of the first building, now known as Old East, was laid in October, 1793, by William R. Davie, who had played a major role in the enactment of the legislation providing for establishment of the university. Designed by James Patterson and built by Samuel Hopkins, the building was dedicated in January, 1795. The first student, Hinton James, arrived four weeks later. James constituted the entire student body for another two weeks, but by the end of the first term enrollment had reached forty-one, with a faculty of two professors.

The university was administered by a "presiding professor" until 1804 when Joseph Caldwell was appointed its president. Under his direction (1804-1812; 1817-1835), the university developed from a small classical school to a creditable liberal arts college. By 1835 it was widely known as a center of sound scholarship, a reputation which has grown with succeeding years.

Old East grew with the university during the first half of the 19th century. In 1822-24 William Nichols, North Carolina's state architect, added a story to the original building. Further changes were made in 1844-45 by Alexander Jackson Davis, whose New York firm had recently completed the North Carolina State Capitol. Davis extended the building five bays at its northern end, constructed the one-story porches along its eastern (front) facade, and added a bracketed cornice at the eaves. Davis's work on Old East led to contracts for other university projects, among them the design of the Playmakers Theatre (1851, originally called Smith Hall).

The University of North Carolina remained in operation during the Civil War though it graduated only four students in 1864. Three years later, however, the rigors of reconstruction led to its closing. The university was re-opened in 1875 and has continued in operation since that date. Its physical plant now consists of some 70 major buildings on a 600-acre campus. Old East remains in active use as a freshman dormitory. Though necessary repairs were made to the interior framework of the building in 1922-24, no significant change has been made in its exterior lines since the period of Davis's work.

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