

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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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 The Joyner Building
HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION Western Carolina University Campus
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Cullowhee

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
N. C.

--- VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY Western Carolina University
NAME James Dooley, Vice Chancellor
Cullowhee, N. C. 28723

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sylva

STATE

N. C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 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

Constructed in 1913-14, the Joyner Building is a straightforward red brick institutional building located at the center of the older section of the campus of Western Carolina University. While its primary importance for the university and for western North Carolina lies in its historical and symbolic associations rather than in special architectural prominence, it is nonetheless a substantial building of sturdy simple character, typical of its post Civil War era, and an important visual as well as symbolic feature of the campus. It has seen minor changes over the years as it has been adapted for various university functions, but it retains virtually all of its original exterior appearance and almost all interior fabric.

The building is constructed of brick laid in one-to-five common bond. It is planned on a large rectangle with a projecting rear wing, forming a T. The structure is two stories high on a raised basement, giving the impression and height of a three-story building; the basement level is divided from the first floor by a water table of cut stone on the front block and brick on the rear wing. The building is covered by a cross-gable-on-hip roof with wide overhanging eaves.

The front (northeast) elevation is eleven bays wide at the basement and second floor levels, with the three central bays flanked by engaged brick pilasters extending from the roof line to the water table; on the first floor the wide front entrance is centered between the pilasters. These pilasters are repeated at all four corners of the front block, which is six bays deep. The rear wing is four bays deep and six bays wide.

The large, closely spaced windows express the structure's function as a classroom building. All windows are set in simple molded frames with a segmental-arch heads, giving the building a vaguely Italianate character. Those of the basement level are of six-over-six sash, with brick lintels of headers two bricks thick; the first-and second-story windows have nine-over-nine sash with a three-light transom. The lintels of the arches, which are less pronounced than those of the basement-level windows, are three headers thick. A stair of cut stone rises to and supports the floor of an entrance porch; the pedimented gable roof of the porch is supported by square-in-section posts set on brick piers. There is a double-leaf entrance--both doors are replacements--flanked by three-light sidelights and a replacement transom, all set under a broad arched brick lintel.

The interior follows a center hall plan on both first and second floors, with two large rooms on either side of the hall that have been partitioned further at various times into classrooms, office, and storage space. The first floor of the rear wing is divided into two major sections on a northeast-southwest axis with offices and restrooms partitioned on the southeast side; the northwest half contains a stair descending to the basement along the northeast wall and one large classroom. The second floor of the wing contains one large classroom with two small offices partitioned off along the south east wall.

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The basement is partitioned with load-bearing masonry walls set nearly identical to those of the first floor, though the west corner of the basement is unexcavated.

The dominant feature of the interior is the fine stair that descends down the center of the hall and splays outward at the bottom. The heavy molded handrail is supported by closely spaced, turned balusters and terminates in large square-in-section newels with neck moldings, paneled faces, and dome-like caps. The balustrade and newels are repeated around the stairwell on the second floor.

The original load-bearing walls are plastered, and ceilings are of tongue-and-groove sheathing. Interior woodwork is typical of the standard commercial finish of the period; doors are five panels with transoms set in symmetrically molded frames, either mitred or with corner blocks. Later partitions are largely of plywood, some with glass set between the top of the wall and the ceiling.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1913-14

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Leach

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located at the center of the older section of the campus of Western Carolina University, the Joyner Building is the oldest building on the campus and the symbolic heart of the institution. At its completion in 1914 as the major administrative, classroom, laboratory, and library building of Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School--the forerunner of the present university--the Joyner Building opened a new era for the training of public school teachers for western North Carolina, and signalled the beginning of a long period of expansion and improvement that has continued to the present. The simple, substantial brick structure is constructed of locally prepared materials and was erected under the guidance of area builder John Leach. It is the most familiar building on campus to faculty and alumni, and embodies the spirit and resourcefulness of the citizens of a mountain community that created a major educational institution for western North Carolina.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The construction of the Joyner Building was a major event in the expansion and improvement of public education in western North Carolina.

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Now a large, multifaceted university, Western Carolina University grew out of a simple beginning in the late nineteenth century as Cullowhee High School. There was little educational opportunity in remote areas of mountainous Western North Carolina throughout the nineteenth century, and a lack of qualified teachers to teach children in public schools was a serious problem. In 1893, Cullowhee High School's visionary principal, Robert Lee Madison, saw the opportunity to expand the school into a center for the education of teachers for neglected areas of the west, and through his efforts the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated funds to provide a "normal department" for the school. By 1900, about eighty students were enrolled and the school had furnished more than 200 public school teachers for the region. In 1905 it was named Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School. The school continued to flourish, and in 1925 the legislature granted a new charter and it was renamed Cullowhee State Normal School. In 1929 it became Western Carolina Teachers College, and in 1967, Western Carolina University.¹

The Joyner Building is the oldest building remaining on the campus. Named for Dr. James Yarkin Joyner, Superintendent of Public Instruction for North Carolina at the time, it was begun in the summer of 1913. As early as March 15 of that year Alonzo C. Reynolds, Principal of Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School, wrote Dr. Joyner;

We have decided that our greatest need now is a new administration building and that the Girl's Dormitory be finished /sic/. We shall need them both very much /sic/ at the opening of the next session. In order that the work may be completed in time . . . we think that it will be necessary to begin to lay our plans for starting the building at once.²

Reynolds had received an appropriation of \$15,000 from the North Carolina General Assembly to erect the administration building, and to complete the girls dormitory. According to the Jackson County Journal, the buildings would "be heated by steam, lighted by electricity and supplied with hot and cold water and sanitary equipment."³

Years later, Reynolds described the beginning of the construction of Joyner building in his unpublished "Autobiographical Sketch;"

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Since L. Berge Abernethy a member of the faculty had had considerable experience in planning and helping to construct large brick building/s/ and since he was able to negotiate a loan on a note signed by members of the board of trustees, began to work out plans and I at first got the note for the money signed and then began to make bricks and get John N. Wilson to purchase other materials and put them in readiness for the construction to begin. Abernethy secured the services of John Leech sic, an experienced builder, to whom we entrusted the employment of workmen, and supervision of the work. With all putting forth a tireless effort within about one year we were able to begin school work in the Joyner Building.

However, the Journal stated that "Messrs. Wilson and Wamack" were the contractors for the building. They manufactured their own brick in Cullowhee using a "new an/d/ up-to-date machin/e/ for that purpose." By late June, 1913 the foundation had been completed and the walls were being built "as rapidly as the brick can be manufactured." 5

As the summer of 1913 progressed the staff of the school anxiously awaited the completion of the new building. Plans were made, in late August, to teach the elementary grades above the second in the Cullowhee Graded School in the new building where they would be supervised by Professor Edgar H. Stillwell, Principal, and six or seven assistants. However, as late as October 10, Reynolds noted that the building had not yet been completed. He explained;

When the new building is completed it will have seventeen rooms 26 feet by 32 feet high, inside measurement, with two large halls 20 feet wide and 53 feet long. All the walls, both outside and partition, are to be of good -ricks, the roofing is asbestos, cement shingles, the guttering is copper, the windows, doors, and all finishing materials are first class. Almost all the materials are now here, 6 and we can push the work to completion by the first of the next year.

By mid-November all of the brick had been made, and the workmen were engaged in laying brick and getting the exterior woodwork into shape. Olin S. Dean, Professor of English at the school, wrote "Professor Reynolds and his committee were especially fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Leach, who is an expert builder of experience." 7 Leach and his workmen pushed the construction rapidly through November and December, and into January, 1914. By January 16 the Journal reported:

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The buiding is well constructed of first class brick and concrete with asbestos slate roofing. In the entire structure there is not a foot of wasted or unutilized space. The basement is to be used for physical and chemical laboratories and for baths for the students. The floors of these rooms are concrete and the rooms are well supplied with running water making them especially adaptable to laboratory purposes.

On the first floor are two administration offices and five well lighted and well ventilated recitation or class rooms.

The second floor has four class room the same as those on the first and also has two society halls with library rooms for each.

Even the attic is turned to a good purpose, the whole of it being made into Y.M.C.A. hall and lecture course room.

.....

The building will be heated by steam but every room is supplied with an emergency flue to guard against any mishap to the heating plant.⁸

On March 13, the Journal announced "The new administration building has just been completed and the recitation rooms are now being used."⁹ The paper explained that the building cost \$25,000 and would include seventeen class rooms, a study hall accommodating two hundred students, society halls to house the school's two literary societies, and "on the third floor will be fitted up a modern library and reading room." By the spring of 1914 the building was in full use. The Journal reported "The building is a credit to the State and a monument to the business ability of those who have the construction in charge. For we are of the opinion that in this building the state has realized more for the money invested than in any building it has ever erected for any purpose."¹⁰

The structure has served various administrative and academic functions, and it was the principal administrative building until the late 1950's. Since the late 1960's it has been used mainly as classrooms and practice rooms for the University Music Department.

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Footnotes

¹Ira W. Van Noppen and John J. Van Noppen, Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973, p. 173-178, 183.

²Alonzo C. Reynolds to James Y. Joyner, Cullowhee, North Carolina, March 15, 1913, in Department of Public Instruction Office of the Superintendent, General Correspondence, January-June, 1913, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. Hereinafter cited as "Office of the Superintendent, General Correspondence," with appropriate dates.

³Jackson County Journal (Sylva, North Carolina), May 2, 1913. Hereinafter cited as "Jackson County Journal."

⁴Alonzo C. Reynolds, "Autobiographical Sketch," n.d., pp. 34-35, in Alonzo C. Reynolds Papers, University Archives, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina.

⁵Jackson County Journal, June 20, 1913.

⁶Alonzo C. Reynolds to James Y. Joyner, Cullowhee, North Carolina, October 10, 1913, Office of the Superintendent, General Correspondence, July-December, 1913.

⁷Jackson County Journal, November 14, 1913.

⁸Ibid., January 16, 1914.

⁹Ibid., March 13, 1914.

¹⁰Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bird, William E. Papers. University Archives, Western Carolina University. Cullowhee, North Carolina.
- Bird, William Ernest. The History of Western Carolina College: The Progress of an Idea. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963.
- Board of Trustees Meetings. 1923-1967. Chancellor's Office. Western Carolina University. Cullowhee, North Carolina.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	3,0,2,0,2,0	3,9,0,9,5,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description prepared by Michael Southern, Survey Specialist
Significance prepared by Richard W. Iobst, Ph.D., Western Carolina University Archivist

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Division of Archives & History	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
109 East Jones Street	(919) 733-4763
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Raleigh	North Carolina 27611

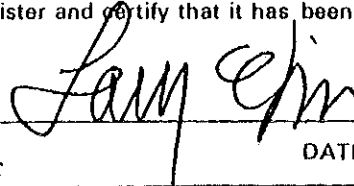
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 14, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Department of Public Instruction Office of the Superintendent. General Correspondence.
North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

Jackson County Journal. 1913-1914. Sylva, North Carolina.

President Hiram T. Hunter Papers. University Archives. Western Carolina University.
Cullowhee, North Carolina.

Reynolds, Alonzo C. Papers. University Archives. Western Carolina University.
Cullowhee, North Carolina.

Van Noppen, Ira W., and John J. Van Noppen. Western North Carolina Since the Civil War.
Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973.

