

(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute Historic District (Western Carolina

AND/OR COMMON Male Academy, North Carolina College)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER see boundary description

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN	Mount Pleasant	--- VICINITY OF	8th	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE	North Carolina	CODE	37	COUNTY
				Cabarrus
				CODE
				25

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mayhew, The Heirs of
NAME Anna F. Richardson, Mrs. John R. Hughes, Hoy A. Moose, Multiple Properties
Investment Corporation, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER see continuation sheet

CITY, TOWN STATE

--- VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cabarrus County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE
Concord North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE
--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

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Beginning at the northwest corner of the junction of Walnut and North Main Streets and running north three hundred seventy-five feet along the eastern boundaries of parcels 19, 18 and 17 to the northeast corner of parcel 17. The boundary continues to the west for 155.1 feet to the southwest corner of plot 11 and then north for 175 feet to the northeast corner of parcel 11 continuing west along the north boundary of parcel 11 for 200.7 to its northwest corner where it carries south for 200 feet to the northwest corner of parcel 17. The district boundary carries across College Street from that point for 185 feet to the west across the north boundary of plot 6 stopping at its northwest corner where it turns south and continues along the western boundary of plot 6 for 266 feet to its junction with the northern boundary of plot 3--a wedge shaped parcel containing 4.8 acres. From that junction the district boundary continues in a northwesterly direction for 710 feet, more or less, to the plot's corner where it continues in a southwestern direction for 295 feet, more or less to the southwestern corner of the plot where it continues in a southeastern/eastern direction for 942 feet, more or less, to its junction with North College Street. The district boundary continues north along the eastern boundary of plot 3 for 100 feet, more or less, where it turns east across North College Street and continues east for 390.3 feet along the north side of Walnut Street to its junction with North Main Street at the southeast corner of plot 19.

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A Mt. Pleasant Collegiate Institute: Mrs. Archie Smith, Chairman
Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society
Route 1, Box 118
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124

D Boarding House: Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Mayhew
205 College Street
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124

F Matthias Barrier House: The Heirs of Anna F. Richardson
c/o Mrs. John R. Hughes,
P. O. Box 34
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124

C President's House: Mrs. John R. Hughes
P. O. Box 34
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124

B Society Hall: Mr. Hoy A. Moose
P. O. Box 67
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124

E New Dormitory: Multiple Properties Investment Corp., Inc.
c/o Mr. David Drye
646 North Church St.
Concord, NC 28025

Water Tower: Town of Mt. Pleasant

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set on a hill-top tract the campus of the Western Carolina Male Academy overlooked the rolling Cabarrus County countryside in the mid-nineteenth century when Mount Pleasant was a stop on the stage route to Salisbury. While the village of Mount Pleasant has grown over the century and a quarter since the Academy's organization in 1852 the pastoral atmosphere of the campus setting has changed little. One and two-story residences erected along the Salisbury Road (now North Main Street) and on the streets to the east and west complement the charm of the buildings and grounds which have served as the campus of three institutions--the Western Carolina Male Academy from 1855 to 1858, North Carolina College from 1859 to 1901, and the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute from 1903 until 1933.

Remaining among groves of magnolia, evergreen and deciduous shade trees are a group of six buildings dating from the years of occupancy by these three educational institutions. The oldest structures on the campus are the three-story Main Building and the two-story President's House both built in 1854-1855. A pair of society halls begun in 1858 were completed by 1860 when the school had been reorganized as North Carolina College. Following the college's reopening after the Civil War the Boarding House was built in 1868. The last built structure in the group is the New Dormitory constructed in 1925. Each of these buildings has undergone some alterations by both the educational tenants and the various private owners who acquired individual buildings at auction in 1941. Also included in this nomination is the Greek Revival residence of Matthias Barrier who sold sixteen and a quarter acres to the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in 1853. Mr. Barrier erected this residence--adjacent to the campus--shortly thereafter and was named a founding director of the academy. Tradition accords that the house was occasionally used for boarding students at the academy and the later college.

The Main Building, set on the crest of the hilltop campus, was described as follows in a catalog printed in 1857-1858: "The Academy edifice is a neat, substantial, three-story brick building, 75 by 40, containing a commodious Chapel, a Preparatory Department, several Recitation rooms. Reading Room, two Society Halls, three Library Rooms and a number of other rooms sufficient to accommodate about 50 students." The three-story building, seven bays wide by three deep, is laid up in one to five American bond and covered with a patterned tin shingle mansard roof pierced by symmetrically disposed chimney stacks and ventilator dormers. The overhanging eaves are ornamented with molded wood blocks forming rafter brackets. A belfry, square in plan, covered with a hipped roof and boasting a tapering terminal post rests on the center of the roof. The original hipped roof was replaced by the present mansard roof in 1894.

Rising from a shallow projecting foundation the building's four elevations feature a three part division marked by projecting pilasters which carry from a granite base to a shallow granite capital. Entrances are recessed in the center first story bays of the east (and original front) elevation and the west elevation. These are comprised of double doors each having four panes of glazing above a solid panel flanked by side-lights and a transom; the transom on the west elevation has been replaced by a solid panel. The other bays on both the east and west elevations contain windows in each bay at each level. The diminution of fenestration throughout the building features twelve over twelve sash on the first story, a smaller scaled twelve over twelve sash on the second story and six over six sash on the third story. Granite sills and lintels are

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consistently used. On the south elevation windows are set in the center bay only on the first and second stories but in all three bays of the third story. The north elevation contains fenestration in each of the three bays at the first and third story levels and in the center bay of the second story.

The interior of the building was substantially remodeled in 1917. The first story follows a center hall plan with the hall on a east-west axis; a staircase set at the western end of the hall rises to the second and third stories. The second and third stories follow a T-hall plan with the top of the T following a north-south axis the full length of the building with dormitory rooms on either side. These rooms were designed for the students each with closets flanking the entrance. The interior of the building was described as follows in the institute's 1928 catalog. "Nothing has been overlooked in the remodeling of the building that would contribute to the comfort, health and safety of students. The Commandant and one other teacher room in this building will accommodate about fifty students. On the first floor are a reception room, a supply room, the President's office, and three recitation rooms." The exterior walls are plastered while the interior partition walls are sheathed with wide boards. The door surrounds are comprised of wide plain boards which rise to enclose two-pane transoms; most of these retain their dark finish.

(B)
The Society Hall, located several yards southwest of the Main Building is a two-story three-bay by two-bay brick building laid up in one to five American bond. The bays of the east and west elevations are marked by single brick pilasters at the corners and pairs of pilasters flanking the center bays; these have molded brick capitals. The building's gable roof has overhanging eaves with rafter brackets which carry across the gable ends. The front (east) entrance, a nine panel door surmounted by a twelve light transom, is set in a simple Greek Revival doorway with molded paneled reveals and occupies the center bay of the east elevation. The hall's fenestration features twelve over twelve sash in a two part molded surround with granite sills and lintels. The interior plan, remodeled in 1922, features a rectangular hall behind the entrance with a stair rising to the second story behind the northern bay of the east elevation. The 1928 Catalog advised prospective students that:

There are three large rooms and one smaller room on the ground floor. Two of these are occupied by the Library and Reading Room, and two as class rooms. On the second floor are the Society Hall proper and one recitation room. The Society Hall comprises more than two-thirds of the entire floor.

The most distinctive features of this remodeling were the pressed tin ceilings installed in the two rooms on the second floor.

(C)
The President's House, a two-story frame vernacular Greek Revival dwelling, located directly south of the Main Building, rests on a stone foundation and is covered by

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weatherboards and a hipped roof. The three bay east (front) elevation has a one story full facade hipped roof porch with replacement turn of the century posts and brackets. The side elevations are two bays deep. A diminutive two-story ell and shed room occupy the rear elevation; a shed porch carries across the rear of the ell and shed and connects to the one story, two car frame garage built in the 1940s and set at the northeast corner of the house. The front entrance is composed of a pair of single panel doors flanked by side lights and a transom set in a symmetrically molded surround with corner blocks. The window surrounds are also symmetrically molded with corner blocks; the fenestration features six over six sash windows. The interior of the house follows a side hall plan with a pair of rooms on its north side; a chimney rises between the two providing a fireplace per room. The interior is simply finished with plastered walls (and some later tongue and groove sheathing) and modest Greek Revival woodwork. The rear ell and shed have been somewhat altered during the tenancy of several occupants but remain essentially as built with a rear service stair to the rooms above.

(D) The fifth building built on the campus--and the fourth oldest remaining--is the Boarding House erected in 1868. The two-story three-bay (four bays on the east front first-story elevation) by three-bay frame house rests on brick piers (now infilled for a basement) and is covered by a hipped roof; the fenestration features six over six sash throughout the house. The appearance of the house was changed somewhat in the 1950s when Mrs. R. O. Williams adapted the building for use as her residence; the house has subsequently been covered with aluminum siding. A two-tier porch--said to be the original form--carries fully across the front elevation; its first story wraps the house's northeast corner and continues along the north elevation. The supports, square in plan, are connected by a plain balustrade. The first story entrance is set in the second bay from the house's northeast corner while on the second story a door onto the porch occupies the center bay. A common bond brick chimney stands between the middle and easternmost bays of the south elevation. On the rear (west) elevation a one story shed room occupies the two northernmost bays. The interior plan of the house's first story remains little altered since construction. The plan is divided in half with the entrance/stair hall and kitchen occupying the northern half of the plan with the dining hall in the other half of the first story. The second story has a center hall running east/west with three bedrooms opening therefrom. The simply molded interior woodwork reflects the alterations made by both the Institute and later occupants over a long period of time.

(E) In 1925, less than ten years before the Institute was to close, a dormitory--the New Dormitory--was built. The largest building on campus, the New Dormitory is a three story brick veneer structure--laid up in common bond--seven bays wide by three bays deep covered by a hipped roof pierced by ventilators. The eaves are ornamented with rafter brackets. The center bays on the east and west elevations project from the elevation and contain entrances at the first story level. The paired glazed and paneled doors on the east elevation are sheltered by a one story Tuscan porch while the single door on the rear (west) elevation is protected by a shallow shed/hood supported by triangular brackets. A third entrance--a pair of double doors--in the

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center of the south elevation is also protected by a similar hood. The fenestration features six over one sash on the east and west elevations and the outside bays of the north and south elevations; the five center bays of these last-named elevations have paired windows with the same sash arrangement. According to the 1928 Catalog:

The interior accommodates 52 students in the second and third floors. The first floor is divided into 4 corner rooms suitable for a reception room and class rooms and a large central room for an assembly hall. The dormitory rooms are 12x15, with two roomy built in closets, affording ample and comfortable quarters for two students. Each room is provided with a lavatory with hot and cold water. There is a toilet room finished in tile and marble, with shower bath on each floor. The entire structure is built of first-class materials and is modern in every respect.

The new dormitory was converted to apartments after its purchase in 1941.

The Matthias Barrier House ^(F) is the sixth structure included in the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute nomination; the two-story, double-pile, frame Greek Revival residence was the handsome seat of the prominent Cabarrus County farmer and educational leader. The well preserved and maintained house, essentially square in plan, rests on a brick foundation and is covered with weatherboards and a hipped roof. The house has six over six sash windows set in symmetrically molded surrounds with corner blocks. The original louvered blinds remain in place at some windows while those at others are replacements.

The front (east) elevation has a three-bay division with the central entrance sheltered by a one-story one-bay hipped roof porch. The well executed Greek Revival porch is supported by four free-standing tapering piers and two pilasters (at the back of the porch) which rise to a molded architrave and entablature. These are connected by a molded balustrade. The central entrance, set in flush sheathing, is composed of paired paneled doors flanked by side lights (above panels) and an eight-pane transom set in a symmetrically molded surround with corner blocks.

The north and south (side) elevations have a four-bay division with single shoulder exterior brick chimneys placed symmetrically between the two easternmost and two westernmost bays on each elevation. A diminutive two-story gable roof ell occupies the north half of the rear (west) elevation; an L-shaped shed porch with flush ends carries along the rear of the house and continues along the south side of the ell. The porch has similar, yet simpler, tapering piers also connected by a balustrade; a flight of steps at the porch's west end provides access from the lawn. A large chimney originally stood on the west gableend of the ell; it has since been removed and replaced by an interior brick flue stack which rises above the roof.

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The interior of the house follows a center hall plan with a stair rising to the second story in the western end of the hall. The tapering newel post is connected by a round handrail to the chamfered newels on the second floor landing. The other woodwork in the house, including the mantels in each of the eight rooms in the main block features simply molded Greek Revival detail and proportions. The door and window surrounds are either symmetrically molded or fluted with corner blocks; the doors are two panel and several retain their original staining and graining. The walls are plastered and papered. The partition between the rooms on the north side of the hall is made of flush boards and is said to be a later addition with tradition suggesting that this large room may have been a dining hall for boarders at the Academy and college. The room in the southwest corner of the house has an enclosed stair which rises in its northeast corner to the second story. The second story of the house is finished similarly to the first story and follows the same floor plan.

Some partitioning has been effected in the easternmost room of the ell while the larger, western room--the original kitchen--retains its original mantel and enclosed stair in the northeast corner providing access to the attic above which does not communicate with the main block.

The Matthias Barrier House has three outbuildings which are situated to the west of the house. The largest of these is a mid-nineteenth century two level log barn, of saddle-notch construction, with a gable roof having a metal cover: the roof extends to form a pent across the east and west elevations to provide shelter for the entrances to the stables on the first floor and the lofts above. The north and south gable ends are weatherboarded. Just north of the barn is a small frame one story storage building with an entrance occupying the full, east elevation of the building; it is covered with weatherboards and a standing seam metal roof. The newest building of the three is a small frame tack house, covered with weatherboards and a gable roof which was moved onto the site from the owner's farm in the county

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The North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for some years prior to 1852 had been concerned with the lack of a Lutheran facility for educating young people of the faith. In a special session on July 21, 1852, Joseph A. Linn, president of the Synod, guided through a resolution to establish the Western Carolina Male Academy (sometimes called Western North Carolina Academy). Chosen as the site for the school was a small community in eastern Cabarrus County known as Mount Pleasant.¹

The area was settled by Germans from Pennsylvania who migrated southward via the Great Wagon Road and was named Mount Pleasant because of its picturesque location and high elevation between Buffalo and Adams creeks.² A major trading route from Salisbury to points in South Carolina passed through the community and Mount Pleasant soon became a regular stop for stages and freight wagons; thus the community was accessible from both states and had exhibited a stable growth pattern.³ But even more important to the Synod was the fact that Mount Pleasant was essentially a Lutheran community which would welcome their school.

The Western Carolina Male Academy was constructed on a rolling eminence overlooking the town. The 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land was purchased from Matthias Barrier, one of the directors of the academy whose home stands on part of the old campus, on June 30, 1853.⁴ The campus eventually included a three-story brick structure and a principal's (president's) house of frame construction. Neither was completed by March 1, 1855, when the Reverend William Gerhardt was inaugurated as president of the academy.⁵ Gerhardt, a graduate of Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, successfully operated the school during its entire existence as Western Carolina Male Academy. He resigned in 1858 and spent the latter years of his life in Martinsburg, West Virginia, where he died in 1917 at the age of one hundred.⁶

The contract for the academy building called for a completion date by January 1, 1855, and a total cost of \$7,000. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1854, but the structure was not finished until the summer of 1855. The principal's house was also constructed in 1855 at a cost of \$1,425. Gerhardt may have moved into his new home upon its completion, but the main building was not occupied until the fall term of 1855. At the end of the academic year 1855-1856, the president of the Board of Directors reported that the academy enjoyed a successful operation.⁷

Pleased with the progress of the academy and realizing the need for an institution of higher learning in that part of the state, the North Carolina Synod decided to raise the educational level of the school to college status. They applied for a charter of incorporation for the North Carolina College Trustees which the General Assembly granted on January 21, 1859.¹⁰ The resolution of the synod declared that the members of the Board of Directors of the academy would constitute the Board for the new college.¹

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Construction on two society halls began in 1858 while the college charter was pending in the legislature. When completed in 1860 the twin brick structures stood two stories high and each contained three large rooms and one smaller room on the ground floor and the society hall and a recitation room on the second floor. Total cost of the structures was \$8,000.¹² The society halls, known as Pi Sigma Phi and Philalaethian, flanked the main building on the north and south sides and all three structures were connected by an elaborate system of walkways.¹³

D. H. Bittle was selected as the first president of newly established North Carolina College, then consisting of three brick structures and the principal's house.¹⁴ Subscriptions had been issued to establish an endowment fund and the college treasurer reported on October 5, 1859, that the fund had reached \$20,827.¹⁵ The institution was an immediate success, attracting students from as far away as Texas. Since only a small fraction of the students came from the Mount Pleasant vicinity, it was necessary to make boarding accommodations.¹⁶ Some were housed in the main building's second and third floors; others were given rooms in homes of Mount Pleasant residents. When the fall session began in 1861, the enrollment had reached 101.¹⁷ Growth and success were cut short, however, as war clouds covered the state. Students began withdrawing, some officially, others just leaving. Bittle tried several measures to keep the school open, but even though the financial condition was sound and the faculty was paid through the fall term of 1862, the college had in essence ceased to function.¹⁸

The war years proved disastrous for the North Carolina College. The generous endowment fund shriveled as \$10,000 in college funds was used to purchase state bonds. By October 1, 1864, liabilities exceeded assets by \$4,645.¹⁹ Many debts owed to the college were written off as uncollectible, and repudiation of the state debt in 1865 turned \$10,000 worth of state bonds into worthless papers.²⁰ With no money to pay caretakers, the Board of Trustees watched helplessly as the campus buildings and grounds rapidly deteriorated. The academic doors reopened in the fall of 1866, but the college had suffered a crippling blow, one from which it never fully recovered.

For the remainder of the century the school struggled financially, but donations from various Lutheran churches and loans from the North Carolina Synod enabled the college to keep its doors open and even to make repairs to the dilapidated buildings.²¹ A kitchen, which was also called the boarding house, was built in 1868 on the campus, but no dimensions were given.²² Treasurer's receipts indicate massive repairs to the major buildings, but since money was not consistently available, work was spread out over the entire decade of the 1870s. Among the changes and improvements were the following: replacement of fireplaces by stoves; major repairs to the wooden shingle roof of the main building; plastering and carpentry work; painting of buildings' exteriors; staining of the interiors; and installation of new glass in the windows.²³ Most of the work was done by local craftsmen, two of whom were J. M. Frieze and Jesse Haithcock who also made desks and furniture for the classrooms.²⁴ Some of the trustees,

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namely Mathias Barrier, Daniel Barringer, and Godhart Bernheim, also added their skills to the repair efforts.²⁵

Despite the efforts of the trustees to put the college in good order, student enrollment never regained its antebellum level. Loss of the endowment left tuition as the main source of income; consequently, the college was constantly in financial difficulties. Faculty and staff resigned with regularity because of the institution's inability to pay them a consistent salary.²⁶ When the Lutheran Synod began channeling its funds and efforts into Lenoir College (now Lenoir-Rhyne), the end was near for North Carolina College. In 1901 college level study at the Mount Pleasant school was suspended indefinitely and the doors to the college were closed.²⁷

While the trustees of North Carolina College were trying to decide what to do about their dilemma, the Reverend L. E. Busby was granted permission to operate a private school on the campus grounds.²⁸ After one session of the private school, the trustees resolved to reopen their educational institution as a preparatory school with two major goals: (1) to prepare young men for full college, and (2) to help prepare for life those young men who did not plan to attend the colleges or universities.²⁹ A new name, the Collegiate Institute at Mount Pleasant, was adopted and the first session began in 1903 with G. F. McAllister and the Reverend H. A. McCulloch as co-principals.³⁰ Buildings of the Collegiate Institute included the main structure, principal's house, boarding house, and one of the society halls. The other had burned to the ground sometime before 1900 after being struck by lightning.³¹

In 1907 the institute introduced a modified military system "to provide proper regulation of conduct, and physical exercise and development for the young men."³² The new system was complete with uniforms and a rigidly enforced code of discipline. The Collegiate Institute, however, was always a preparatory and not a military school, having no service obligations after graduation. Only military discipline was demanded and that remained a characteristic of the institute until it closed. In 1908 George F. McAllister became the principal and held the position for the duration of the school.³³

Until the mid 1920s, the campus looked the same as when the institute opened. The main building, however, underwent a complete interior renovation in 1917 and became the only dormitory facility on campus.³⁴ Space for about fifty students was made on the second and third floors while the first floor contained a reception room, bath room, principal's office, and three recitation rooms.³⁵ In 1922 the remaining Society Hall also underwent interior renovation, particularly the first floor where two rooms housed the library, one contained the armory, and one was a classroom. Little was done to the second floor which contained the society hall and a recitation room.³⁶ The boarding hall was described in 1921 as a two-story frame structure. On the first floor was a kitchen, pantries, small dining room, and a large dining room.³⁷ The second floor was an apartment for the boarding house matron.

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The North Carolina College directors allocated \$75,000 for a new dormitory in 1924.³⁸ The three story brick structure was erected in the spring and summer of 1925 and was the largest building on campus. Located north of the main building, the new dormitory had the first floor divided into four corner rooms with a large central room used as an³⁹ assembly hall. The second and third floors provided living space for students.

Despite some financial difficulties, the Collegiate Institute continued operation in the early years of the depression, but during the second and third decades of the twentieth century there had been a large increase in publicly funded, and better quality, high schools throughout the state.⁴⁰ With the improvement in secondary education, the North Carolina Synod and the Board of Directors considered maintenance of the institution a needless expense. After the class of 1933 was graduated, the Collegiate Institute at Mount Pleasant closed its doors.⁴¹

On December 29, 1941, the North Carolina College Trustees held a public auction to dispose of the college property which had been surveyed and laid off in 108 lots.⁴² The Society Hall lots⁴³ (nos. 37, 38, and 39) were purchased by Hoy A. Moose who still retains ownership.⁴³ In 1945 Walter Nance acquired the principal's house and bequeathed it to his widow Helen who later married Robert Hughes. Mrs. Hughes now lives in the house.⁴⁴ The boarding house was eventually purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Robert O'Neal Williams (the sister of Mrs. Walter Nance) who remodeled it in the 1950s before transferring ownership. The structure is now owned by E. E. Mayhew.⁴⁵ The Trustees of North Carolina College sold lots 41-52, containing the new dormitory and main building to A. C. and W. J. Widenhouse and A. P. Furr at the auction on December 29, 1941.⁴⁶ Dr. A. L. Barringer acquired the property on March 20, 1947, and for a number of years his office was located in the building. Several transfers brought the property into the possession of the Multiple Properties Investment Corporation, Inc.,⁴⁷ who is looking for a buyer for the dormitory, now used as an apartment complex. On March 25, 1947, Barringer sold the old main building and lots to E. G. Parham (Parrom)⁴⁸ who transferred it to the Eastern Cabarrus Historic Society, Inc., on May 2, 1973.

The Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society financed restoration of the structure for use as a historical museum. Under the supervision of Jack Austin of Mount Pleasant, the exterior was restored and painted, the window sash were replaced, and the roof repaired. The society decided to reorient the entrances for easier public access; what was⁴⁹ originally the rear entrance to the building is now the main entrance to the museum. Except for room number 1 to the left of the entrance, known as the George F. McAllister Room, all the rooms in the museum were sold to sponsors with restrictions as to furnishings and use.⁵⁰

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At present, the Eastern Cabarrus Historical Society owns only the museum lots and those adjacent (no. 19-26, 41-46). Hoy Moose has agreed to sell the Society Hall and its lots as soon as the society has the available funds.⁵¹ Long range plans include a museum complex composed of some of the oldest buildings on the former campus grounds.

Adjacent to the campus is the previously mentioned home of Mathias Barrier, which stands near the intersection of College and Walnut streets in Mount Pleasant. It was constructed by the man whose name it bears between 1853 and 1860.⁵² While Barrier has not been granted a place among the makers of North Carolina history, he was nevertheless a prominent personality in Cabarrus County for many years, and his name is well known in the annals of the Lutheran Church for his efforts in promoting Lutheran education in the state.

Born in 1803 Mathias Barrier became a modest farmer in the antebellum period.⁵³ He gathered substantial land holdings primarily in the Dutch Buffalo Creek area where he resided until the 1850s, but his wealth in land and slaves never approximated that of the planter gentry.⁵⁴ In 1829 Barrier married Margaret Mitchell and their known children were Ann, William L., and Rufus A. Barrier.⁵⁵

Mathias Barrier was nearly fifty years of age when he became actively involved in the campaign to establish a school for Lutheran children in Cabarrus County. On May 23, 1853, Barrier purchased fifty-one acres in the village of Mount Pleasant, presumably with the idea of providing space for the newly created Western Carolina Male Academy.⁵⁶ A month later he deeded 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres to the trustees of the academy.⁵⁷ For his interest and efforts, Barrier was named to the school's Board of Directors.⁵⁸

Shortly after the establishment of the Western Carolina Male Academy, Barrier constructed a new home near the southern edge of the campus.⁵⁹ From there he conducted his duties as a director of the academy (which became North Carolina College in 1859) as well as managing his farm lands until his death in 1873. Named in his will were his only surviving heirs, wife Margaret and son Rufus. Margaret received all money and notes belonging to her deceased husband while Rufus was given all real property, including the dwelling house. Barrier, however, had inserted an unusual provision in his will that stated, "I wish her [Margaret] to have control of 2 rooms in my house the one we now live in for her life to be disposed of at her death as she chooses."⁶⁰ Despite the special provision, the legal owner of the property was R. A. Barrier.

Rufus Alexander Barrier was born in 1837, the youngest child of Mathias and Margaret.⁶¹ By age twenty-three he had become a successful farmer in his own right.⁶² When the Civil War broke out he joined Company K of the Seventh North Carolina Regiment where he rose to rank of Lieutenant Colonel.⁶³ After the war he married Martha Roxanna Anthony and by 1870 had moved to Mount Pleasant.⁶⁴ Rufus built a home a few hundred feet west of his father Mathias on the Mathias Barrier lot.⁶⁵ In compliance with his father's will, Rufus granted his mother control of two rooms (west wing) in his father's

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house, but it does not appear that Rufus and Martha ever lived in the Mathias Barrier House. On August 26, 1874, about a year after Mathias's death, Margaret sold her rights and interest in the rooms to Elizabeth Melchor. The same deed transferred ownership of the dwelling house and four acres from Rufus and Martha Barrier to Elizabeth Melchor who moved into the Mathias Barrier House.⁶⁶ A year later⁶⁷ she acquired eight more acres of adjoining Barrier land from Rufus and Martha Barrier.

Elizabeth Melchor, widow of Charles Melchor, lived in the house for three years. Living with her was her daughter Nancy, who was either an invalid or severely handicapped. Elizabeth died in 1877 but she had attempted to provide for Nancy through terms of her will. To her son-in-law Alexander Foil, who had married her daughter Amelia, Elizabeth Melchor bequeathed the "property located in Mt. Pleasant, known as the Barrier property on which I now reside on condition that they furnish my daughter Nancy Melchor a home and take care of her during her life."⁶⁸ Surprisingly, Alexander and Amelia Foil refused to accept the conditions under which the property was bequeathed, even though Nancy was Amelia's sister. The Foils released their rights to the property⁶⁹ to Monroe Melchor, Elizabeth's son whom she had appointed to be executor of her will. Monroe Melchor then put the property up for public sale on August 6, 1878, at which time it was purchased by W. W. Reid. In a somewhat ironic turn of events, Reid assigned his purchase⁷⁰ to Edmund Foil, brother of Alexander who had refused to accept the conditional bequest.

Born on December 30, 1829,⁷¹ Edmund Foil was not quite twenty-two years of age when he married Catherine Kluttz. He was a successful farmer and over the years acquired sizable land holdings around Buffalo Creek.⁷² Foil moved into the Mathias Barrier House in late 1880 where he resided until his death on May 8, 1891.⁷³ Edmund Foil died intestate, and when his real estate was divided among his six children, no specific mention was made of the Mount Pleasant property. In 1907 five of the Foil heirs transferred their interest in the "lot known as the Edmund Foil lot" to John H. Foil.⁷⁴ The deed, however, was not recorded until 1933, apparently about the time that the property passed to another member of the family. J. H. Foil's daughter, Anna Cleveland Foil, married Frank R. Richardson and was the last member of the family to occupy the Mathias Barrier House. The 125 year old structure has been vacant for some years now, and ownership is shared by Anna Foil Richardson's daughters: Helen Richardson Nance Hughes, Margaret R. Perry, Anna⁷⁵ Foil Williams, and Elizabeth R. Shaw, who are the great-granddaughters of Edmund Foil.

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The buildings making up the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute Historic District possess considerable architectural and historical significance in that they compose one of the few private antebellum complexes for higher education in the state. The main buildings at Louisburg College (Franklin County), Chowan College (Murfreesboro, Hertford County), and Mitchell College (Statesville, Iredell County)--each of which is already on the National Register--may be individually more impressive; however, the Mount Pleasant Institute composes one of the few such antebellum clusters of several buildings. Four of the six major buildings in the district are antebellum, having been built in the 1850's. The centerpiece of the district, the Main Building, is a large three-story brick building built in 1854-1855 to house the various functions of the Western Carolina Male Academy when it opened in 1855. The two-story frame President's House was completed that same year. In the late 1850's Mathias Barrier, an original director of the institution, built a residence for himself adjacent to the college. The third of the antebellum buildings built by the institution is Society Hall begun in 1858 and completed in 1860, by which time the institution had been reorganized as North Carolina College. This complex of buildings is then the oldest, largest, and most complete antebellum educational buildings retaining integrity on their campus in western North Carolina.

The only other comparable private antebellum campus in western North Carolina is Davidson College whose main building, the Chambers Building, was destroyed by fire in 1921.

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Footnotes

¹The actual decision to locate at Mount Pleasant was made by a temporary Board of Directors appointed by the Synod that met at Organ Church on December 2, 1852. G. D. Bernheim and George H. Cox, The History of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Ministerium of North Carolina (Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Society, 1902), p. 67, hereinafter cited as Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod. See also Jacob L. Morgan and others (eds.), History of the Lutheran Church in North Carolina (Salisbury [?]: United Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North Carolina, 1953), p. 117, hereinafter cited as Morgan, The Lutheran Church in N.C.

²William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), p. 340.

³MacRae-Brazier Map of North Carolina, 1833; Colton Map of North and South Carolina, 1861; and The Concord, November 12, 1974.

⁴Cabarrus County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cabarrus County Courthouse, Concord, Deed Book 21, p. 38, hereinafter cited as Cabarrus County Deed Books

⁵The committee to select a president was appointed in April, 1853, and they recommended Gerhardt to the General Synod in 1854 who issued the invitation. This has led some researchers to believe that he was inaugurated on the earlier date. He accepted the appointment but did not take up his duties until March 1, 1855. Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod, p. 69.

⁶R. D. W. Connor and a staff of writers, History of North Carolina, vol. 6 (Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), p. 280, hereinafter cited as Connor, History of North Carolina.

⁷Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod, p. 69.

⁸Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod, p. 69.

⁹The decision made in 1858 when the Board of Directors recommended "having the charter so amended as to immediately change the academy into a college." Quoted from Synod minutes in Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod.

¹⁰Public and Private Laws of N. C., 1858-59, c. 83 of Private Laws, pp. 79-80.

¹¹Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod, p. 71. See also Cabarrus Deed Book 21, p. 38, for a list of the North Carolina College Directors as grantees. The names include most of the Directors of the Academy appointed by the Synod in 1853. See Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod, p. 67.

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¹²Mt. Pleasant Collegiate Institute, Catalogs 1900-1933 (incomplete), North Carolina College at Chapel Hill, Catalog, 1900-1901 (North Carolina College), p. 5, hereinafter cited as Catalog with appropriate dates; and Bernheim and Cox, History of the Lutheran Synod, p. 67.

¹³See copy of engraving of a campus view in Catalog 1919-1920, frontispiece, a photograph of which is in the Survey file--Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Survey file. By the late 19th century, the two halls were known as Gerhardt and Ludwig. Only Gerhardt remains today. Catalog 1900-1901, p. 31 and Davyd F. Hood, survey specialist, from an interview with Mrs. J. Archie Smith of Mt. Pleasant, December 13, 1977, hereinafter cited as Smith interview, December 13, 1977.

¹⁴Mt. Pleasant Collegiate Institute (North Carolina College) Papers, 1853-1892. Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, hereinafter cited as N. C. College Papers.

¹⁵Treasurer's Report, N. C. College Papers. See also William S. Powell, Higher Education in North Carolina (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1964), pp. 60-61, hereinafter cited as Powell, Higher Education.

¹⁶Report of the State of N. C. College for the half session ending February 22, 1861. N. C. College Papers.

¹⁷D. H. Bittle to Board of Trustees, fall term, 1861. N. C. College Papers. At some point, the college purchased a house across the Salisbury Road from the campus and called it Barracks No. 2. Another structure on the southwest corner of Main and Walnut streets was also used briefly and known as Barracks No. 3. Neither of these structures (former was later destroyed) played a major role in the college history. Barracks No. 1, another name for the main building, was the primary residence of boarding students until 1925. Smith interview, December 13, 1977.

¹⁸D. H. Bittle to Board of Trustees, fall term, 1861, and Treasurer's Report, October 1, 1862. N. C. College Papers. See also Connor, History of North Carolina, 280.

¹⁹Treasurer's Report, October 1, 1863, and Report on the State of N. C. College, October 1, 1864. N. C. College Papers.

²⁰Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973 [rev. ed.]), pp. 484-485.

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²¹President's Report to Board of Trustees, October 15, 1868; and Treasurer's Report, October 1, 1868. N. C. College Papers.

²²In the Treasurer's Report, October 1, 1868, is a receipt dated May 3, 1868 for \$103.80 paid "for building a kitchen on College lot." N. C. College Papers. The payment was for labor, not materials.

²³See Treasurer's Reports, 1870-1880. N. C. College Papers.

²⁴Treasurer's Report, October 1, 1875. N. C. College Papers.

²⁵See itemized Treasurer's Report, August, 1868. The document is undated, but the amount total and nature of repairs corresponds to the final report dated August 12, 1868.

²⁶See letters of resignation in reports for 1870-1875. N. C. College Papers.

²⁷Powell, Higher Education, 26, 81; Morgan, The Lutheran Church in N. C., 117; and Catalog, 1920-1921, p. 8.

²⁸Catalog, 1920-1921, p. 8.

²⁹Catalog, 1920-1921; Daily Tribune (Concord), September 8, 1974, hereinafter cited as Daily Tribune; and Connor, History of North Carolina, 280.

³⁰Morgan, The Lutheran Church in N. C., 117-118; and Catalog, 1931-1932, typed transcript in Survey file.

³¹See notes in Survey file; and Smith interview, December 13, 1977. Only one Society Hall was still standing in 1920. See Catalog, 1920-1921, photo in frontispiece.

³²Connor, History of North Carolina, 280-281; Catalog, 1920-1921, pp. 20-22; and Catalog, 1931-1932, typed transcript in Survey file. See also Catalogs, 1920-1933, sections on military training and discipline.

³³Daily Tribune, September 8, 1974; and Catalog, 1931-1932, typed transcript in Survey file.

³⁴Catalog, 1920-1921, p. 29; Connor, History of North Carolina, 280-281; and Daily Tribune, September 8, 1974.

³⁵Catalog, 1920-1921, p. 29; and Collegiate Institute, Collegiate Institute Appeal: A Handbook of Facts and Plans (Salisbury, 1924), 15, hereinafter cited as Collegiate Institute Appeal.

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- ³⁶ Catalog, 1931-1932, typed transcript in Survey file.
- ³⁷ Whether the structure now called the boarding house dates from 1868 or a later period is not clear from the recorded data. The architectural analysis of the house supports the date "1868". See Catalog, 1920-1921, p. 29.
- ³⁸ Collegiate Institute Appeal, p. 5.
- ³⁹ Catalog, 1926-1927, p. 31.
- ⁴⁰ Morgan, The Lutheran Church in N. C., p. 120-121; and Powell, Higher Education, 61.
- ⁴¹ Powell, Higher Education, 61; and Morgan, The Lutheran Church in N.C., 120-121.
- ⁴² See Cabarrus County Deed Book 168, pp. 45, 111; Deed Book 192, p. 148; and Plat Book 6, p. 43.
- ⁴³ Cabarrus County Deed Book 168, p. 111. For identification of lots, see Plat Book 6, p. 43.
- ⁴⁴ Davyd Hood, survey specialist, from an interview with Mrs. J. Archie Smith of Mt. Pleasant, December 15, 1977, hereinafter cited as Smith interview, December 15, 1977.
- ⁴⁵ Smith interview, December 15, 1977.
- ⁴⁶ Cabarrus County Deed Book 168, p. 45.
- ⁴⁷ Cabarrus County Deed Book 201, p. 216. Barringer sold the parcel to John Fink who in turn transferred it to Billy Lynch. In 1974 Ralph Hartsell and David Drye, a realty firm, purchased the building and lot from Lynch. Two years later, they transferred ownership to the MPIC, Inc., of which David Drye is president and Ralph Hartsell is secretary. Letter from Ralph Hartsell to Larry E. Tise, Director of the Division of Archives and History, March 22, 1978, Survey file: Cabarrus County-Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. See also attached file note by Davyd Foard Hood, survey specialist based on interview with Ralph Hartsell, June 6, 1978.
- ⁴⁸ Cabarrus County Deed Book 200, p. 127; and Deed Book 435, p. 448.
- ⁴⁹ Daily Tribune, November 12, 1974.
- ⁵⁰ Daily Tribune, September 4, 1974; and Survey file.

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⁵¹Survey file--correspondence and draft of master plan for Eastern Cabarrus Historical Museum.

⁵²Barrier purchased the unimproved property from Isaac Moose on May 23, 1853. At that time he was living near Dutch Buffalo Creek. See Cabarrus County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cabarrus County Courthouse, Concord, Deed Book 22, p. 373, hereinafter cited as Cabarrus County Deed Books; and Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Cabarrus County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 484, bound volume in State Archives. Census records hereinafter cited by number and date.

In 1860 Barrier was living in Mount Pleasant as judged by his neighbors, among whom were merchants, dentist, shoemaker, and a hotel keeper. Also listed were a number of college students boarding in homes of Barrier's neighbors. Eighth Census, 1860.

⁵³Seventh Census, 1850; and Eighth Census, 1860.

⁵⁴Cabarrus County Deed Book 14, p. 170; Deed Book 18, p. 378; Deed Book 19, p. 25; Deed Book 21, p. 152; and Eighth Census, 1860.

⁵⁵Cabarrus County Marriage Bonds, originals in State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Cabarrus Marriage Bonds; and Seventh Census, 1850.

⁵⁶Cabarrus County Deed Book 22, p. 273.

⁵⁷Cabarrus County Deed Book 21, p. 38.

⁵⁸G. D. Bernheim and George H. Cox, The History of the Lutheran Synod, pp. 66-68. See also Private Laws, 1858-59, c. 83, pp. 79-80 for incorporation of North Carolina College Board of Directors.

⁵⁹See fn. 52 for construction dates. For location see description in deed from Margaret, Rufus, and Martha Barrier to Elizabeth Melchor. Cabarrus County Deed Book 25, p. 246. See also 1942 plat of college property, Cabarrus County Plat Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cabarrus County Courthouse, Concord, Plat Book 6, p. 43, hereinafter cited as Cabarrus Plat Book; and Plat of Barrier-Foil Property drawn by Jerry L. Cross, February 6, 1978, in Survey File for Mt. Pleasant Collegiate Institute, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Barrier-Foil Plat.

⁶⁰Mathias Barrier Will, original in Cabarrus County Records, Wills, State Archives, Raleigh.

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- ⁶¹The 1850 Census lists his age as thirteen. Seventh Census, 1850.
- ⁶²Eighth Census, 1860.
- ⁶³Index file to Moore's Roster of North Carolina Troops in the Civil War, State Archives, Raleigh.
- ⁶⁴Cabarrus Marriage Bonds; and Ninth Census, 1870.
- ⁶⁵Ninth Census, 1870, visitation order shows Mathias and Rufus Barrier to be next door neighbors. Also a deed from Martha Barrier, widow of Rufus, on November 12, 1877, to A. G. and E. D. Lentz is later described as the Barrier House and lot. Cabarrus County Deed Book 28, p. 322 (Barrier to Lentz); Deed Book 34, p. 179 (Lentz to Foil); and Deed Book 38, p. 209 (Foil to Lentz). This, however, was the Rufus Barrier House and lot which has created some confusion in tracing the chain of title for the Mathias Barrier House. For location of the two properties, see Barrier Foil Plat.
- ⁶⁶The four acres cost \$2,050, indicating the presence of a major structure. Cabarrus County Deed Book 25, p. 246.
- ⁶⁷Cabarrus County Deed Book 28, p. 516.
- ⁶⁸Cabarrus County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Cabarrus County Courthouse, Concord, Will Book 3, p. 227.
- ⁶⁹Cabarrus County Deed Book 28, p. 271.
- ⁷⁰See M. Melchor, exec. of Elizabeth Melchor, to Edmund Foil, March 11, 1880. Cabarrus County Deed Book 32, p. 65.
- ⁷¹W. P. A. Pre-1914 Graves Index, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Graves Index; and Cabarrus Marriage Bonds.
- ⁷²Cabarrus County Deed Book 22, pp. 462, 641; Deed Book 23, p. 276; Deed Book 31, pp. 327, 330; and Deed Book 37, p. 320.
- ⁷³Graves Index.
- ⁷⁴Cabarrus County Deed Book 47, p. 385; and Deed Book 128, p. 269.
- ⁷⁵Title to property since acquisition by Edmund Foil taken from Davyd Foard Hood. An interview with Helen Sue Richardson Nance Hughes, current co-owner of the property and great-granddaughter of Edmund Foil, January 31, 1978. Information is partially verified by plat of adjoining college property in 1942. Cabarrus Plat Book 6, p. 43.

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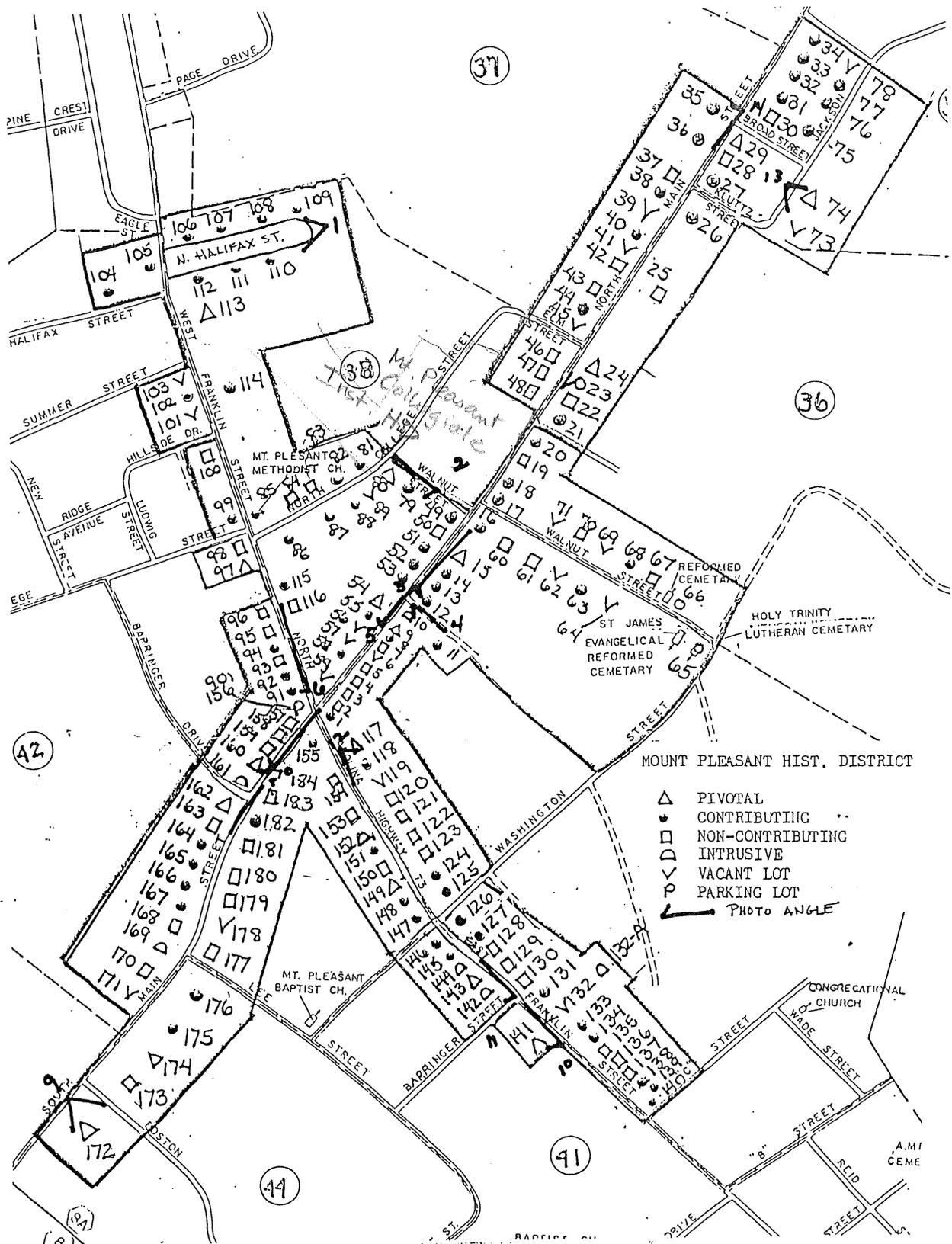
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MOUNT PLEASANT HIST, DISTRICT

- △ PIVOTAL
- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- ◻ INTRUSIVE
- ▽ VACANT LOT
- P PARKING LOT
- ← PHOTO ANGLE





NEW DORMITORY