

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name East Spencer Graded School
other names/site number East Spencer School, North Rowan Junior High School

2. Location

street & number 110 South Long Street N/A not for publication
city or town East Spencer N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Rowan code 159 zip code 28039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Heaven Cherry, SHPO 11/28/2017
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Joe [Signature] 1-25-2018
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

- X 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.
X 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or 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
Architecture

Period of Significance

1909-1967

Significant Dates

1909

1913

1921

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hook, Charles C., architect, 1921 school

Abbott, I. C., and Son, builders, 1921 school

Yoe, Thomas H., Northup and O'Brien, architects, 1937 addition

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

East Spencer Graded School

Name of Property

Rowan County, NC

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.35 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

See Latitude/Longitude coordinates continuation sheet

1	Zone	Easting	Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

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 Heather Fearnbach
 organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 4/23/2017
 street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-765-2661
 city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of East Spencer, Barbara Mallett, mayor
 street & number 105 South Long Street telephone 704-636-7111
 city or town East Spencer state NC zip code 28039

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Section 7. Narrative Description

Setting

East Spencer Graded School occupies a prominent location on South Long Street's south side at its intersection with Weant Street near the town's center. The buildings are rotated approximately thirty degrees west of true cardinal direction alignment. However, for the purposes of this document the following description is written as if they have true north-south orientation.

The nearly flat 4.35-acre tract contains a vacant educational complex comprising two schools, a garage, a utility building, an expansive front lawn, parking lots, and a large athletic field. The first school erected on the site is a one-story edifice completed in 1909 and expanded with a 1913 rear addition and mid-twentieth-century locker rooms. The building is not visible from South Long Street as it stands south of its replacement: a two-story-on-basement 1921 school enlarged in 1937.

Deciduous and evergreen shrubs have been planted in beds adjacent to the 1921/1937 school's façade and the 1921 auditorium's west elevation. A grass lawn fills the space between the 1921/1937 school and the tree-lined concrete municipal sidewalk along South Long Street. A north-south concrete sidewalk bisects the lawn and intersects the east-west concrete sidewalk that extends from the main entrance to the asphalt-paved parking lot west of the school. A gravel parking lot occupies the parcel's northwest corner. In the lawn east of the parking lot, a sign mounted on a brick and concrete base with a stepped and segmental arched top indicates the property's most recent function as the Rowan-Salisbury Schools Administrative Building. A tall metal flagpole rises south of the sign.

A long, flat-roofed, wood canopy supported by round steel posts shelters the asphalt-paved walkway that spans the distance between entrances on the west elevations of the 1921 auditorium and the 1909 school. A tall chain-link fence secures the courtyard between the two schools. Within the courtyard, concrete sidewalks connect the buildings. Straight concrete handicap ramps with metal-pipe railings provide access to entrances on the 1937 addition's east elevation and the 1909/1913 school's north elevation. A gable-roofed, frame, late-twentieth-century garage stands just north of the mid-twentieth-century locker room addition on the 1913 addition's east end. A one-story, flat-roofed, brick, late-twentieth-century utility building is northeast of the garage.

A tall chain-link fence with double-leaf chain-link gates encloses the parking lots and athletic field south of the 1909/1913 school. The fence's south and east sections are overgrown with vegetation and bordered by deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs on adjacent tax parcels.

East Spencer Graded School's tax parcel is bounded by South Long Street to the north, Weant Street to the west, and the rear lot lines of modest houses facing Weant and East Henderson streets to the south

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and east. The area immediately surrounding the school is primarily characterized by early- to mid-twentieth-century residential development. However, a few commercial and institutional buildings flank South Long Street. The one-story, flat-roofed, 1983 East Spencer municipal building stands directly opposite the school on the east side of the one-story, side-gable-roofed, metal-clad 1989 fire station and the one-story, hip-roofed, brick, 1985 U. S. Post Office. The Town of East Spencer Housing Authority occupies the one-story, frame, early-twentieth-century house at South Long and Weant streets' southwest corner.

East Spencer Graded School, 1909, 1913, mid-twentieth century, contributing building

Exterior

The one-story, cross-hip-roofed, 1909 school faces west toward Weant Street. The T-shaped footprint initially contained three classrooms: two twelve-by-fourteen-foot north rooms and a fourteen-by-sixteen-foot wing that extended from the east elevation's center. A tall pyramidal-roofed brick tower surmounted the entrance. The rear wing was widened and lengthened in 1913. A portion of the 1909 wing's north wall was incorporated into the 1913 addition's north wall, which retains its original offset from the main block. The east and south 1909 walls were demolished. The addition's south wall was erected several feet south of the 1909 wall's location in the same plane as the main block's south elevation. Mid-twentieth-century modifications include the construction of a shed-roofed brick locker room addition at the 1909/1913 school's east end and a frame entrance vestibule on its north elevation.

The execution of the 1909 and 1913 sections is almost identical: six-to-one common bond red brick walls and window openings with two-header-course segmental-arched lintels and slightly projecting sills with an upper header course and a lower stretcher course. Some of the 1909 school's header courses are punctuated with darker brick. The 1913 brick is lighter red. A single-course water table wraps around the building. A few original double-hung six-over-six wood sash and three-pane transoms are intact and have been exposed. Most windows remain encapsulated within interior and exterior plywood panels. Air-conditioning units have been mounted in the upper sections of several window openings.

A three-bay-wide and three-bay-deep hip-roofed room extends from the west elevation's center. Three original windows with wood-frame screens remain on the room's west wall. Beneath the central window, a small, flat-roofed, brick vestibule shelters the entrance to a basement utility room. The single-leaf door is at a lower grade than the parking lot. The basement vestibule originally had a front-gable roof and was at the same elevation as the adjacent lawn.

Mid-twentieth-century concrete steps with metal-pipe railings lead to the brick entrance vestibules that flank the west room. Wood steps with simple board railings originally provided access. Each

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vestibule has a wide, round-arched door opening on its west elevation and a segmental-arched window opening on its outer wall. The four-over-four double-hung sash in those openings have been enclosed with plywood. The entrances encompass single-leaf steel replacement doors and original four-pane wood transoms. Poured concrete replaced the original wood floors. The south vestibule retains a low hip roof. The north vestibule's shed roof was lengthened to intersect the west room's roof when the entrance tower was removed. A long, flat-roofed, wood canopy supported by round steel posts extends from the west vestibule to entrances on the auditorium's west elevation.

Six segmental-arched window openings punctuate the 1909 school's south elevation: two in the projecting west room, a smaller one in the entrance vestibule, and three large openings in the main block. Above the main block's easternmost bay, asphalt shingles sheathe a blind dormer beneath the 1913 addition's eave. The 1913 addition initially encompassed seven bays, but the west two windows were replaced in the late twentieth century with a roll-up corrugated-metal loading dock door. Concrete steps with metal-pipe railings provide access to the single-leaf replacement door east of the loading dock. All 1909/1913 windows and transoms are enclosed with plywood. Four high, horizontal, rectangular, single-pane, fixed replacement windows pierce the mid-twentieth-century locker room addition's south wall. A short T-shaped section of vinyl fencing mounted on the roof's southeast corner protects it from errant balls hit out of the athletic field to the south.

Frame and plexiglass canopies shelter two single-leaf replacement doors on the locker room's east elevation. To the west, on the 1909 school's east elevation, the single segmental-arched window opening is intact. HVAC equipment has been installed on a poured concrete pad and metal ductwork mounted on the wall north of the opening.

At the north elevation's east end, four high, horizontal, rectangular, six-pane, wood sash light the locker rooms. The 1909/1913 north wall contains six segmental-arched window openings and a single-leaf entrance. HVAC equipment rests on a poured concrete pad in front of the second window from the east end. Metal ductwork fills the window opening. The fourth window has been enclosed with brick. A frame, front-gable-roofed, mid-twentieth-century entrance vestibule with exposed rafter ends projects from the fifth bay. The vestibule retains original horizontal-drop wood siding. A concrete handicap ramp with a metal-pipe railing leads to the wide single-leaf entrance beneath a frame shed canopy. A shed-roofed storage room extends from the vestibule's east side. A short double-hung replacement window and plywood fill the opening west of the vestibule. The six segmental-arched window openings on the 1909 school's north elevation mirror those on the south elevation: three in the main block, one in the entrance vestibule, and two in the projecting west room.

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Interior

The interior plan is substantially intact. The 1909 main block contains two classrooms. In conjunction with the complex's 1974 conversion to school system offices, frame partition walls were erected to create two offices and a conference room adjacent to the south classroom's south and east walls and an office in the north classroom's southeast corner. The projecting west room is flanked by two entrance vestibules and two small rooms. The southwest room has been converted into a restroom. Narrow hardwood floors, plaster walls, and molded wood door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks remain. Commercial-grade carpeting and a dropped-acoustical-tile ceiling with fluorescent light panels have been installed.

The rear wing's open plan facilitated its use as a gymnasium after the 1921 school's construction. Partial-height frame partition walls were erected in 1974 to create low-ceilinged offices, storage rooms, and restrooms. Commercial-grade carpeting covers much of the wood floor. Dropped acoustical tiles with fluorescent light panels obscure the original ceiling. HVAC ductwork also hangs from the ceiling. Surface-mounted conduit houses wiring.

The locker rooms have painted brick and concrete-block walls, concrete floors, and dropped-acoustical-tile ceilings. The locker room floor is at a lower elevation than the gymnasium, requiring two formed-concrete steps to ameliorate the change in grade. Single-leaf, five-horizontal-panel, wood doors remain in the locker room entrances on the gymnasium's east elevation.

East Spencer Graded School, 1921, 1937, contributing building

Exterior

The 1921/1937 building's evolution is clear on the exterior. The T-shaped, flat-roofed, two-story-on-basement, Classical Revival-style 1921 school, which comprises a north classroom block and a rear auditorium, is west of the six-classroom 1937 addition. A small, one-story, almost flat-roofed, late-twentieth-century brick addition projects from the west elevation.

Red brick running bond walls, bands of tall windows, a painted wood cornice, and a cast-stone water table, window sills, and coping characterize the 1921/1937 building. The cornice encompasses a molded wood architrave, a brick frieze, a projecting molded wood upper section, and open triangular pediments on the 1921 façade's end bays. The 1921 school's symmetrical five-bay façade features a crenellated and arched parapet spanning the central bay and slightly projecting end bays with pointed parapets. Brick pilasters flank the central bay's main entrance and paired second-story window, three tall narrow window openings on both stories of each end bay, and bands of six windows on both levels of the intermediary bays. Cast-stone rectangular panels are mounted on the brick cornice frieze above

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each pilaster. A tall cast-stone water table encircles the building and cast-stone coping caps the parapet. The cornerstone in the east bay identifies architect Charles Christian Hook and builder I. C. Abbott and Sons on its east face and mayor G. W. Isenhour, town clerk E. W. Staton, Masonic Grand Master J. Bailey Owen, and the school board on its north face.¹

Soldier-course brick lintels top the first-story window and door openings, while the cornice architrave surmounts the second-story windows. Cast-stone corner blocks embellish the 1921 building's first-story classroom window openings. All windows have slightly projecting cast-stone sills. On the 1921 building, the sills are a continuous string course on the first story and individually articulated on the second story. The paired second-story window opening above the central entrance features a sill with corner blocks. The narrow windows light stair towers. The 1937 addition's north elevation contains two bays of six windows that illuminate two classrooms on each level. Tall six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash originally lit the interior, but the school system replaced them in 1974 with double-hung, one-over-one, vinyl sash and fixed transoms that fill the original openings. Air conditioning units have been installed in many window openings.

A Classical Revival-style surround with brick pilasters, a wood cornice, and an open triangular pediment ornaments the main entrance. The cornice frieze is a wood panel with molded edges. The original door—double-leaf with a paneled base and multipane upper section surrounded by multi-pane sidelights and a multipane transom—was replaced with a recessed double-leaf aluminum-frame door, sidelights, and transom. Concrete steps and a straight concrete handicap ramp with metal-pipe railings lead to the entrance. The ramp rises on the landings east side. In the north elevation's west bay, a single-leaf, five-horizontal-panel, wood door and a single concrete step allow basement access.

On the 1921 school's west elevation, brick pilasters frame the main block's three bays beneath a pointed parapet punctuated with a central diamond-shaped cast-stone medallion. Two wide outer bays contain full-height rectangular brick panels bordered with header courses and cast-stone upper corner blocks. In the central bay, cast-stone corner blocks top each vertical course and flank the soldier-course lintels above the recessed entrance vestibule and the second-story paired replacement windows. A header course with cast-stone corner blocks frames the rectangular panel between the vestibule and window. The vestibule shelters two double-leaf wood doors with two-vertical-panel bases and six-pane upper sections. A three-pane transom surmounts the central east-west corridor. A second door leads to the west stair tower. Three-header-course segmental-arched lintels top both doors. The concrete entrance floor extends to a concrete landing and a straight run of concrete steps with metal-pipe railings. On the landing's south side, a one-story, almost flat-roofed, late-twentieth-century, brick addition comprises an upper-level restroom and a lower level utility room, both with single-leaf steel doors. A one-over-one window on each of the west and south elevations light the restrooms.

¹ The 1921 school board comprised chairman C. A. Sides and L. S. Cotter, W. P. Harrison, W. J. Hatley, A. L. Nash, J. D. Swaringen, and C. J. Walton.

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The hip-roofed auditorium is distinguished by a brick belt course beneath the windows and a four-course brick water table, both of which project slightly beyond the wall plane. The three-bay west elevation contains two entrances. The double-leaf steel door in the central bay replaced a double-leaf wood door with three-horizontal-panel bases and four-pane upper sections. The fifteen-pane transom has been removed and the opening covered with plywood. A tall six-pane transom topped the matching single-leaf door in the south bay. A single-pane transom has been installed in that opening and the door covered with plywood. Straight runs of concrete steps with metal-pipe railings lead to both entrances, replacing wood steps with flat-board railings. Three-header-course segmental-arched lintels surmount both doors. In the north bay, a straight-slope aluminum awning is mounted above a pair of replacement windows. Tall, paired, six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash initially filled this opening. The two horizontal rectangular upper-level window openings in the north and central bays also have three-header-course segmental-arched lintels. A pair of square four-pane sash filled each opening, both of which have been enclosed with plywood.

A long, flat-roofed, wood canopy supported by round steel posts extends from the central entrance and turns south to shelter the asphalt-paved walkway that spans the distance between entrances on the west elevations of the auditorium and the 1909 school. The canopy's north and south sections are taller and have louvered panels in the west ends.

The tall replacement vinyl sash on the 1921/1937 school's south elevation match those on the north elevation. The 1921 section's west bay contains two bands of six windows that light first- and second-story classrooms and a pair of horizontal rectangular basement windows. A fixed sash fills the west opening; a wood louvered vent the east opening. Vinyl siding covers the second-story window's brick lintel.

The auditorium extends from the center of the 1921 school's main block. The three-bay south elevation comprises two tall widely-spaced window openings covered with plywood and, in the east bay, a double-leaf wood door with two-vertical-panel bases and six-pane upper sections. Concrete-block steps lead to the entrance.

East of the auditorium, the 1921/1937 south elevation contains three bays of six windows that illuminate two classrooms on each level. Paired windows light the restrooms in the second bay from the east end as well as the stair tower that occupies the building's southeast corner. The transition between the 1921 school and the 1937 addition is seamless. The brick bond and color, cast-stone accents, and cornice match the 1921 building. The parapet is flat.

The auditorium's three-bay east elevation is similar to its west elevation. However, the double-leaf steel door at the east elevation's center is at grade. The transom has been covered with plywood and a

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bracketed frame shed-roofed canopy installed above the door. A double-hung, one-over-one, vinyl sash and fixed transom fill the single south window opening. In the north bay, a straight-slope aluminum awning shelters a pair of matching replacement windows. Soldier-course lintels top this opening and the door, while the south opening and the two horizontal rectangular upper-level window openings in the north and central bays have three-header-course segmental-arched lintels.

On the 1937 addition's east elevation, a straight concrete handicap ramp with a metal-pipe railing rises from south to north, providing access to the entrance. The double-leaf wood door with three-horizontal-panel bases and four-pane upper sections opens into a vestibule adjacent to the stair tower. The transom has been enclosed with plywood and a frame canopy installed above the door. A pair of double-hung, one-over-one, vinyl sash and fixed transoms above the entrance illuminate the second-floor vestibule. The north and south bays are blind.

Interior

The interior has a double-loaded corridor plan. Entrance vestibules at the center of the north, east, and west elevations provide access to the east-west corridors. On the 1921 school's first floor, four classrooms flank the north entrance vestibule and the auditorium that extends to the south. The second-floor plan is identical with the exception of the room above the north entrance vestibule, which may have initially been a library but later functioned as an office. The auditorium is accessible from both levels. The 1937 addition encompasses three classrooms and a restroom on each floor. Although frame office partition walls were erected within each classroom in conjunction with the 1974 conversion to school system offices, original corridor and closet door openings are intact. A series of storage rooms fill the basement.

Narrow hardwood floors, plaster-on-wood-lath walls and ceilings, tall baseboards, molded chair rails, and simple wood door and window surrounds characterize primary spaces throughout the 1921/1937 building. Some classrooms retain six-horizontal-panel doors with two-light transoms, wood-frame blackboards, built-in cabinets, and long, narrow coat and storage closets. The 1937 addition also features vertical-board wainscoting capped with a molded chair rail. At both ends of the wide east-west corridors, three-pane transoms and double-leaf wood doors with three horizontal panels below four-pane upper sections allow light to penetrate the hall. The doors on the 1921 school's east elevation were removed to facilitate access between the buildings, but six-pane transoms remain above the openings.

Many classroom walls and newly erected frame office partition walls were sheathed with faux wood paneling during the 1974 remodeling. In some classrooms and corridors, Celotex acoustical tiles obscure the original plaster ceilings and commercial-grade carpeting covers the wood floors. A few single-leaf, six-horizontal-panel, wood doors remain at coat closet entrances, but classroom corridor

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doors have been replaced with hollow-core doors. Electric fans and fluorescent lighting hang from most ceilings. Surface-mounted conduit houses wiring. Radiators heat the building and late-twentieth-century window units supply air conditioning. The Town of East Spencer began reversing some of the modifications in 2016, revealing the original finishes.

The school system renovated the auditorium and removed the original seating in order to use the space as a meeting room, but the open plan and balcony are intact. The walls and ceilings are plaster. The floor initially sloped down to the stage, providing good vantage points throughout the room. However, a level commercial-grade-carpet-covered floor has been installed. Faux wood and plywood panels sheathe the walls, the balcony railing, and the stage's wide proscenium opening. Velvet curtains and a large projection screen hang at the rear of the stage. Two small rooms flank the stage, accessible both from stage level and the base of the stairwells that provide access to exterior doors on the auditorium's east and west elevations. Although the balcony seating has been removed, narrow-board covered tiers remain.

In the 1937 addition's southeast corner, multi-stall restrooms on each level were updated in the mid-twentieth-century. Both have square terra-cotta floor tiles, square glazed ceramic tile wainscoting, grey and white marble partition walls, wood stall doors, and porcelain sinks and lavatories.

Steel and concrete staircases with slender square balusters, molded handrails, and square newel posts facilitate access between floors in the stair towers at the building's northwest and southeast corners. A narrow stair at the 1921 building's northeast corner connects the basement and first story. The winding circa 1970s wood steps have slender square balusters treads, flat-board handrails, square newel posts, and vinyl-composition-tile-covered landings.

Basement finishes include poured-concrete and vinyl-composition-tile floors and painted brick walls. The first floor's wood joists and diagonal-board subfloor are exposed. Fluorescent lighting and surface-mounted conduit has been installed.

Garage, late twentieth century, Noncontributing Building

Within the courtyard, between the 1909/1913 and 1921/1937 buildings, a gable-roofed, T-111-sided, frame garage stands just north of the mid-twentieth-century locker room addition on the 1909/1913 building's east end. A roll-up garage door fills most of the north wall. A single-leaf door and a small window pierce the east elevation. The west and south elevations are blind.

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Utility Building, late twentieth century, Noncontributing Building

A one-story, flat-roofed, red running-bond brick utility building is northeast of the garage. Metal coping caps the parapet. The west elevation contains a double-leaf steel door. The remaining elevations are blind.

Integrity Statement

East Spencer Graded School's integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship contribute to its local significance under Criteria A and C. The 1903/1913 and 1921/1937 buildings display character-defining features of early-twentieth-century institutional architecture. The 1909/1913 school has by six-to-one common bond red brick walls and window openings with two-header-course segmental-arched lintels and slightly projecting two-course sills. Some original double-hung six-over-six wood sash and three-pane transoms remain. Wide, round-arched door openings ornament the two west entrance vestibules. Narrow hardwood floors, plaster walls, and molded wood door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks distinguish the interior.

The T-shaped, flat-roofed, two-story-on-basement, Classical Revival-style, 1921 building represents a common consolidated school plan, with a north classroom block and a rear auditorium. Red brick running bond walls, bands of tall windows, a painted wood cornice, and a cast-stone water table, window sills, and coping characterize the 1921 school as well as the 1937 addition. The 1921 school's symmetrical five-bay façade features a central crenellated and arched parapet and slightly projecting end bays with pointed parapets. Brick pilasters flank the entrance and window bays. The double-loaded corridor plan is intact. Although the auditorium has been renovated and the original seating removed, the open plan and balcony remain. Original window and door surrounds, transoms, plaster walls, hardwood floors, cabinets, bookshelves, blackboards, stairs, and a few doors are in good condition, albeit in some cases obscured by reversible 1974 renovations.

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Section 8. Statement of Significance

East Spencer Graded School is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A due to its local educational significance. The only public school for the town's white youth operated on the site from around 1900 until desegregation in 1969. The 1909 building initially served white students from first grade through high school. However, following North Rowan High School's 1958 completion, East Spencer Graded School housed only first- through eighth-grade classes. In conjunction with the Rowan County school system's campus integration in 1969, East Spencer's white and African American first- through fourth-grade children were assigned to North Rowan Primary School in Spencer. Fifth and sixth graders attended North Rowan Grammar School at the former Dunbar School in East Spencer, originally an African American campus. East Spencer School became North Rowan Junior High School for seventh and eighth grades. In fall 1974, fifth- through eighth-grades were consolidated into North Rowan Middle School, occupying what had been North Rowan Grammar School. The former East Spencer School functioned as Rowan County school system offices from 1974 until 2016.

East Spencer Graded School also meets Criterion C for architecture at the local level, as the 1903/1913 and 1921/1937 buildings are intact and increasingly rare examples of early-twentieth-century institutional architecture in Rowan County. The one-story 1909/1913 school features six-to-one common bond red brick walls and window openings with two-header-course segmental-arched lintels and slightly projecting two-course sills. Some original double-hung six-over-six wood-sash windows and three-pane transoms remain. Wide, round-arched door openings ornament the two west entrance vestibules. Narrow hardwood floors, plaster walls, and molded wood door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks distinguish the interior. The T-shaped, flat-roofed, two-story-on-basement, Classical Revival-style, 1921 building represents a common consolidated school plan, with a north classroom block and a rear auditorium. Red brick running bond walls, bands of tall windows, a painted wood cornice, and a cast-stone water table, window sills, and coping characterize the 1921 school as well as the 1937 addition. The 1921 school's symmetrical five-bay façade features a central crenellated and arched parapet and slightly projecting end bays with pointed parapets. Brick pilasters flank the entrance and window bays. The double-loaded corridor plan is intact and the auditorium remains open. Original window and door surrounds, transoms, plaster walls, hardwood floors, cabinets, bookshelves, blackboards, stairs, and a few doors are in good condition. The period of significance begins with the 1909 school's construction and continues to 1967. The property's function and physical expansion after 1967 are not of exceptional significance.

Historical Background and Education Context

Rowan County children were afforded limited educational opportunities before the Civil War. Forty-seven public schools had been erected throughout the county by 1857, but terms were short and

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buildings small and insufficiently equipped. The situation remained similar through Reconstruction's early years as underfunded schools struggled to remain open. Private academies provided more comprehensive courses of study, but charged tuition that was cost-prohibitive for the average family.² After North Carolina legislators mandated the creation of county boards of education in 1885, public schools were more uniformly operated. Rowan County's board appointed committeemen to oversee seventy-one school districts in thirteen townships.³

Development northeast of Salisbury, the county seat, accelerated in March 1896 when Southern Railway Company began erecting a regional train repair shop halfway between Atlanta and Washington, D. C. Salisbury attorney, legislator, and real estate speculator John S. Henderson orchestrated the acquisition of the Rowan County property. A thriving community soon surrounded the repair facility. Spencer, named in Southern Railway president Samuel Spencer's honor, was not a company town, but Southern Railway's impact as an employer, taxpayer, and benefactor was enormous.⁴

Rowan County's population increased from 24,123 in 1890 to 31,066 in 1900, fueled by investment in industrial and commercial ventures. Salisbury, the largest town, grew from 4,418 to 6,277 residents during that period. Almost seventy percent of Spencer's 625 occupants worked for the Southern Railway in 1900.⁵ In this promising economic climate, John Henderson marketed Southern City, a subdivision just east of Spencer, under the auspices of the Central Land Company. New residents joined the area's few occupants and previously established businesses such as the twenty-one room frame Climax Hotel, built in 1896 to accommodate the Southern Railway workers who constructed Spencer Shops. G. W. Isenhour and Sons, located on Long Street, began supplying brick and tile to clients including Southern Railway Company in 1896.⁶

East Spencer's turn-of-the-century growth precipitated its 1901 incorporation by the North Carolina General Assembly with J. T. Blair as mayor. Entrepreneurs operated businesses including the Roberts Hotel, boarding houses, restaurants, drug, dry goods, grocery, and general merchandise stores. Many

² Katherine Sanford Petrucelli, ed., *The Heritage of Rowan County, North Carolina* (Salisbury: Delmar Printing, 1991), 58, 61.

³ "The New School Law," *Carolina Watchman* (Salisbury; hereafter abbreviated *CW*), March 19, 1885, p. 2; "School Committeemen," *CW*, September 17, 1885, p. 1.

⁴ Allen Paul, "Southern Railway Spencer Shops," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1977; Rowan County Deed Book 79, p. 150, 155; Deed Book 81, pp. 221, 262.

⁵ William R. Merriam, director, *Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900, Population, Part I* (Washington, D. C.: United States Census Office, 1901), 467; *Salisbury-Spencer Directory* (New York: Interstate Directory Company, 1901).

⁶ Paul, "Southern Railway Spencer Shops;" Petrucelli, ed., *The Heritage of Rowan County*, 47; Jimmy Hurley, "'Southern City' Was First Name of East Spencer," *Salisbury Sunday Post* (hereafter abbreviated *SSP*), April 12, 1953, p. 31E; Harry T. Sifford, "Towns of Rowan County," April 1991, unpublished manuscript at the Rowan Public Library, Salisbury, pp. 17-18.

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residents were employed by Southern Railway Company. Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists organized congregations. Two frame public schools served the municipality's white and African American youth. Emma Seybold, a teacher from Marion, Indiana, assumed the white school's administration in June 1906. Agnes Pitts became principal the following year. Black children attended Sugar Spring Hill School, named after the African American neighborhood adjacent to Long Street in which it was located.⁷

East Spencer's first brick school, a one-story hip-roofed edifice for white students, was completed in 1909 at a cost of approximately \$18,000. Southern Railway Company contributed five hundred dollars toward furnishing expenses, which allowed for the purchase of desks, recitation benches, and globes. The building was placed into service in October, with three female teachers instructing around one hundred youth.⁸

Rowan County educators faced myriad challenges during the early twentieth century. Class attendance was sporadic, particularly during planting and harvest seasons when children labored on family farms. Although 7,433 youth were enrolled in Rowan County's eighty-two rural schools for white students in 1909, daily attendance averaged 5,005 pupils. As nominal funding was available for teacher salaries, forty-four schools each had only one teacher. Most educators enumerated that year had undertaken formal training. Twenty-four of the 130 rural teachers held college degrees and thirty-three had attended normal schools. The majority (sixty-one percent) possessed more than four years of experience.⁹

Bessie Grubb briefly served as East Spencer School's principal, followed in March 1911 by George Bringle. In November 1912, town residents agreed to pay an extra tax to subsidize \$1,000-worth of improvements at the white and African American schools. The funds allowed for the much-needed expansion of East Spencer School's rear wing. The work was still underway when Principal R. Lee Troxler and three female teachers—Susie Burton, Cary Emerson, and Lala Brown—began instructing students in September 1913. Until the additional space was available, faculty utilized the neighboring East Spencer Methodist Church as an auxiliary classroom. Contractors finished the wing, which

⁷ Ernest H. Miller, *Salisbury-Spencer, North Carolina, City Directory, 1907-1908* (Asheville: Piedmont Directory Company, 1907), 266-289, 327-334; Hurley, "Southern City;" "School in East Spencer," *Salisbury Evening Post* (hereafter abbreviated SEP), June 4, 1906, p. 5.

⁸ The Southern Railway Company donated approximately \$10,000-worth of cash and property toward the construction of Spencer and East Spencer schools in the early 1900s. "For East Spencer School," *SEP*, June 26, 1909, p. 1; "Spencer News Notes," *News and Observer* (Raleigh; hereafter abbreviated *NO*), June 29, 1909, p. 2; "East Spencerians as Kickers," *Spencer Crescent*, August 12, 1909, p. 4; "Teachers on the Job," *SEP*, October 16, 1909, p. 1; "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services (hereafter abbreviated NCDPI, DIS), 1921.

⁹ H. V. Koonts, "Five Year Gains in Rowan Rural White Schools, 1909-14," University of North Carolina, 1917.

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included a large classroom that also functioned as an auditorium, in November. The school then had six classrooms and a library.¹⁰

East Spencer School served a social hub for the community. Students presented debates, musical programs, and plays in the auditorium that were open to the public. H. J. Peeler, appointed principal in September 1914, and other faculty encouraged upper-grade pupils to participate in clubs such as the Girls' Literary Society that hosted performances.¹¹ Area residents also supported youth sports. Athletic facilities included an outdoor basketball court with a sand playing surface.¹²

The 1913 addition temporarily ameliorated overcrowded conditions, but another expansion was desperately needed by 1917. The town's attempts to raise funds took several years, however. In the meantime, East Spencer School was electrified, lighting installed, and other improvements undertaken in February 1918. Enrollment then numbered approximately 250 students. Martha Snider assumed East Spencer School's oversight in March, when H. J. Peeler, who was also East Spencer's mayor, resigned to accept a position superintending the Kannapolis school system. Principal Marvin P. Young, assistant principal Mary C. Barringer, and four other teachers instructed East Spencer students during the 1919-1920 school term.¹³

North Carolina strengthened compulsory school attendance legislation in 1919, resulting in escalated enrollment that could not be contained on existing campuses. The Department of Public Instruction's 1921 inventory of 7,467 public schools revealed that 3,698 one-room and 2,460 two-room schools served the state's youth. The vast majority of those buildings were frame, but 81 log and 248 brick structures remained in use. Most housed first through seventh grades; only seventy of one hundred counties operated at least one rural high school.¹⁴ County school superintendents and boards of education subsequently oversaw widespread building improvements, the construction of new schools,

¹⁰ "The East Spencer School," *SEP*, March 1, 1911, p. 1; "East Spencer School Tax," *SEP*, November 6, 1912, p. 1; "East Spencer School Open," *SEP*, September 19, 1913, p. 3; "Spencer Schools," *NO*, September 20, 1913, p. 4; "Doings in Spencer," *SEP*, September 23, 1913, p. 4; "Gold Knob," *CW*, October 1, 1913, p. 4; "East Spencer School," *SEP*, October 23, 1913, p. 2; "Live News Notes from Salisbury," *Citizen-Times* (Asheville; hereafter abbreviated *CT*), November 5, 1913, p. 9; "East Spencer School," *SEP*, November 12, 1913, p. 3; "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, NCDPI, DIS, 1921.

¹¹ "Public Entertainment," *SEP*, April 8, 1912, p. 1; "Principal East Spencer School," *SEP*, August 14, p. 3; "East Spencer School," *SEP*, April 4, 1916, p. 5.

¹² "East Spencer News," *SEP*, March 20, 1915, p. 6.

¹³ "Addition Necessary for East Spencer," *Charlotte Observer* (hereafter abbreviated *CO*), January 5, 1917, p. 5; "East Spencer Graded School," *Yadkin Valley Herald*, June 1, 1917, p. 6; "East Spencer Graded School Has Opened," *CO*, September 17, 1917, p. 9; "Mayor of East Spencer Resigns Official Duty," *CO*, June 18, 1918, p. 3; "New Town Marshall for East Spencer," *SEP*, February 11, 1918, p. 6; "Spencer News Notes," *CO*, February 13, 1918, p. 10; "New Principal at East Spencer School," *SEP*, August 31, 1918, p. 2; "East Spencer School Faculty is Chosen," *CO*, August 27, 1919, p. 3.

¹⁴ Jim Sumner, "The Development of North Carolina's Public School System through 1940," context essay prepared for the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, 1990, p. 7, appendices.

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and a consequent reduction in the total number of campuses and school districts. Statewide road improvements facilitated school consolidation by allowing for more efficient busing.

School curriculums changed in 1920 after the Department of Public Instruction implemented academic benchmarks and high school ratings. The school system mandated that institutions interested in standard high school classification offer seventh- through eleventh-grade courses during school sessions of at least 160 days, possess a minimum of 3 certified teachers and 45 pupils in average daily attendance, and execute a department-approved study program utilizing appropriate materials. By the end of the 1920-1921 term, 116 public high schools for white students had attained accreditation. In 1924, the state certified 21 black campuses: 4 normal, 3 rural, and 14 urban schools. At the close of the 1929-1930 academic year, the Department of Public Instruction enumerated 60 white and 68 black accredited high schools.¹⁵

East Spencer's white and African American schools were both woefully inadequate by the late 1910s. As the town pursued financing for replacement facilities, East Spencer School administrators spent \$3,607 on new desks and auditorium chairs to accommodate an approximately one-hundred-student enrollment increase in September 1920. During the 1920-1921 academic year, principal Billy Robinson and Marguerite Thompson taught seventh through tenth grades and six female educators presided over first through sixth grades. Enrollment encompassed 327 students, 31 of whom were in high school. Four of those youth graduated in May 1921.¹⁶

Rowan County residents supported the amalgamation of all schools except those in Salisbury into one tax district in 1921. This allowed for more equitable distribution of funds and students.¹⁷ New consolidated schools soon replaced substandard facilities throughout the county. On July 13, 1921, voters approved a \$60,000 bond referendum to subsidize the construction of two East Spencer schools: a \$45,000 building for white children and a \$15,000 structure for African American youth. Other municipal improvements that year included paving Long Street, a primary east-west corridor.¹⁸

Charlotte architect Charles Christian Hook designed the two-story Classical Revival-style brick East Spencer School that stands on Long Street's south side. Charlottesville, Virginia contractor I. C. Abbott and Sons commenced its construction in March 1921. H. I. McDuffie served as the project

¹⁵ Ibid., 17-18, appendices; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, "Biennial Reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction," 1921-1930, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

¹⁶ "East Spencer School Largest Attendance," *Winston-Salem Journal*, September 15, 1920, p. 5; "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, NCDPI, DIS, 1921.

¹⁷ E. B. Hunter, "Rowan County Voters To Be Given a Chance To Equalize the School Advantages," *Greensboro Daily News* (hereafter abbreviated *GDN*), April 11, 1921.

¹⁸ A. W. Hicks, "East Spencer Selling Bonds," *SSP*, September 8, 1920, p. 1; "Notice of Bond Election and New Registration," *SEP*, June 18, 1921, p. 5.

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foreman, supervising from an office in the 1909/1913 school.¹⁹ Enough progress had been made by late May that members of Spencer A. F. and A. M. Lodge No. 543, Masonic Grand Master Leon Cash, and attorney Whitehead Klutz led a cornerstone-laying ceremony.²⁰

Although East Spencer Graded School was substantially complete on September 12, 1921, more than four hundred students began the academic year in the 1909/1913 building. Newly appointed principal L. L. Smith, formerly of Mooresville, assistant principal Martha Snider, and eight female teachers oversaw students. The curriculum included home economics, music, and vocational training.²¹ Due to a technicality with the bond issuance, the 1921 building could not be utilized until early spring 1922. The 650-seat auditorium was filled beyond capacity at the May commencement ceremony.²²

A two-story, eleven-classroom brick school for East Spencer's black youth was also erected in 1921. The new building was located on the same property as Sugar Spring Hill School, which was only a few blocks from East Spencer Graded School. S. E. Duncan, who held bachelor's and master's degrees from Livingstone College and had taught classes there, was the principal. Initially called East Spencer Colored School, the campus was soon named in memory of African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.²³

During the 1921-1922 academic year, 236 white and 61 African American Rowan County teachers supervised an average of 7,982 white and 2,105 black pupils. Despite mandatory attendance requirements, the turnout was approximately twenty percent less than the enrolled student pool, which comprised 9,920 white and 2,588 African American youth. Most county schools operated for about six months of the year, but East Spencer adopted a nine-month calendar.²⁴

¹⁹ Abbott and Sons, which had also erected the Peoples Bank of East Spencer, purchased the bonds that subsidized the school's construction at a six-percent interest rate. "Municipal Bonds Sold by Town of East Spencer," *CT*, March 13, 1921, p. 16; A. W. Hicks, "2-Story Building is Being Erected," *SEP*, March 31, 1921, p. 3; "Foreman Beaten and Robbed At Spencer," *NO*, August 10, 1921, p. 10.

²⁰ Klutz, a Salisbury native, was then Assistant Commissioner and Secretary of the United States Board of Mediation and Conciliation in Washington, D. C.; "East Spencer School is Celebrating This Week," *NO*, May 27, 1921, p. 8.

²¹ A. W. Hicks, "East Spencer School Opened," *SEP*, September 13, 1921, p. 1; "Professor L. L. Smith Heads the East Spencer School," *CO*, June 12, 1921, p. 9.

²² "Technicality To Be Corrected," *SEP*, December 7, 1921, p. 6; "East Spencer Schools Have Successful Year," *SEP*, May 27, 1922, p. 1.

²³ Duncan also earned doctorates of philosophy (1949) and education (1964) from Livingstone College and served as the institution's president from 1958 through 1968. Prior to that appointment, he supervised NCDPI's Division of Negro Instruction. "The Livingstone Commencement," *SEP*, May 1, 1916, p. 2; Ernest H. Miller, *Salisbury-Spencer, North Carolina, City Directory, 1922-1923* (Asheville: Piedmont Directory Company, 1922), 320.

²⁴ J. T. Gregory, "Public School Progress in Rowan County, 1915-16 to 1921-22," University of North Carolina, Department of Rural Social Economics, January 1924, p. 12; Sifford, "Towns of Rowan County," p. 21.

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In 1924-1925, East Spencer Graded School principal George M. Bowman reported 212 enrolled first-through seventh-grade students. Eight female teachers presided over elementary school pupils. Bowman and one male and two female educators instructed 72 eighth through eleventh-grade students, nine of whom graduated that spring. The high school attained accreditation in 1926.²⁵

Enrollment remained relatively consistent through the 1930s. Principal J. B. Caldwell, seven female teachers, and one male instructor supervised 240 youth in the lower grades during the 1930-1931 academic term. The student body also encompassed 91 high school pupils taught by Caldwell and three other educators. Extracurricular activities included baseball, tennis, basketball, literary society, boy scouts, and glee, drama, and Hi-Y clubs. Fifteen youth graduated in May 1931.²⁶ Local donors subsidized the 1933 construction of a baseball diamond and bleachers with a three-hundred-person seating capacity.²⁷

The Great Depression's onset limited school improvement funding in the early 1930s. However, the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state's first New Deal program that created jobs for unemployed citizens, subsidized Rowan County projects from 1932 to 1935 including cafeteria repair, landscaping, and tennis net purchase at East Spencer School.²⁸

During the 1934-1935 academic term, the Rowan County and Salisbury school systems enrolled 11,636 white and 3,345 African American youth. White students attended fifty-three rural schools, nine of which housed first through eleventh grades: China Grove, Cleveland, East Spencer, Granite Quarry, Landis, Mt. Ulla, Rockwell, Spencer, and Woodleaf. The county provided bus transportation. Dunbar School in East Spencer was the county's only African American institution that offered all ten grades. Most of the remaining thirty-four rural black schools enrolled first- through seventh grade students. Salisbury schools operated independently of the county school system, with one high and four graded schools for white children and one high and two graded schools for African American youth.²⁹

At East Spencer School in 1934-1935, principal W. B. Kesler, two male, and two female teachers oversaw 121 high school students, nineteen of whom graduated. Four students had earned college or

²⁵ "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, NCDPI, DIS, 1925; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, *Educational Directory of North Carolina* (Raleigh: NCDPI, 1945), 88.

²⁶ "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, NCDPI, DIS, 1931.

²⁷ Hurley, "Southern City."

²⁸ J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse, eds., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina: A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935* (Raleigh: North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), 516; "East Spencer School," Public School Work Relief Project, Federal Aid to School Building and Repair, NCDPI, Division of Schoolhouse Planning (hereafter abbreviated DSP), Administrative Surveys, 1932-1933, Box 2, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

²⁹ NCDPI, DSP, Administrative Surveys, 1935-1936, Box 4, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

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university placements and two graduates planned to attend business colleges. Six male educators instructed 209 elementary school children. Fewer extracurricular activities were offered due to limited resources, but students had the opportunity to play baseball and to participate in glee and drama clubs.³⁰

In 1935, financial challenges ensuing from the Great Depression resulted in the town of East Spencer's default on municipal bonds including those that had allowed for the 1921 schools' construction. The town thus transferred East Spencer School's ownership to the Rowan County Board of Education, but the county refused to assume the associated indebtedness. Although a series of lawsuits initially resolved the situation in the town's favor, East Spencer was forced to refinance \$18,000-worth of school bonds in 1939.³¹

As part of its mission to provide unemployed citizens with meaningful jobs, the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) facilitated school renovation and construction as well as lunch room operation through the early 1940s. The program also sponsored adult academic instruction and vocational training, much of which took place at public schools. Rowan County schools in China Grove, Landis, Rockwell, and Salisbury received WPA funding for additions and new buildings.³² Landis industrialist O. L. Linn donated approximately three thousand tons of granite used to erect the two-story, \$90,000 school in China Grove.³³ A WPA grant allowed for the replacement of the 1921 Dunbar School in East Spencer after it was completely destroyed by fire in March 1938. Salisbury architect Thomas H. Yoe, who worked with Winston-Salem architects Northup and O'Brien, rendered plans for the two-story, brick, fourteen-classroom building completed in 1939.³⁴

Yoe and Northup and O'Brien designed many other Rowan County educational buildings during the 1930s and 1940s, including East Spencer School's 1937 addition. It is not known if the expansion was federally subsidized. The wing encompasses six classrooms, which brought the campus total to fourteen, half of which were utilized by the high school and half by the elementary school.³⁵ The facility improvements likely contributed to East Spencer School's attaining elementary accreditation in

³⁰ "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, NCDPI, DIS, 1935.

³¹ Sifford, "Towns of Rowan County," p. 21; Hurley, "Southern City;" *Educational Directory of North Carolina*, 1945, 88.

³² North Carolina Works Progress Administration, *North Carolina WPA: Its Story* (Raleigh: North Carolina Works Progress Administration, 1940), 14-16, Fred J. Cohn, "29,449 Adults Now In School Under Program," *CT*, October 23, 1938; "WPA Program Touches Thousands," *GDN*, October 23, 1938.

³³ "Landis Man Donates Stone for New China Grove School," *GDN*, April 30, 1929.

³⁴ "Modern Building to Replace One Destroyed by Fire Today," *SEP*, March 26, 1938, p. 1; "Authorities Confer on School Rebuilding in East Spencer," *SEP*, April 4, 1938, p. 1; "Carolina Towns Get WPA Grants," *SEP*, June 23, 1938, p. 1; "Salisbury Building Firms Win Contracts for School Edifices," *SEP*, July 15, 1938, p. 1; "Education Board Lets Contracts," *SEP*, August 28, 1938, p. 1.

³⁵ Northup and O'Brien Architectural Records, MC 00240, Series 1, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University, Raleigh (hereafter abbreviated NCSU); "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, NCDPI, DIS, 1941.

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1939. Headed by G. Milton Eargle, the institution served 126 high school students in 1940-1941, twenty-nine of whom graduated. Eargle and three female teachers instructed high school courses. Seven women taught the elementary grades. The WPA and the Parent Teachers Association managed the lunch room.³⁶

Due to building material shortages, little school construction occurred during World War II. In 1945, Rowan County students attended forty-four schools, half of which served white children and half African American youth. Salisbury operated five white and three African American schools.³⁷

East Spencer School's enrollment remained stable through the 1950s. In 1950-1951, principal A. L. Combs and five other teachers instructed 106 high school students, eighteen of whom graduated. Combs and five faculty members taught 113 high school youth during 1954-1955. That year, school improvements included planting shrubbery in the front lawn, installing draperies in the auditorium and venetian blinds in three classrooms, refinishing the 1937 addition's hardwood floors, installing new floors in the 1921 building with the exception of the auditorium, replacing stall doors in the girls' bathroom, and some interior painting.³⁸

Classrooms, cafeterias, auditoriums, and vocational buildings were erected at Rowan County campuses during the 1950s to remedy overcrowded conditions and outdated facilities. In 1956, the school system approved plans for four new complexes to replace nine inadequate structures. East Spencer School's last twelfth-grade class graduated in May 1958. North Rowan High School, which consolidated East Spencer and Spencer's upper grades in Spencer, was placed into service in September 1958.³⁹ Also that year, a Modernist classroom, cafeteria, and office building was completed at Dunbar School, where principal R. E. Dalton supervised twenty-one elementary and fourteen high school teachers. Principal A. L. Combs and eight teachers instructed only first- through eighth-grade students at East Spencer Graded School.⁴⁰

Although the U. S. Supreme Court decreed school desegregation in 1954, most North Carolina municipalities integrated slowly. In response to a selective integration bill passed by North Carolina legislators, the Charlotte, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem school boards allowed African American students to apply for admission to white schools in the summer of 1957. Other counties slowly desegregated schools, but it was not until 1965 that most of the school districts in the state achieved integration. The freedom-of-choice plan, enacted in 1965, was an attempt to allow parents to choose which schools their children would attend. A federal court judge ruled the plan unconstitutional and an

³⁶ "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Report, NCDPI, DIS, 1941.

³⁷ NCDPI, *Educational Directory of North Carolina* (Raleigh: NCDPI, 1945), 88-89.

³⁸ "East Spencer Graded School," Principal's Annual High School Reports, NCDPI, DIS, 1951, 1955.

³⁹ NCDPI, DSP, *Rowan County Schools, Salisbury City Schools: A Merger Study, 1983-1984* (Raleigh: NCDPI, 1985), 76-124.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 106; *Educational Directory of North Carolina* (Raleigh: NCDPI, 1958), 92-93.

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invalid means of desegregating schools in 1968. That finding encouraged student busing to achieve racial integration, a practice that became widespread in the 1970s.⁴¹

The Rowan County school system did not begin integrating campuses until 1969. That year, East Spencer's white and African American first- through fourth-grade students were assigned to North Rowan Primary School in Spencer. Fifth and sixth graders attended North Rowan Grammar School, formerly Dunbar School. East Spencer School, administered by principal Ray D. Shytle and nineteen teachers, became North Rowan Junior High School, which housed seventh and eighth-grade youth.⁴² This arrangement continued through the 1973-1974 school year. In fall 1974, fifth- through eighth grades merged as North Rowan Middle School, housed at what had been North Rowan Grammar School. Shytle headed the forty-teacher faculty.⁴³

The former East Spencer School was remodeled in 1974 to facilitate its function as Rowan County school's administrative offices. The site continued to serve the same purpose following the 1989 Rowan County and Salisbury school systems' merger, and remained in use as offices until March 2016. At that time, all administrative offices were consolidated at a new building on North Main Street in Salisbury.⁴⁴ The Town of East Spencer now owns the former East Spencer School.

North Rowan Middle School moved to Spencer in fall 1984. Rowan-Salisbury School System retained ownership of the former Dunbar School campus, but it was vacant until 1995. A coalition of public-private partners then utilized the property as a community center and offices for nonprofit organizations and the county's health and social services departments. Shady Grove Baptist Church of East Spencer has owned the complex since 2008. The buildings suffered extensive damage in a December 2014 fire.⁴⁵

Architecture Context

The style and form of Rowan County's public schools reflected statewide trends. Many of the weatherboarded gable-roofed educational buildings placed into service during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century had only a few rooms. Larger, simply executed, brick edifices followed as taxpayers supported new school construction. Beginning in the 1910s, many buildings were more

⁴¹ "Supreme Court Orders Local Officials to End School Segregation 'as Soon as Practicable,'" *Winston-Salem Journal*, June 1, 1955, p. 1; Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott, and Flora J. Hatley, *A History of African Americans in North Carolina*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992), 171-173.

⁴² *North Carolina Education Directory* (Raleigh: NCDPI, 1970), 87.

⁴³ *Education Directory North Carolina* (Raleigh: NCDPI, 1973), 96; *Education Directory North Carolina* (Raleigh: NCDPI, 1974), 97.

⁴⁴ Rebecca Rider, "To Build a Home: The Long Road to the Central Office," *Salisbury Post*, March 7, 2016.

⁴⁵ Rowan County Deed Book 1134, p. 662; Josh Bergeron, "Dunbar Center's History Dates Back to 1900," *Salisbury Post*, January 1, 2015.

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elaborately detailed, incorporating classical stylistic elements as a means of manifesting democratic ideals, inspiring patriotism, and elevating public taste. Ancient Grecian and Roman architecture served as the archetypes for overall composition and embellishment, with ornament drawn from classical precedents intended to embody permanence and refinement.⁴⁶ Buildings were typically brick, flat-roofed, and one- or two-stories in height.

Some schools were fully-articulated examples of the Classical Revival style, while others were more austere. Typical classical design components included molded wood cornices, often ornamented with modillions, and large multipane, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Single-bay, one-story, flat or gable-roofed porticoes and monumental full-height pedimented porticoes sheltered primary entrances. Interiors featured narrow hardwood floors, plaster-on-lath walls and ceilings, tall baseboards, simple wood door and window surrounds, wood-frame blackboards, built-in coat and storage closets, raised-panel doors with operable transoms, and molded chair rails, cornices, and picture rails.

The one-story, brick, 1909/1913 East Spencer Graded School's hip-roofed form, T-shaped plan, and execution are typical of the period. The building features six-to-one common bond red brick walls and window openings with two-header-course segmental-arched lintels and slightly projecting two-course sills. Some original double-hung six-over-six wood-sash windows and three-pane transoms remain. Narrow hardwood floors, plaster walls, and molded wood door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks distinguish the interior. The school's builder and designer have not been identified. An architect may have created site-specific drawings, or a stock plan may have been used. Architects including Charles Christian Hook of Charlotte worked in the area. Hook rendered drawings for several Salisbury schools in the early twentieth century.⁴⁷

Schools erected throughout North Carolina during the 1920s and 1930s manifested new design standards for substantial, fireproof buildings. The Department of Public Instruction's Division of Schoolhouse Planning provided standardized floor plans, elevations, specifications, and guidance regarding educational building construction. Many school systems then hired architects to design sizable masonry edifices, often with Classical or Gothic Revival elements, to replace modest, one- and two-room, frame schools. Tall, grouped, double-hung, multipane windows typically illuminated classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, and gymnasiums. The buildings also encompassed central heating plants, multiple restrooms, and cafeterias; amenities that were not present in earlier schools. The distinctive architecture of campuses erected or improved during this period makes them civic landmarks.

⁴⁶ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 457.

⁴⁷ "School Facilities," *SEP*, June 25, 1901, p. 1; Michelle Ann Michael, "Charles Christian Hook," *North Carolina Architects and Builders: An Autobiographical Dictionary*, <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000211>, 2009 (accessed April 2017).

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The Rowan County and Salisbury school systems embraced this trend. After the 1921 passage of school improvement bonds, the Salisbury School Board engaged Winston-Salem architect Willard C. Northup of Northup and O'Brien to provide plans for additions to three white graded schools—Innes Street, West Ward (Calvin H. Wiley School; NR 1988), and North Main Street—as well as the construction of a new black graded school on Monroe Street named in memory of African American educator Joseph Charles Price. The firm also supplied drawings for an addition to Ellis Street Graded School (NR 1999, Ellis Street Graded School Historic District). All of these substantial brick buildings with classical details and large multipane windows were erected in 1922.⁴⁸

East Spencer residents also benefited from the 1921 bond referendum, as it allowed for the construction of two-story brick schools for white and black youth that year. The African American school's architect has not been identified. The Board of Education selected Charles Christian Hook to design the T-shaped Classical Revival-style East Spencer School. The footprint—a classroom block with double-loaded corridors and a rear auditorium—is common in consolidated schools. Red brick running bond walls, cast-stone accents, and a painted wood cornice with deep returns characterize the 1921 school as well as the 1937 addition planned by Salisbury architect Thomas H. Yoe, who then worked for Northup and O'Brien.⁴⁹ The interior plan and original window and door surrounds, transoms, plaster walls, hardwood floors, cabinets, bookshelves, blackboards, stairs, and a few doors are intact.

East Spencer Graded School incorporates classical elements often seen in C. C. Hook's oeuvre. Several other public schools he designed in the 1920s exhibit his creative range. The two-story red brick Avery Avenue School (1923; NR 1986) in Morganton, Burke County has a crescent-shaped footprint comprising a polygonal corner entrance pavilion and flanking flat-roofed wings containing eight classrooms and an auditorium. The eclectic pavilion features a classical cast-stone entrance surround and a cast-stone cornice with an Art Deco-influenced zig-zag mosaic frieze and an acanthus-leaf crest.⁵⁰

Hook also rendered plans for Albemarle High School, Stanly County's most outstanding Collegiate Gothic educational building, which Fayetteville contractor E. C. Derby completed in September 1925.⁵¹ Rising two stories above a raised basement, the red brick building features limestone moldings

⁴⁸ J. C. Price (1854-1893) headed Zion Wesley Institute, which became Livingstone College. The 1931 completion of the fourteen-classroom J. C. Price High School (NR 2004) designed by Salisbury architects Barbee and Yoe ameliorated overcrowded conditions for African American students. Northup and O'Brien Architectural Records, MC 00240, Series 1, NCSU; Davyd Foard Hood, "J. C. Price High School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2010.

⁴⁹ "East Spencer School," Northup and O'Brien Architectural Records, MC 00240, Series 1, Flat Folder 564, NCSU.

⁵⁰ The pavilion's distinctive barrel-tile roof has been replaced with standing-seam metal since 1986. Suzanne Pickens Wylie, "Avery Avenue School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1986.

⁵¹ "Albemarle's New High School Building," *Albemarle Press*, September 10, 1925.

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and ornament including the water table, belt course, window sills and lintels, and stylized parapet panels. The school's North Third Street façade comprises a slightly projecting cast-stone-embellished entrance bay, four sets of tall paired window openings to each side, and projecting blind end bays distinguished by corner pilasters and header-course bands. A grand stone staircase with metal railings leads to a double-leaf wood door recessed in a Tudor arch opening. The windows have been replaced with one-over-one-sash and fixed transoms. Like East Spencer Graded School, Albemarle High School originally had a T-shaped footprint, but subsequent additions and renovations have altered the plan.

Hook distinguished the long, linear, two-story-on-basement, red brick Myers Park Elementary School (1928; NR 1986, Myers Park Historic District) in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, with three unique entrance bays embellished with stone elements. The projecting outer bays, topped with cornices and punctuated with medallions, include upper-level porches with arcaded walls and carved columns and railings. Only the first-story of the stone-clad central bay extends beyond the wall plane. Columns carved with spirals frame the portico entrance. The large paired window above the entrance has a classical surround topped with a carved stone panel and a shaped parapet. Stone spandrels and a classical cornice embellish the intermediary bays, which contain groups of five large nine-over-six classroom windows. These schools epitomize North Carolina's prosperity and investment in public educational facilities during the 1920s.

Northup and O'Brien's 1930s and 1940s public school commissions manifest a much more austere aesthetic, reflecting the era's depressed economic situation. Schools were often constructed only if federal assistance in the form of ERA and WPA grants and/or labor could be obtained. The firm's Rowan County projects included supplying plans for new schools, classroom additions, and interior improvements in Lincoln (1933), Enochville (1935), Upper Morgan Township (1935), Patterson (1935), North Main Street in Salisbury (1935), Cleveland (1936), Mt. Ulla (1936), Woodrow Wilson (1936), East Spencer (1937), Dunbar in East Spencer (1939), Jackson Park (1941), Landis (1941). All were substantial brick buildings with minimal decoration.⁵²

Yoe and Northup and O'Brien collaborated on the one-story, flat-roofed, brick, Classical Revival-style Kingville Elementary School (1937), which served African American students in Albemarle, Stanly County. The building's austere thirty-one-bay façade features a slightly projecting central entrance bay with corner pilasters framing its round-arched doorway. Tall nine over-nine-sash windows clustered in groups of five originally illuminated the interior, which comprised ten classrooms and an auditorium. The firm also executed drawings for Albemarle City Hall (1938), which has a tripartite plan and a simply executed façade ornamented by a pedimented entrance surround.⁵³

⁵² Northup and O'Brien Architectural Records, MC 00240, Series 1, NCSU.

⁵³ "Kingville Colored School Building," and "Albemarle City Hall," Northup and O'Brien Architectural Records, MC 00240, Series 1, Flat Folders 283 and 290, NCSU.

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Rowan County campuses continued to evolve as the twentieth century progressed. Most schools erected during the 1920s and 1930s were demolished as part of system-wide improvement campaigns initiated when mid-twentieth-century population growth resulted in increased enrollment. Only a few have remained in continuous use for educational purposes since their construction. As facilities became overcrowded, architects designed new Rowan County schools as well as additions to and renovations of existing buildings, all of which were Modernist in style.

Architecture Context: Charles Christian Hook

Charles Christian Hook (1870-1938), was one of North Carolina's most prolific architects. The full extent of his oeuvre is unknown as his firm records do not survive. However, newspapers and trade journals confirm myriad commercial, educational, ecclesiastical, institutional, and residential commissions throughout North and South Carolina in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.⁵⁴

Hook, a Wheeling, West Virginia native, studied architecture at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. After earning a degree in 1890, he relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was a drawing instructor at Charlotte Graded School for three years. He began advertising his services as an architect in 1891 and undertook numerous projects prior to partnering with Frank McMurray Sawyer of New York in 1898. The firm operated until 1905, designing more than one hundred buildings in a diverse range of types and styles. The men published plans and articles in newspapers, periodicals, and promotional booklets such as *Some Designs of Hook & Sawyer, Architects, 1892-1902*.⁵⁵

After Hook and Sawyer's 1905 dissolution, Hook and architect Willard G. Rogers, who had previously worked for Stuart W. Cramer's Charlotte engineering firm, established a namesake practice. Hook and Rogers collaborated on a wide variety of projects until 1916. Commissions included buildings on campuses such as Davidson and Queens Colleges in Charlotte, Trinity College in Durham, Guilford College and the State Normal and Industrial School (now University of North Carolina at Greensboro) in Greensboro, and St. Mary's School in Raleigh.⁵⁶

Hook operated a sole proprietorship for eight years. His surviving Rowan County work during this period includes East Spencer Graded School (1921) and East Spencer Methodist Church's 1922 Classical Revival-style sanctuary.⁵⁷ He partnered with his son Walter to create the firm Hook and Hook in 1924. The firm operated until C. C. Hook's death in 1938. Walter then established his own

⁵⁴ Michael, "Charles Christian Hook."

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ A. W. Hicks, "Work is Started on New Church," *SEP*, June 19, 1922, p. 1.

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Rowan County, NC

company, Walter Hook and Associates, which specialized in medical building design until his 1963 death.⁵⁸

Architecture Context: Northup and O'Brien

Northup and O'Brien, the Winston-Salem firm that encompassed architects Willard C. Northup, Leet O'Brien, and after 1927, Luther Lashmit, was one of North Carolina's most prolific and distinguished practices during the first half of the twentieth century. The partners and their staff offered a full range of design services for the urbanizing state and led in the architectural profession's establishment and promotion. Although many commissions were in Forsyth County, their oeuvre extended throughout North Carolina, manifesting trends ranging from the distinctive local "Salem Revival" style, attributed to Northup, to mid-twentieth-century modernism. The firm designed public schools, universities, and health facilities for the state's unprecedented and forward-looking investment in health care and education for black and white citizens. At the same time, they conceived custom designs for building types including skyscrapers and expansive residences for the emerging industrialist class.

Willard Close Northup (1882-1942) attended the Drexel Institute of Art, Science, and Industry in Philadelphia and studied at the University of Pennsylvania. He gained experience in the North Carolina offices of distinguished architects Charles McMillen of Wilmington and Richard Sharp Smith and William H. Lord of Asheville. Northup moved briefly to Muskogee, Oklahoma, to work for architects McKibbin and McKibbin, but returned to North Carolina, where in 1906 he opened a Winston practice in partnership with Richard Sharp Smith and Albert Heath Carrier, both of whom remained based in Asheville.⁵⁹

In 1910, with his practice thriving, Northup hired a young draftsman, Winston-Salem native Leet Alexander O'Brien (1891-1963). O'Brien was a graduate of the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh and had worked in that city for the architectural firm of Ingham and Boyd for several years before returning to North Carolina. Northup and O'Brien's initial business partnership began in 1915, but lasted only two years before both men departed for World War I service. After returning to Winston-Salem, the men worked independently before reestablishing a partnership firm in 1924. Northup and O'Brien soon garnered a strong reputation for their religious, commercial, and institutional work, with a specialty in consolidated schools during a period characterized by state and local investment in public education.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ Michael, "Charles Christian Hook."

⁵⁹ Willard Close Northup, "Biographical Sketch," Record Group 803, American Institute of Architects Archives, Washington, D. C.; U. S. Censuses, Population Schedules, 1900, 1910; death certificate; Joseph D. Robinson Jr., email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May and July 2012.

⁶⁰ *Winston-Salem City Directories*, 1906-1930; U. S. censuses, 1910, 1920; Leet O'Brien, "Application for Membership," 1919-1936, AIAWDC; Willard Close Northup, "Biographical Sketch," Record Group 803, AIAWDC; "Office of Northup and O'Brien," AIA Architects' Roster Questionnaire, May 7, 1946, AIAWDC.

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The men assumed vital and lasting roles in the promotion of the architectural profession. In 1913, Northup was one of five North Carolina architects instrumental in founding the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (NCAIA), and he was equally important in the passage of legislation regulating architectural practice in 1915. Leet O'Brien participated in professional organizations such as the NCAIA and the North Carolina Society of Engineers.⁶¹ Northup and O'Brien and their successor firms produced an oeuvre among the most extensive, varied, and distinguished in North Carolina. The Special Collections Library of North Carolina State University, which houses the principal collection of the firm's drawings, enumerates almost four hundred projects in its finding aide.⁶²

⁶¹ C. David Jackson and Charlotte V. Brown, *History of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 1913-1998: An Architectural Heritage* (Raleigh: North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 1998), 11-14, 18, 40-41, 43, 98, 173-176, 187, 189, 193; "Funeral Service for Willard C. Northup," *Twin City Sentinel*, February 14, 1942.

⁶² Other plan repositories include the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Planning Department, Old Salem, Inc., Salem Academy and College, Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University, and the Moravian Archives, Southern Province, in Winston-Salem.

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Photos Rowan County, NC

Section 10. Geographical Data

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Latitude: 35.683196

Longitude: -80.433258

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for East Spencer Graded School is all of tax parcel # 026079, as indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map. Scale approximately 1" = 100'

Boundary Justification

The nominated 4.35-acre tax parcel is the full extent of acreage historically associated with East Spencer Graded School.

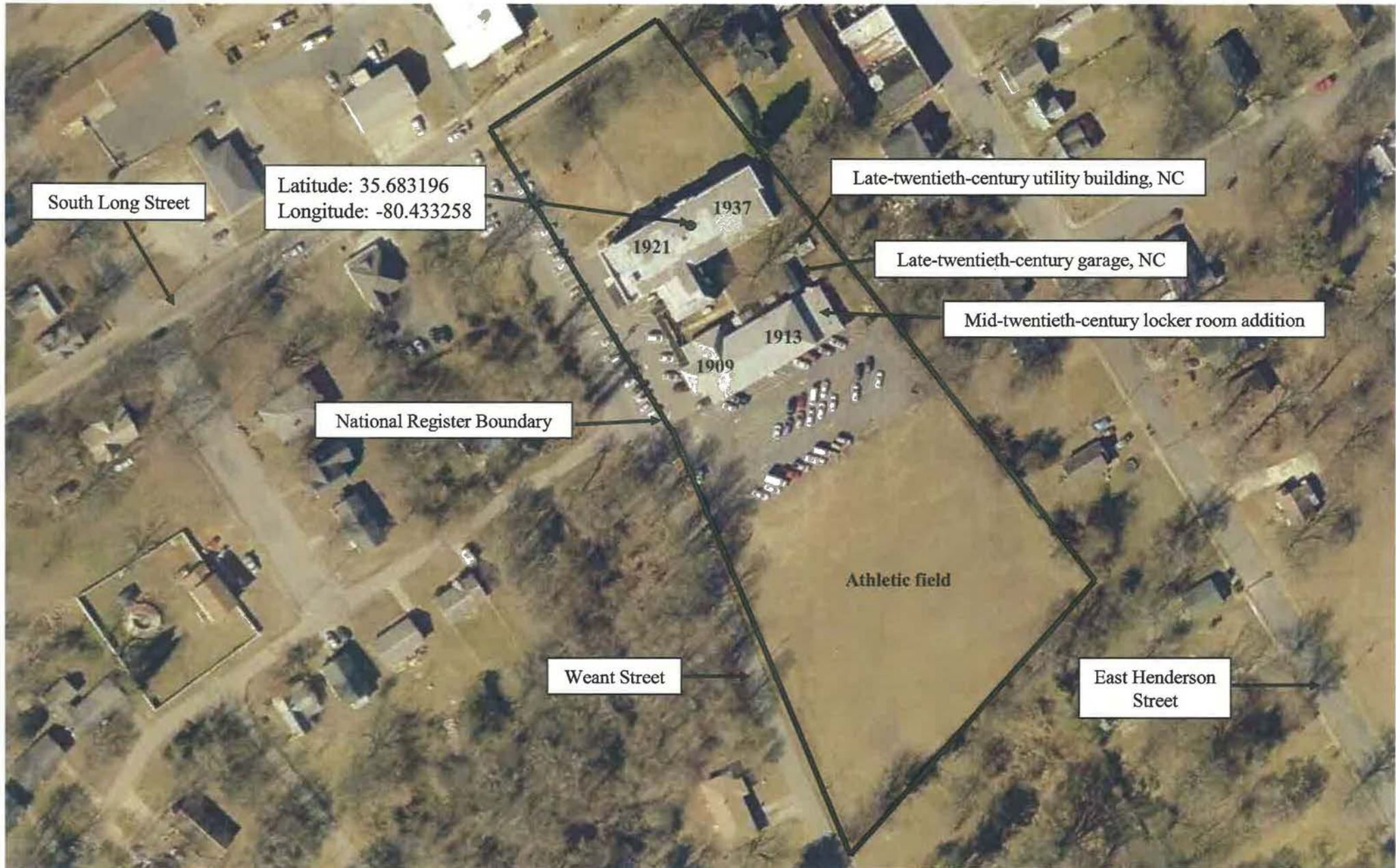
Additional Documentation: Current Photographs

All photographs by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, on April 12, 2017. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. 1921-1937 school, north elevation
2. 1921-1937 and 1909-1913 schools, looking northeast
3. 1909-1913 school (left) and 1921 auditorium elevation, looking southwest
4. 1909-1913 school, west elevation
5. 1909-1913 school, south elevation
6. 1913 addition, looking west
7. 1937 addition, first floor, northeast classroom, looking southeast
8. 1937 addition, first floor, northeast classroom, looking northwest
9. 1937 addition, second floor, northeast classroom, west elevation
10. 1937 addition, second floor, southeast classroom, east elevation

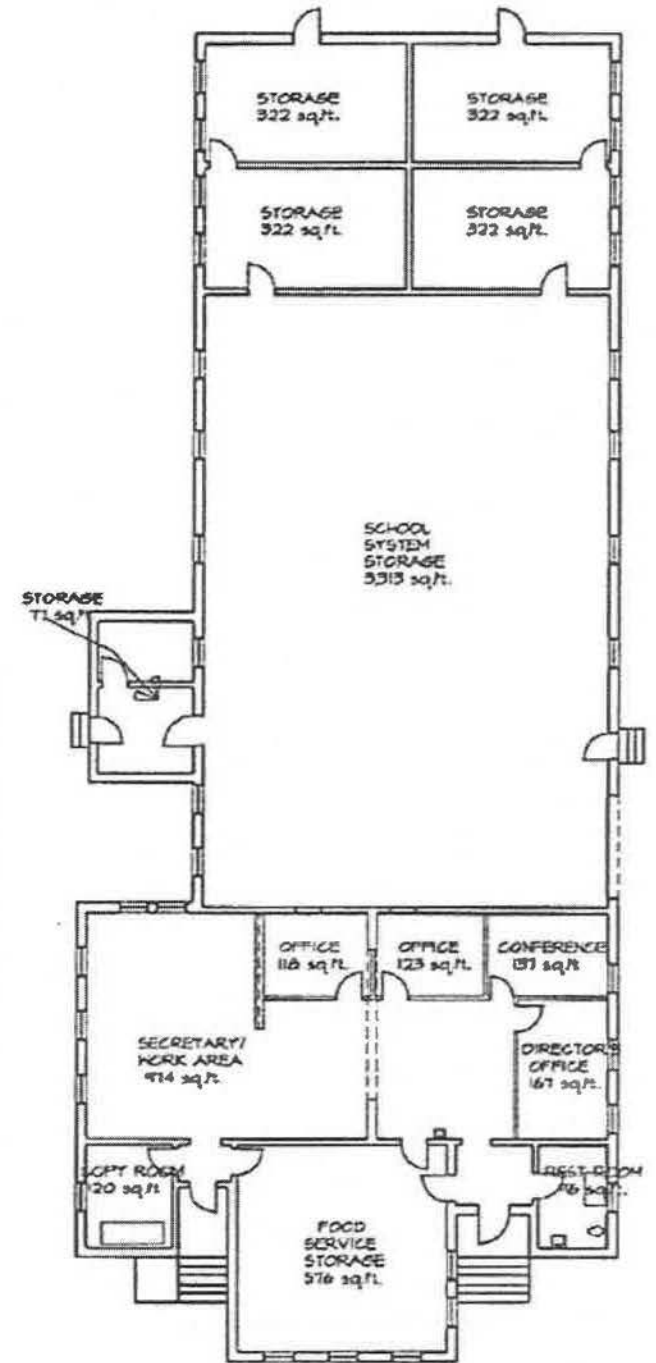
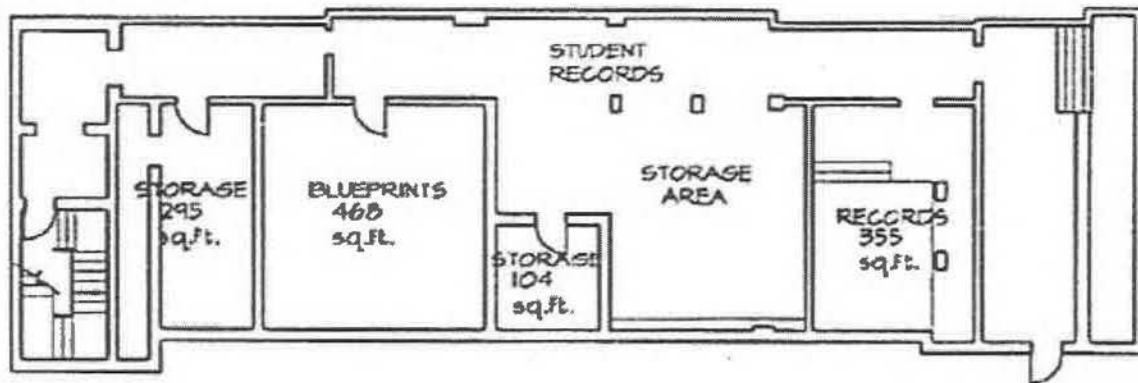
East Spencer Graded School, 110 South Long Street, East Spencer, Rowan County, North Carolina

National Register Boundary



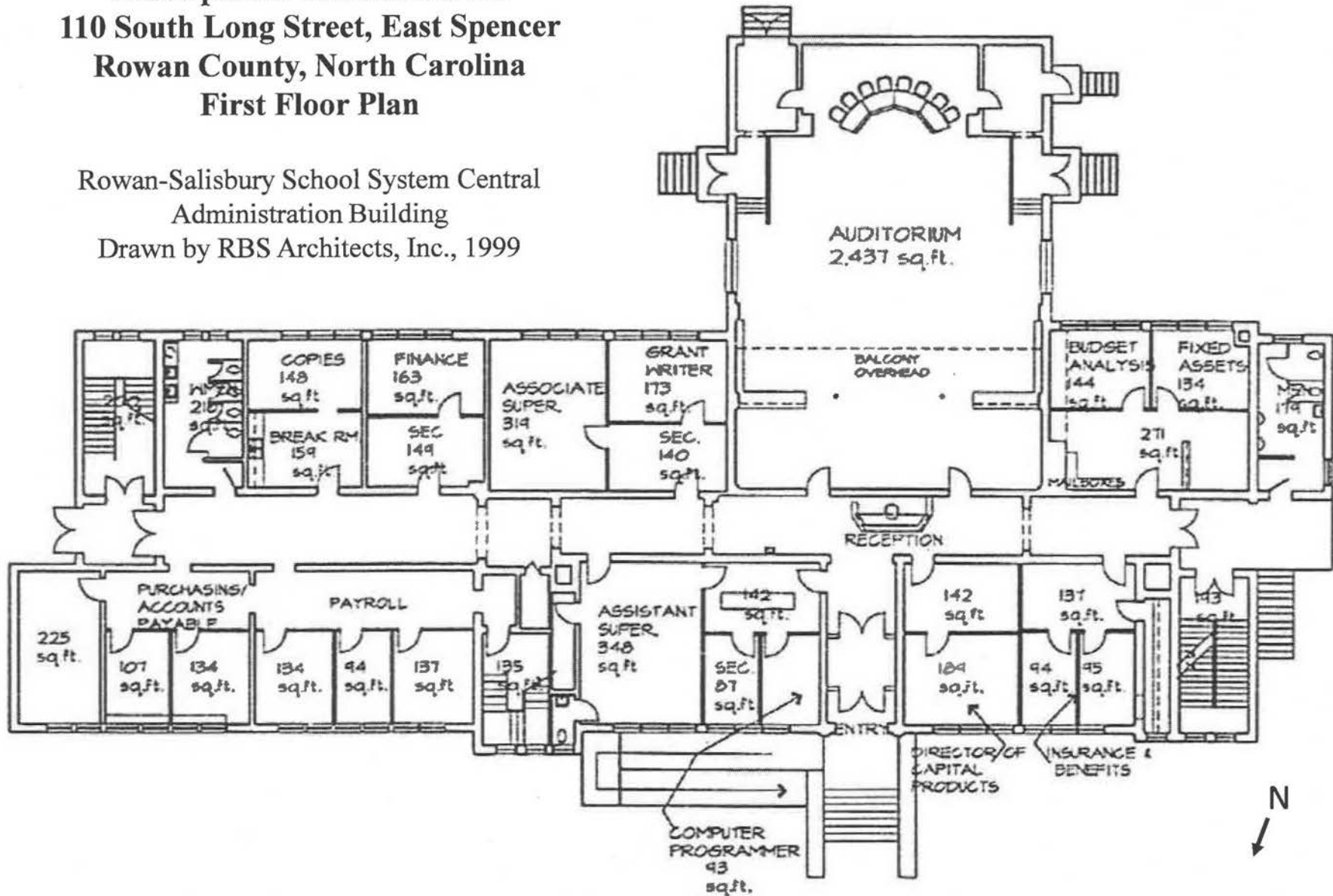
**East Spencer Graded School
 110 South Long Street, East Spencer
 Rowan County, North Carolina
 1921 School Basement (below) and
 1909-1913 School Plan (right)**

Rowan-Salisbury School System Central
 Administration Building
 Drawn by RBS Architects, Inc., 1999



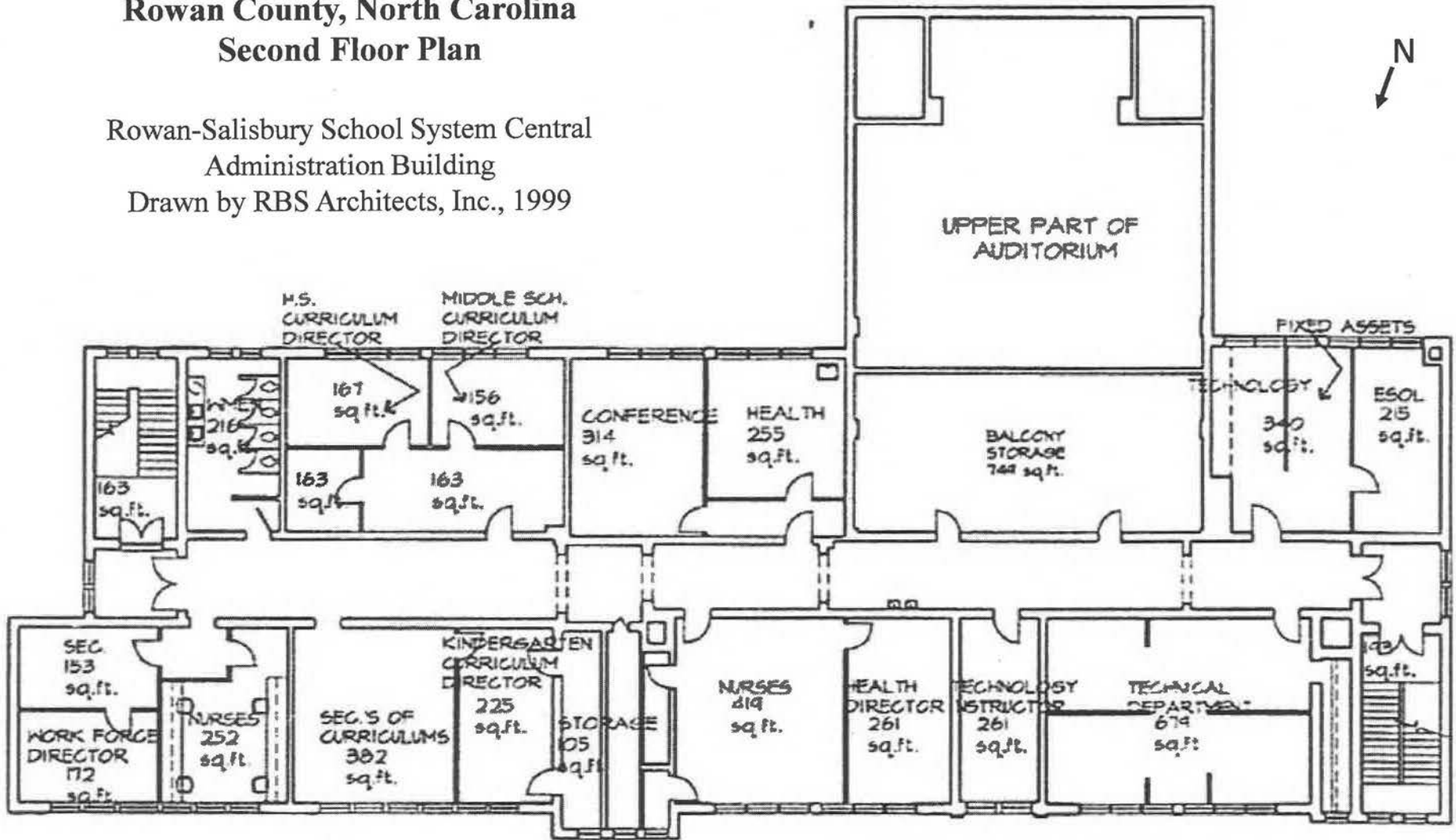
East Spencer Graded School
110 South Long Street, East Spencer
Rowan County, North Carolina
First Floor Plan

Rowan-Salisbury School System Central
 Administration Building
 Drawn by RBS Architects, Inc., 1999



East Spencer Graded School
110 South Long Street, East Spencer
Rowan County, North Carolina
Second Floor Plan

Rowan-Salisbury School System Central
 Administration Building
 Drawn by RBS Architects, Inc., 1999





D. 2017. 8. 437

East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#1



D. 2017. 8. 438

East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#2



D. 2017. 8. 439

East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#3



DOWNS-SALINE BY
N.W. 10th Street
LONG ST ANNEX

D. 2017.8.440

East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#4



D. 2017.8.441

East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#5



D. 2017. 8. 442

East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#6



D. 2017. 8. 443

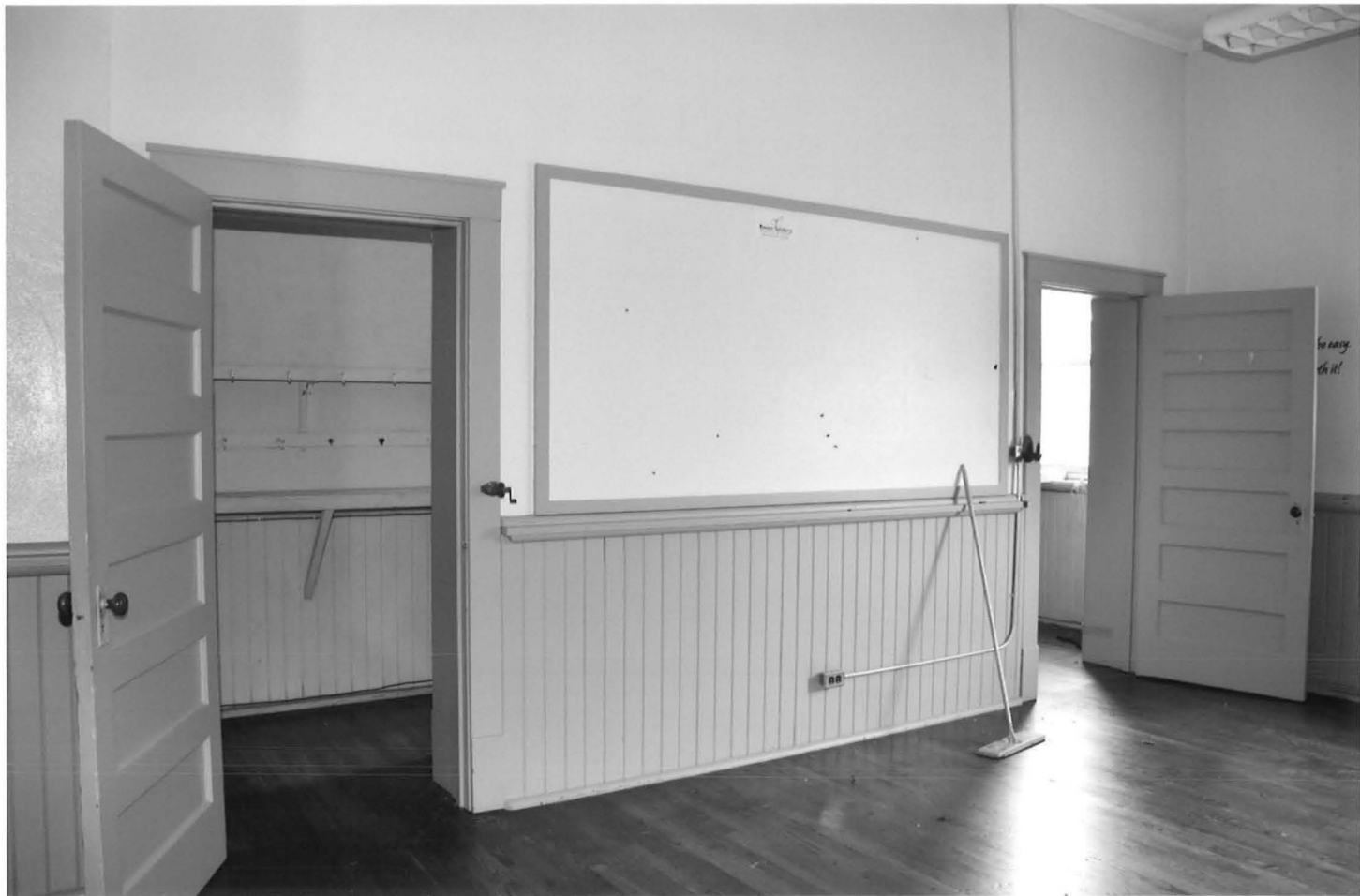
East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC



D. 2017. 8. 444

East Green Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#3



D. 2017-8. 445
Fast Spence

Graded School, Rowan County, NC



D. 2017. 8. 446

East Spencer Graded School, Rowan County, NC

#10

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/11/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 1/25/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 1/25/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



DEC 14 2017

**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

December 1, 2017

Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C. 20240

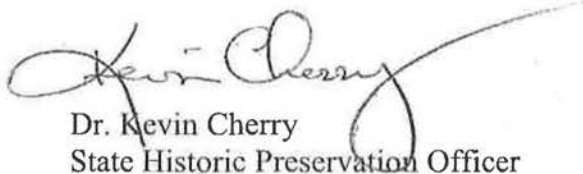
Re: Magnolia Place (Boundary Decrease) – Burke County
Caswell County Training School – Caswell County
Windover – Haywood County
West Martin School – Martin County
North Carolina Industrial Home for Colored Girls – Orange County
East Spencer Graded School – Rowan County

Dear Ms. Toothman:

Enclosed are the nominations for the above-referenced properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find the nominations to be in order. If you have any questions please call Jennifer Brosz, 919.807.6587.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kevin Cherry
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/bw: enclosures