

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name (former) Leaksville-Spray Institute  
other names/site number Leaksville-Spray Academy  
Leaksville-Spray Intermediate School

### 2. Location

street & number 609 College Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Eden N/A vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Rockingham code 157 zip code 27288

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register -0-

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair, Jr.  
Signature of certifying official Date 1-30-89  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

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)

Colonial Revival

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asbestos Shingle

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The (former) Leaksville-Spray Institute is actually a complex of four buildings that were built over a period of fifty years, beginning in 1901 and ending in 1956. Three of the buildings, the Administration Building (number 1 on map) and the Girls Home (number 2 on map), both finished by 1905, and the classroom and auditorium building (number 3 on map), constructed in 1930, are historically significant to the community of Eden. A modern classroom building adjacent to the Administration Building, finished in 1956, is a non-contributing element in the complex. The three significant buildings are massive two story brick structures rendered in the Colonial Revival style. The 1930 building connects the two earlier buildings to form three sides of a quadrangle facing east. All three buildings are constructed of red brick laid in common bond and all the the roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. These factors, together with the consistent use of the Colonial Revival design, create a coherent, massive form that presents an impressive appearance as one views the front of the complex. The complex presently serves the City of Eden as the Leaksville-Spray Intermediate School, a facility for children in the fifth and sixth grades, and, as such, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest, continuously used educational facility in the community. The school building and its surrounding athletic fields are located on a ridge between the Smith River and Tanyard Branch in The Highlands residential neighborhood that was developed in Eden, North Carolina, in the late nineteenth century.

Since the historic Institute is composed of two originally separate buildings and a third which later connected them, each will be described individually although they presently function as one building.

1. Administration Building, 1901; contributing wing:

The 1901 Administration Building forms the south side of the quadrangle and is a two story brick rectangle on a raised basement with projecting wings on the east and west ends that are evidence of the original facade elevation of the

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building.

The present building is covered with the original gable roof and the wings are covered with original intersecting hipped roofs; the entire roof-line is accented with the original wooden entablature and dentiled cornice. The original triple-hung six-over-six sash windows feature stone sills on the first story and are arranged in rows throughout the building facades.

The original main facade, the north elevation, still serves as the main elevation. When built, it featured a tetrastyle portico with elevated stone columns that supported a full entablature and pediment with a two-stage brick bell tower above it. Today, the entrance to the building is marked by a pedimented wooden surround that was probably added to match those on the 1930 Colonial Revival classroom and auditorium building. The interior is arranged around a center hall and retains its original vertical beaded wainscoting and molded chair rail.

### 2. The Girls Home and President's Residence, finished by 1905; contributing wing:

The Girls Home and President's Residence is a two story brick building located on the northwest corner of the quadrangle. It was extensively remodeled in the 1930s when it was converted into a gymnasium for the then Leaksville High School. The main block of the transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival building is intact. The original main facade on the north end features a pair of three-sided two story bays on either side of the segmental arch entrance with latticed sidelights and a transom and tall, boarded over window openings.

The original design featured a full main facade porch with Doric columns, large, pedimented attic dormers and twelve corbelled brick chimneys, all of which were removed in 1930. The west side elevation is concealed by a two story brick, flat roofed late addition. The interior of the building is

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presently a gymnasium and as such, presents an institutional appearance with no evidence of its original function or appointments.

### 3. Classroom and Auditorium Building, 1930; contributing wing:

The 1930 L-shaped classroom and auditorium building forms the west and north sides of the quadrangle, respectively. This is the two story brick structure that linked the two earlier buildings into a single, massive one. The classroom section is a rectangular block covered with a hipped roof and accented by a pedimented entrance pavilion with brick quoins and a swan's neck pediment over the entrance. The fenestration pattern is six-over-six sash that match those on the 1901 Administration Building. The interior is institutional in nature and features a center hall with classrooms on either side and enclosed stairwells on either end. The two story brick auditorium is accented by brick quoins and is covered with a clipped gable roof. It features four twelve-over-twelve triple-hung sash windows set in blind arches on the north and south facades and three pedimented entrances, again set in blind arches, on the main (east) facade. The interior of the building is arranged as an auditorium with permanent seating, including a balcony, and a stage with an orchestra pit.

### 4. Classroom annex, 1956; non-contributing building:

The fourth building in the complex, an annex built in 1956, is a one story glass and brick structure typical of the institutional construction that flourished during the mid-1950s. It does not detract from the overall appearance of the main complex because it is low in scale and set at the rear corner. It is linked to the main school complex by a covered concrete walkway.

(This Section Seven:Physical Description is taken in part from a description prepared by Claudia Roberts Brown that appears in A Tale of Three Cities published by the Eden Historic Properties Commission, 1986.)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from Instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Education	1901-1936	1901
Architecture		1905
		1930
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	Unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary Paragraph:

The (former) Leaksville-Spray Institute fulfills criterion A (Educational Context) for eligibility for inclusion on the Register because it is the oldest school in continuous use in Eden, the city formed from the three towns of Leaksville, Spray and Draper.

It also represents the efforts of the Baptist Church to found educational institutions in North Carolina. It fulfills criterion C (Architectural Context) because the appearance of the present historic resource that developed over the first thirty years of the twentieth century attests to the enduring prevalence of the Colonial Revival style of architecture in the collective taste of Americans. The Leaksville-Spray Institute was opened as a boarding school on October 11, 1906, and was founded by prominent citizens of the Leaksville and Spray communities. The school enjoyed a good reputation and provided classical and business curriculums until the 1910s, when it was forced to close because of a heavy debt load. In the 1920s, the State Department of Public Instruction leased the premises from the estate of D.F. King, a local banker and businessman who had assumed the school's debt, and in 1930, the Leaksville Township Schools purchased the entire property from King's estate and launched an ambitious building program that resulted in the present appearance of the property.

Educational Context:

The historic school complex presently serves the northern Piedmont city of Eden as the Leaksville-Spray Intermediate School and, since it opened on October 11, 1906, is the community's oldest educational structure in continuous use. (1) The addition of the 1930 classroom and auditorium building to form the Leaksville High School was a local expression of a state-wide desire among North Carolinians

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during the 1910s and '20s to improve public education. Between the years 1915 and 1925, state government spending in North Carolina increased three-fold over that of the national average and much of those expenditures resulted in new school facilities, improved curricula and increased teachers salaries.(2) The use of the existing facilities on the campus of the old Institute was probably a combination of expediency, economy and, perhaps, a lingering sentimentality for the old Leaksville-Spray Institute. The present name of the school, the Leaksville-Spray Intermediate School, recalls the earlier one and, together with the continuing use of the buildings, helps to recall the interest in education displayed by citizens of the community at the turn of the century.

### Architectural Context:

The simple, handsome Colonial Revival design of the 1901 Administration Building and the transitional Queen-Anne-Colonial Revival design of the 1905 Girl's Home, the two surviving buildings of the private institute, and the compatible 1930 Colonial Revival classroom and auditorium building which united the two original buildings into a monumental complex are representative of both private and public school architecture in North Carolina in the first third of the twentieth century. Although school buildings of this period are commonplace in North Carolina, their significance as an endangered property type is now beginning to be recognized. Citizen's groups are mobilizing to preserve these local educational landmarks in towns and cities throughout the state, especially since the General Assembly of North Carolina has mandated a sweeping program to rebuild local school facilities. Not only is the (former) Leaksville-Spray Institute a particularly handsome example of this property type, but it is still a functioning public

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school and is the oldest and most important educational building in Eden.

### Historical Background:

Throughout the nineteenth century, as the towns of Leaksville and Spray grew steadily, the Baptist congregation in the area grew and, in 1886, completed the construction of the First Baptist Church, a fine new Gothic Revival style church house in Leaksville. (3) Some of the members of that congregation were prominent in the founding and administration of the Leaksville-Spray Institute. Among these are D. Frank King (1843-1922), a banker and businessman who was listed a trustee of the Leaksville Baptist Church in 1885, (4) a trustee of the Leaksville-Spray Institute in 1905 (5) and a contributor of a parcel of land on which the Institute is located, (6) Benjamin Franklin Ivie, a merchant, a deacon of the church and a contributor of part of the land on which the Institute is located, (7) and the Rev. S.J. Beeker, pastor of the Leaksville Baptist Church between 1901 and 1903 and who was Principal of the Leaksville-Spray Institute in 1911. (8) Another parcel of land was contributed by Lily C.M. Mebane and her husband, Frank, who, although they were not Baptists, were interested in the well-being of the community. (9)

That Baptist precepts were the foundation of the philosophy of the Leaksville Spray Institute is illustrated in several ways. The school was incorporated in 1905 by the General Assembly of North Carolina which formalized its founding under the auspices of the Pilot Mountain Association, a Baptist organization dedicated to church outreach into the community. (10) The 1905 articles of incorporation stipulated that "the members of the Board of Trustees for the Leaksville-Spray Academy shall consist of twelve members and each trustee shall be a member in good standing of some

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regularly constituted Baptist Church within the bounds of the Pilot Mountain Association, . . . and be approved by the Pilot Mountain Association." The appointment in 1911 of the Rev. S.J. Beeker, a graduate of the the Baptist oriented Wake Forest College, and the naming of his wife, the former Lottie King, daughter of D.F. King, as the Lady Principal in 1911, the heyday of the boarding school's existence, helped to underline the Baptist flavor of the institution.(11)

When the school was formally incorporated by the North Carolina General Assembly as the Leaksville-Spray Academy, the campus consisted of the Administration Building, the Girls Home and the Boy's Dormitory (destroyed).(12) All three buildings were rendered in red brick in the popular Colonial Revival style which had been growing steadily in popularity since the 1876 Centennial.(13) The style also may have been to the Trustees of the school an affirmation of the perceived early American virtues of prudence, self-determination and the work ethic, all values congruent with the tenets of the Baptist faith.

The campus was located in The Highlands, a fashionable residential neighborhood (see Boone Road Historic District, NR 1987) on land that was donated in part by Lily Morehead Mebane, a scion of the wealthy and influential Morehead family whose enterprises shaped the character of much of the three communities that now compose the City of Eden,(14) and in part by D.F. King and B.F. Ivie, Baptists and trustees of the school. The 1911 school catalog extols the virtues of the location of the school, describing it as "free from the frigid cold of the North and the intense heat of the South. The air is pure and bracing. Malaria, the miasma that produces mental inertia in lower altitudes, is unknown." (copy in Historic Preservation Office file) Parents of

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prospective students were assured of the moral flavor of the institution by the statement that the "school restrictions and domestic influences thrown about the students, together with the rare moral environment make the Institute a safe, desirable, and an ideal place for parents to send their boys and girls for educational training."

The school offered curriculums in classical studies and in business skills. In 1907, the name of the school was changed to the Leaksville-Spray Institute; (15) according to local tradition it was thought that the term "Institute" conveyed an image of a higher level of learning, especially in the area of the classics. There were four departments: a Preparatory Department that provided "thorough and practical work, laying the foundation for more advanced study," a Classical Department "intended to furnish a thorough academic training in all branches," a Music Department that recognized that "music is not only a fine art, a luxury and a medium of worship, but a popular and remunerative profession. . ." and the Business Department that "offered training . . . equal to that given at the Old-line Business College." All the students of the Institute were required to take Physical Culture courses, to attend daily devotional exercises and to refrain from wearing "gaudy or expensive" clothing. (16)

In the beginning of the 1910s, the Leaksville-Spray Institute found itself heavily in debt and D.F. King, a trustee and original incorporator, assumed to debt so that the institution could continue to operate as a day school until 1918. During the 1920s, the State Department of instruction leased the Administration Building and the Boys Home from King's estate and continued classes, thus keeping the school open. In 1930, the Leaksville Township Schools purchased the entire complex for use as a high school and began an

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ambitious building program that resulted in the classroom and auditorium additions that connected the old Administration Building and the Girls Home and created the present appearance of the school. The Boys Home was destroyed and athletic fields were laid out in front of the massive structure that housed the new high school.(17)

### Footnotes:

1. Brown, Claudia Roberts. A Tale of Three Cities, Eden's Heritage: A Pictorial Survey. (Eden Historic Properties Commission, Eden, N.C., 1986). p 197., The Leaksville News, Special Education Issue, March 28, 1957. One other historic school, the Leaksville Male Academy, still stands, but this early 19th century building has been remodeled as a residence and has lost its architectural integrity.
2. Lefler, Hugh Talmadge and Newsome, Albert Ray. History of a Southern State, North Carolina. (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N.C., 1973). p.p. 589-598
3. Brown, Claudia Roberts. A Tale of Three Cities, Eden's Heritage: A Pictorial Survey. (Eden Historic Properties Commission, Eden, N.C., 1986). p.68
4. Rockingham County Deed Book 4A:197 1A, 7 No. 1885. (This deed: J. Turner Morehead et al to Trustees of Leaksville Baptist Church)
5. Private Laws of the State of North Carolina, 1905; Sec.1. Corporators, p.536
6. Rockingham County Deed Book 158:474. (This deed Trustees of Leaksville-Spray Academy from D.F. King and Wife.)
7. Rockingham County Deed Book 154:114. (This deed: B.F. Ivie and Wife to Trustees of Leaksville-Spray Academy)

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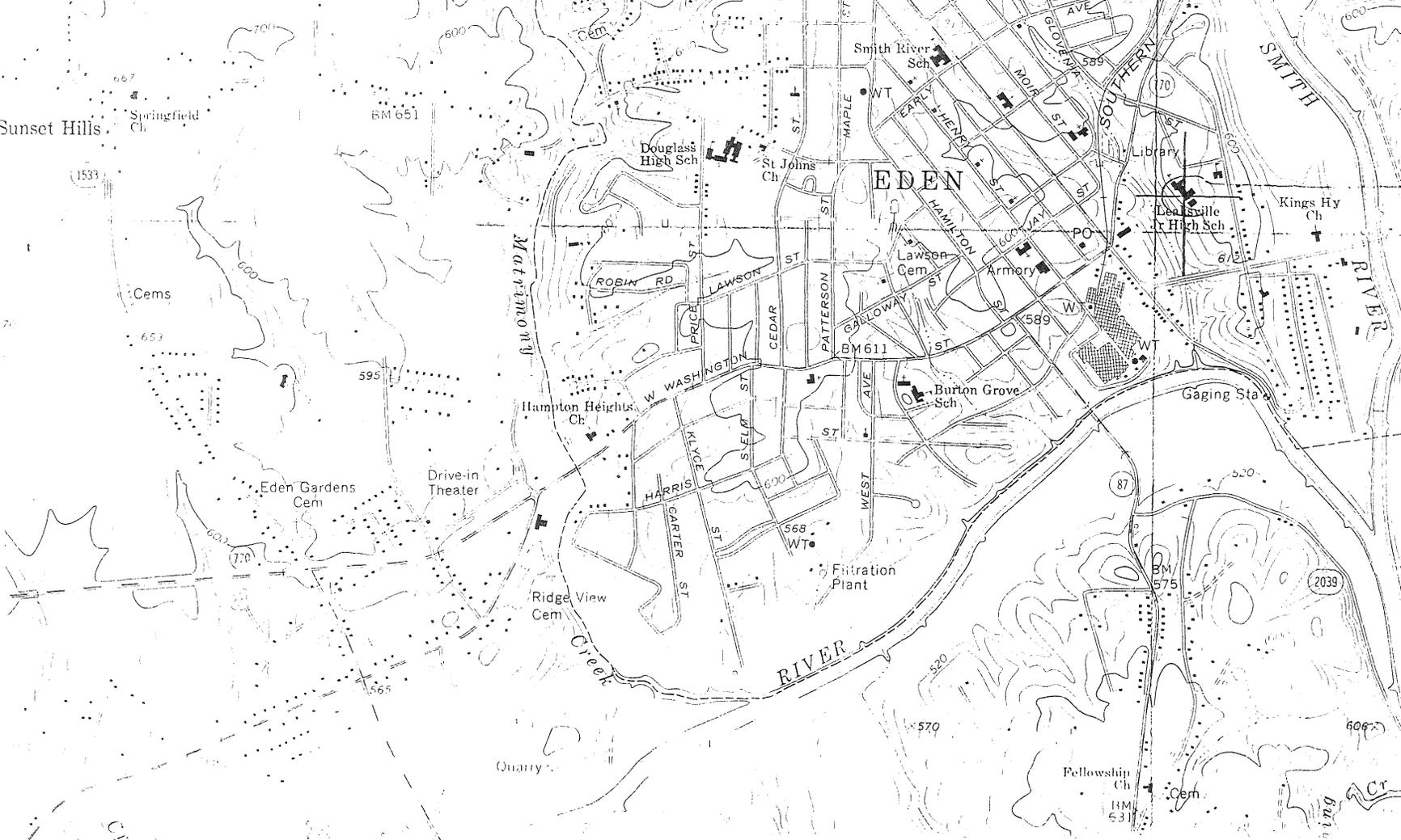
8. Register of the Leaksville-Spray Institute. (Leaksville-Spray-Institute, Eden, N.C., 1911). and First Baptist Church, Sanctuary Centennial 1886-1986. (First Baptist Church, Eden, N.C. 1986). no page number.
9. Rockingham County Deed Book 154:114-115 (This deed: D.F King and others, Trustees, from Lily C.M. Mebane and Husband)
10. Private Laws of the State of North Carolina, 1905; Sec.1. Corporators, p.536
11. Register of the Leaksville-Spray Institute. (Leaksville-Spray-Institute, Eden, N.C., 1911).
12. Brown, Claudia Roberts. A Tale of Three Cities, Eden's Heritage: A Pictorial Survey. (Eden Historic Properties Commission, Eden, N.C., 1986). p 197
13. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1986). p.p. 321-341
14. Brown, Claudia Roberts. A Tale of Three Cities, Eden's Heritage: A Pictorial Survey. (Eden Historic Properties Commission, Eden, N.C., 1986). p. 197
15. Private Laws of the State of North Carolina, 1907; Chapter 104, p. 307
16. Register of the Leaksville-Spray Institute. (Leaksville-Spray-Institute, Eden, N.C., 1911).
17. Brown, Claudia Roberts. A Tale of Three Cities, Eden's Heritage: A Pictorial Survey. (Eden Historic Properties Commission, Eden, N.C., 1986). p 197



SOUTHWEST EDEN QUADRANGLE  
 NORTH CAROLINA—ROCKINGHAM CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3057 II SW  
 (NORTHEAST EDEN)

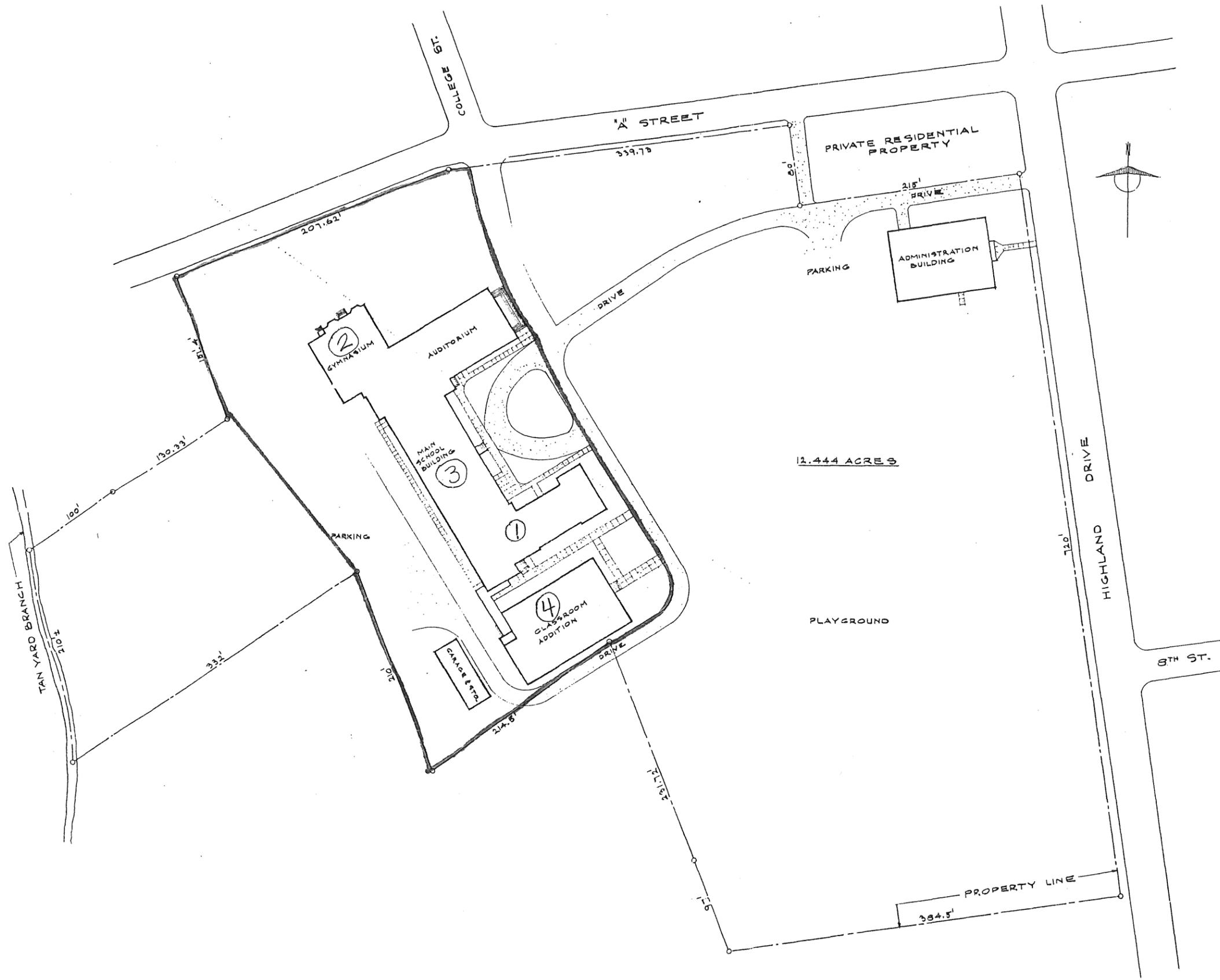
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 FEET  
 (Former) Leaksville-Spray  
 Institute  
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COMMENTS	STINSON-HINES AND ASSOC.	PLOT PLAN	Name of Admin. Unit	Name of Building (s)	Name of School	Leaksville-Spray Intermediate School	Sheet No.
	ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS	12.444	LEAKSVILLE	MAIN SCHOOL BLDG.	Street Name / No.	101 COLLEGE STREET	1 of
	WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.	ACRES	TOWNSHIP PUBLIC	CLASSROOM ADDITION &	Mail Address	LEAKSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA	8
		Scale	SCHOOLS	ADMINISTRATION BLDG.		27288	1967

