

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Orange	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Burwell School

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Churton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hillsborough

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32 COUNTY: Orange CODE: 68

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Visitor Center</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Historic Hillsborough Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 922

CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Orange County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Colonial Court Square

CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Orange

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The oldest portion of the Burwell School was a two-story frame dwelling having a hall and parlor plan built early in the nineteenth century. It measured approximately 18 feet by 24 feet. In 1848 the Reverend Robert Burwell employed Captain John Berry to enlarge the house. Berry was the architect of the Orange County Courthouse in Hillsborough and is known to have enlarged and embellished many houses in the region. His work was heavily influenced by nineteenth century architectural books. His personal copy of The Young Carpenter's Assistant by Owen Biddle is preserved in the Art Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Many of his mantels in the area, particularly ones still in place in the Burwell School, can be traced to designs found in Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter and Practice of Architecture. Under Berry the house was given its present central hall plan, the two older rooms lying on one side of the hall and two new ones on the other. This created a new east-west orientation for the building. The resulting principal five-bay facade facing east featured a one-story shed porch running the full 52 feet. With its moulded weatherboards, green blinds and shed porch the building was far more closely related to older structures than to the then popular Greek Revival mode typified by Berry's Courthouse nearby.

In the late nineteenth century the house was remodeled by Jule Gilmer Korner of Kernersville, a noted local artist and designer of the period. Some of Korner's modifications included a bracket cornice, "gingerbread" porch, a new stair in the hall and several mantels including a marble one in the parlor.

The Burwell School sits on a large sloping lot in a beautiful grove of hardwood trees. Especially notable is the immense linden near the southeast corner of the house. At the rear of the house is a picturesque two-room brick kitchen. In the garden an early brick privy has survived.

The work carried out by the Historic Hillsborough Commission since 1965 has consisted of the maintenance of the grounds and dependencies, the restoration of the exterior of the house to its midnineteenth century appearance and the preservation of the best features of the various periods on the interior.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burwell School in Hillsborough was typical of the female boarding academies so important in the educational system of mid-nineteenth century North Carolina. The Presbyterian school operated for twenty years, 1837-1857, and was an outstanding "female school." The Reverend Robert Burwell and his wife Anna were a young Virginia couple of distinguished ancestry who dispensed "knowledge and virtue, efficiency and good manners" to girls from eight to eighteen. Mrs. Burwell became well known as "the first woman teacher in North Carolina" as she successfully managed her school of 40 students and her large family. In 1857 the Burwells moved to Charlotte to take charge of the Charlotte Female Institute (now Queens College) and in 1871 the Reverend Burwell and his son, Captain John Bott Burwell, moved to Raleigh where they were in charge of Peace Institute.

The Burwell School was originally the Presbyterian manse and a much smaller building. In 1848 Reverend Burwell contracted with Captain John Berry to enlarge the house which created the present central hall plan.

In 1862 the Reverend Burwell sold four lots in Hillsborough to Thomas D. Warren, Elizabeth A. Collins, Ann C. Blount, and Henrietta E. Page, all of them refugees from Chowan County. The Collins family were the owners of "Somerset Place" and had other large landholdings in the eastern section of the state. The Burwell School was so overcrowded during the Civil War that it became known as "the Beehive."

One of the most famous rooms in the school is Mrs. Burwell's little "Prayer Room," which is also associated with Mrs. Burwell's "Aunt Bott's" love affair with the architect, Benjamin Henry Latrobe.

The property changed hands six times between 1862 and 1895 when it was purchased by Dr. John S. Spurgeon. One of the owners, thought to have been Mrs. Charles M. Parks, was responsible for the alterations made in the house by a Mr. Korner of Kernersville. This work, done in the 1890s, accounts for the loss of several good mantels and the addition of "gingerbread." In 1965 the Spurgeon heirs sold the property to the Historic Hillsborough Commission which has undertaken the preservation of the house. The commission plans to develop the property as a visitor center for Historic Hillsborough. The building will also serve as headquarters for the commission and the Hillsborough Historical Society, and will be available for use by other organizations.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackwelder, Ruth. The Age of Orange: Political and Intellectual Leadership in North Carolina, 1752-1861. Charlotte: William Loftin, 1961.

Coon, Charles L. North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1915.

Orange County Records, Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Wills, Deeds, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Orange County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Wills, Deeds, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36°	04'	45"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	79°	06'	05"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 3/4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

J. G. Zehmer, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penney, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION

State Department of Archives and History

DATE

June 12, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name

Dr. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date June 12, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

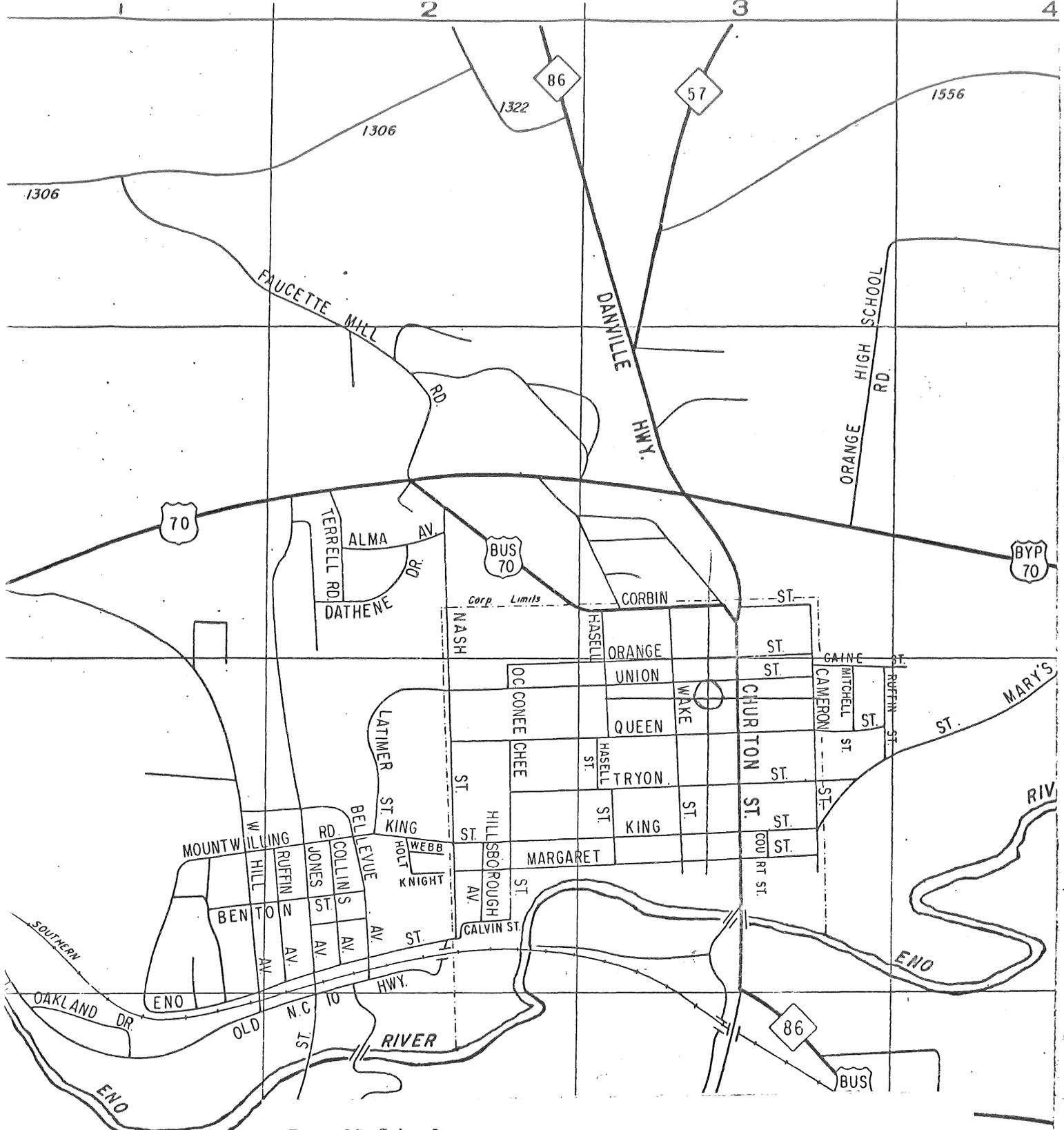
Date

ATTEST:

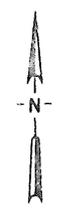
Kooper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Burwell School
 North Churton Street
 Hillsborough, North Carolina
 city map of Hillsborough
 Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce



Scale: 1"/2500'
 1966

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36°	04'	45"	79°	06'	05"



