

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 Calvin H. Wiley School  
other names/site number West Ward School

### 2. Location

street & number 200 block Ridge Ave.  not for publication N/A  
city, town Salisbury  vicinity N/A  
state North Carolina code NC county Rowan code 159 zip code 28144

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</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. Fain, Jr. 9 Sep 86  
Signature of certifying official Date  
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:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education - school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other : Utilitarian Industrial

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Calvin H. Wiley School is situated on the southwest corner of Ridge Ave. and Crosby St. (facing Ridge Ave.) amidst a predominantly residential neighborhood of early 20th century bungalows which were for the most part constructed after the school's erection. As an elementary school it had served Salisbury's west ward district for 65 years when it closed in 1983. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Taylor purchased Wiley School in 1985 with plans of converting it to quality apartments for the elderly. The 1916 and 1921 sections of Wiley School retain their basic integrity of design and materials. The only exterior alterations are the replacement of the original wooden sash with metal sash, and the addition of a small metal porch leading to the rear yard on the rear elevation. The 1951 addition does not overpower the older sections.

This two-story structure of red pressed brick exemplifies the architectural style typical of educational structures built during the World War I era. Both the north and west elevations contain modest Neo-Classical detailing which is completely intact. The current "U" shape of Wiley School is derived from three phases of construction (see diagram at end of Section 7). The original building erected 1916-1918 contains the main entrance facing Ridge Ave. In 1921 this main block was extended to the west and south with an addition which more than doubled the facility in size, and complimented the original construction in both materials and style. The last addition, which encompasses the auditorium and lunchroom, was made in 1951 and extends south from the east end of the original school.

Main Block 1916 - 1918

The main block is rectangular in shape, with the main facade, facing north, containing a central classical entrance flanked by two groups of windows, each group composed of four sash windows. A stone belt course divides the partially above-ground basement from the upper stories. The brick is laid in one-to-five common bond. The brickwork between the windows of the first and second story is laid in decorative Flemish bond with glazed headers. The windows have stone sills and lintels composed of brick soldier courses. The second floor window lintels continue in a beltcourse. The flat roof is surrounded by a shallow, classical style parapet which rises in a shallow frontispiece over the main entrance, and is accented with diagonally set tiles at intervals.

The main entrance consists of double wooden doors surrounded by a multi-paned rectangular transom with sidelights. A wooden Doric style portico with paired columns and pilasters supporting a shallow hip roof with a frieze of triglyphs and metopes shelters the doors.

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The east side elevation and exposed portion of the south elevation are treated in a similar manner to the main facade. A large expanse of wall surface with no windows on the east elevation is decorated with large rectangles formed by soldier courses with tile accents.

### West Wing 1921

The west addition closely matches the original main block in construction materials and styling. Windows are grouped in sets of five, with brick sills and lintels. A brick beltcourse separates the basement story from the upper stories. A secondary entrance on the west elevation closely matches the original main entrance. The double wooden doors have a multi-paned transom, sheltered by a Doric portico with single columns.

### Auditorium and Lunchroom Addition 1951

This two-story rear wing is constructed in a severe, utilitarian style of red brick laid in running bond. The basement level contains the lunchroom, the upper levels the auditorium. It has metal casement windows of various sizes widely spaced. The flat roof has a tile coping.

### Interior

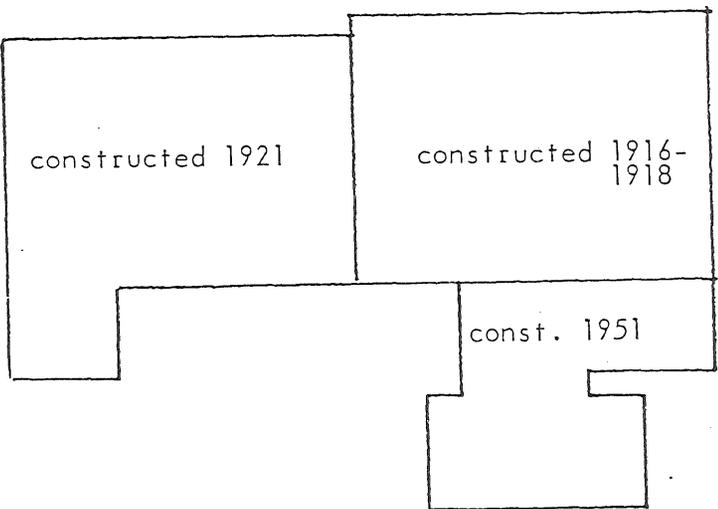
The interior floor plan is original. A wide central hall runs east to west in the 1916 block and continues in the same direction through the 1921 wing. Classrooms open off to either side of this hall. A central hall then continues south in the 1921 wing (with classrooms again off to either side) where it terminates at the southwest end of the school in a stairwell giving access to the basement, first, and second floors. This floor plan is identical on all floors. Throughout the school, wooden floors composed of narrow floorboards have been covered with carpeting or in some places vinyl tile. All walls are plaster, and the original plaster ceilings have been covered in most places with accoustical ceiling tile. The original paneled and glazed doors leading to the individual classrooms have plain frames, those in the 1916 wing display large three-pane transoms. The auditorium is located off of the hall at the west end of the 1916 block. Its floor is finished in vinyl tile, and the walls are of plaster. The cafeteria is located directly below the auditorium in the basement. Walls are ceramic tile and accoustical tile is on the ceiling. Like the exterior, the interior of Wylie School retains architectural integrity.

The original stair in the main block was removed when the 1951 wing was added, and a new stair incorporated into this wing. The stairwell built at the south end of the west wing as part of this 1921 addition was upgraded to fireproof steel and concrete construction at some later date, perhaps in 1951. (See floor plans, 7.3-7.5.)

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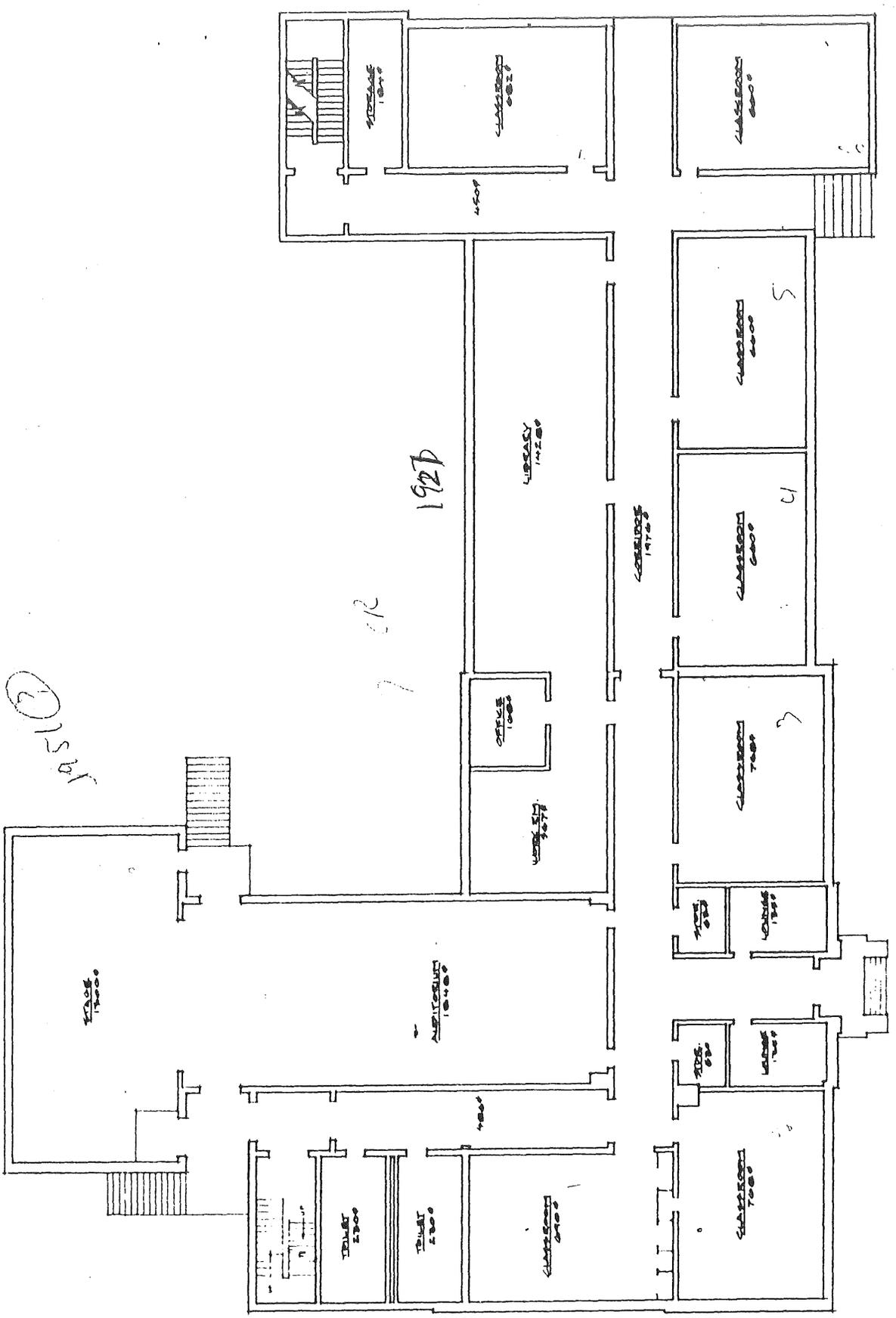
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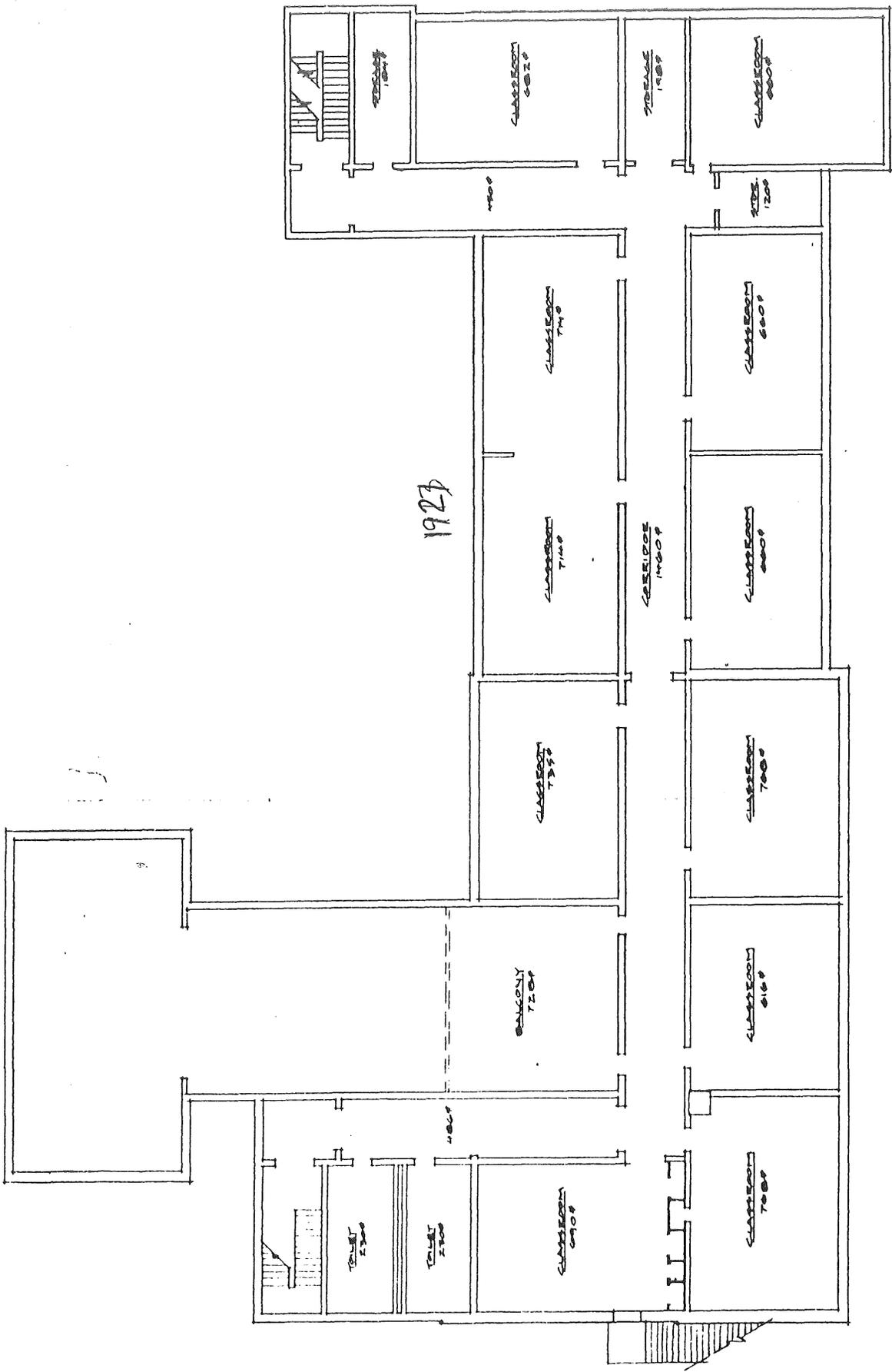


   CALVIN H. WILEY SCHOOL





FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

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

1916 - 1938

Architecture

1916, 1921

1916, 1921

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Crane, J. E. and Company

Kenerly, John

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

The Calvin H. Wiley School is the oldest surviving elementary school in Salisbury, and the second oldest school building - the oldest being the Salisbury Graded School constructed in 1881. Wiley School's construction followed the city's largest annexation in its history, and coincided with the establishment of Salisbury's elementary school districts, which remained relatively unchanged until 1977. Designed by J. E. Crane and Associates of Greensboro, and built by local contractor John Kenerly, the construction of Wiley School began in 1916 and lasted eighteen months due to material and labor shortages imposed by World War I. It continued as an elementary school until 1983. From a design perspective this red pressed brick building with simple Neo-Classical detailing is modest in nature, however, it remains an intact example of an architectural style typical to schools constructed during this time period throughout North Carolina. The period of significance ends in 1938, the last year in which the school met the 50-year criterion.

Historical Background

The location of the West Ward School was selected by a committee appointed by City Council. The 300' x 400' lot on Ridge Ave. was purchased by the City of Salisbury in June of 1916 for \$3600.<sup>1</sup> J. E. Crane and Associates of Greensboro designed the West Ward School, and John Kenerly, a Salisbury general contractor, was awarded the job based on his bid of \$19,355.<sup>2</sup>

Construction began in September of 1916, and was not completed until February, 1918. During those eighteen months Kenerly was repeatedly asked by City Council to hasten construction, and he consistently stated the problem was difficulty in obtaining both materials and subcontractors.<sup>3</sup> Prior to the school opening it was named for Calvin H. Wiley, the first Superintendent of Common Schools in North Carolina. In 1867, Wiley, with mayor J. H. Ennis of Salisbury (a strong advocate of free schools), urged state legislator William H. Crawford to develop a bill which would allow each incorporated town to levy taxes for educational purposes. The bill passed, and proved to be a catalyst for advancement of the public educational system in North Carolina.<sup>4</sup>

Wiley School underwent changes and expansion as early as 1921. In this year a two-story addition was constructed which more than doubled the size of the facility. Other modifications include the addition of an auditorium, and cafeteria wing. In 1951, the purchase of an adjacent 4 acres of playground space in 1951,

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and the construction of a small amphitheater and picnic area in 1954.<sup>5</sup> An annual tree planting program conducted by the students over the years has left the grounds attractively landscaped with a wide diversity of trees and shrubs. The additional four-acre playground, containing the amphitheater, is not included in this nomination because it was not associated with the school during its period of historical significance.

The Calvin H. Wiley School remained in continuous use until it closed in 1983. Serving as an elementary school, it also housed junior high grades for a period of approximately twenty years, which ended with the opening of Knox Jr. High in 1959. The construction of Isenburg Elementary School in 1977 brought about the first major changes in elementary school districting since the districts were originally established in 1915.<sup>6</sup> These changes in district boundaries, together with the new school facility and the fact that the student age population in the neighborhood surrounding Wiley School had declined, ultimately led to the closing of Wiley. The building was purchased in 1985 by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Taylor of Salisbury, with plans of converting it to an elderly housing facility. Many of the possible future tenants attended elementary school in this facility and thus have a strong attachment.

### Education Context

Salisbury's educational system began in 1879 with the construction of a small frame schoolhouse which burned in 1881. That same year a brick structure was constructed in its place.<sup>7</sup> This school came to be known as the Salisbury Graded School and still stands today in very much its original condition (nine over nine windows with segmental arched lintels set in recessed bays marked by brick pilasters). The Salisbury Graded School is the oldest public school building in Salisbury.

In 1915 Salisbury experienced the largest annexation in the city's history to date, taking in a large part of the rapidly growing population to the north of the city resulting from the development of the Spencer Shops by Southern Railway Company.<sup>8</sup> This increase in population warranted the expansion and improvement of the city's educational school system. Salisbury established elementary school districts (which remained relatively unchanged until 1977) and set out to build its first three elementary schools.<sup>9</sup> A.T. Allen School was constructed in 1914, John S. Henderson School in 1916 - 1917, and Calvin H. Wiley School in 1916 - 1918.<sup>10</sup> Allen School was demolished soon after its closing in 1973, and Henderson School was destroyed by fire soon after its opening, only to be rebuilt in 1918. Henderson School is now dwarfed by large later additions, and has largely lost its architectural integrity. Of Wiley and Henderson Schools, Wiley retains the most architectural significance, and is the second oldest public school building in Salisbury. Wiley and Henderson Schools were financed by a bond referendum passed by the voters in July of 1915.<sup>11</sup>

Other pre-1941 public schools in Salisbury are Monroe St. School (constructed 1923), Boyden High School (constructed 1924 - 1926 in a scholastic Gothic style, located just a few blocks from Wiley School), Frank B. John School (built 1928 - 1929), and Price Jr. High (constructed 1932).<sup>12</sup>

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### Architectural Context

The architectural significance of Wiley School comes from its being a good example of a type, the early twentieth century public school, rather than from any unique architectural characteristics. The large brick building, like the majority of surviving public school buildings of this period across North Carolina, is utilitarian in style, with classical and Colonial Revival details at entrances. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office has, to date, not conducted a statewide survey of historic school buildings, therefore statistical data on the survival rate of this public school type is unavailable at the present time. It is hoped that a thematic public school survey and nomination can be undertaken in the near future.

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### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Minutes from meeting of Salisbury City Council, June 8, 1916.

<sup>2</sup> Salisbury Evening Post, September 27, 1916.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes from meeting of Salisbury City Council, September 13, 1917.

<sup>4</sup> James S. Brawley, The Rowan Story, 1753 - 1953, A Narrative History of Rowan County, NC (Salisbury: Rowan Printing Co., 1953) p. 281.

<sup>5</sup> "Wiley School Built After 1915 Annexation," Salisbury Post, Bicentennial Edition, 1976, sec. E, p. 7.

<sup>6</sup> Salisbury Post, March 18, 1977.

<sup>7</sup> Salisbury City Schools, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1971, p. 12.

<sup>8</sup> "Wiley School Built After 1915 Annexation," Salisbury Post, Bicentennial Edition, 1976, sec. E, p. 7.

<sup>9</sup> Salisbury Post, March 18, 1977.

<sup>10</sup> Salisbury City Schools, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1971, pp. 23 - 33.

<sup>11</sup> Minutes from meeting of Salisbury City Council, July, 1915.

<sup>12</sup> Salisbury City Schools, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1971, pp. 15 - 36.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brawley, James S., The Rowan Story - 1753 - 1953, A Narrative History of Rowan County, NC. Salisbury: Rowan Printing Co., 1953.

Hood, Davyd Foard. The Architecture of Rowan County: A Catalogue and History of Surviving 18th, 19th, and Early 20th Century Structures. Salisbury: Rowan County Historic Properties Commission, 1983.

Little, Dr. M. Ruth, comments of.

Minutes of the Salisbury City Council, 1914 - 1919. (Typewritten).

Salisbury City Schools. 50th Anniversary Edition.

Salisbury Evening Post. Bicentennial Edition, 1976.

Sanborn Map of Salisbury, NC, 1922.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.79 acres

UTM References

A 17 546460 3946460  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is outlined in red on the enclosed Rowan County tax map and constitutes the remaining 1.79 acres of the original parcel of land on which the Calvin H. Wiley School was constructed.

See continuation sheet

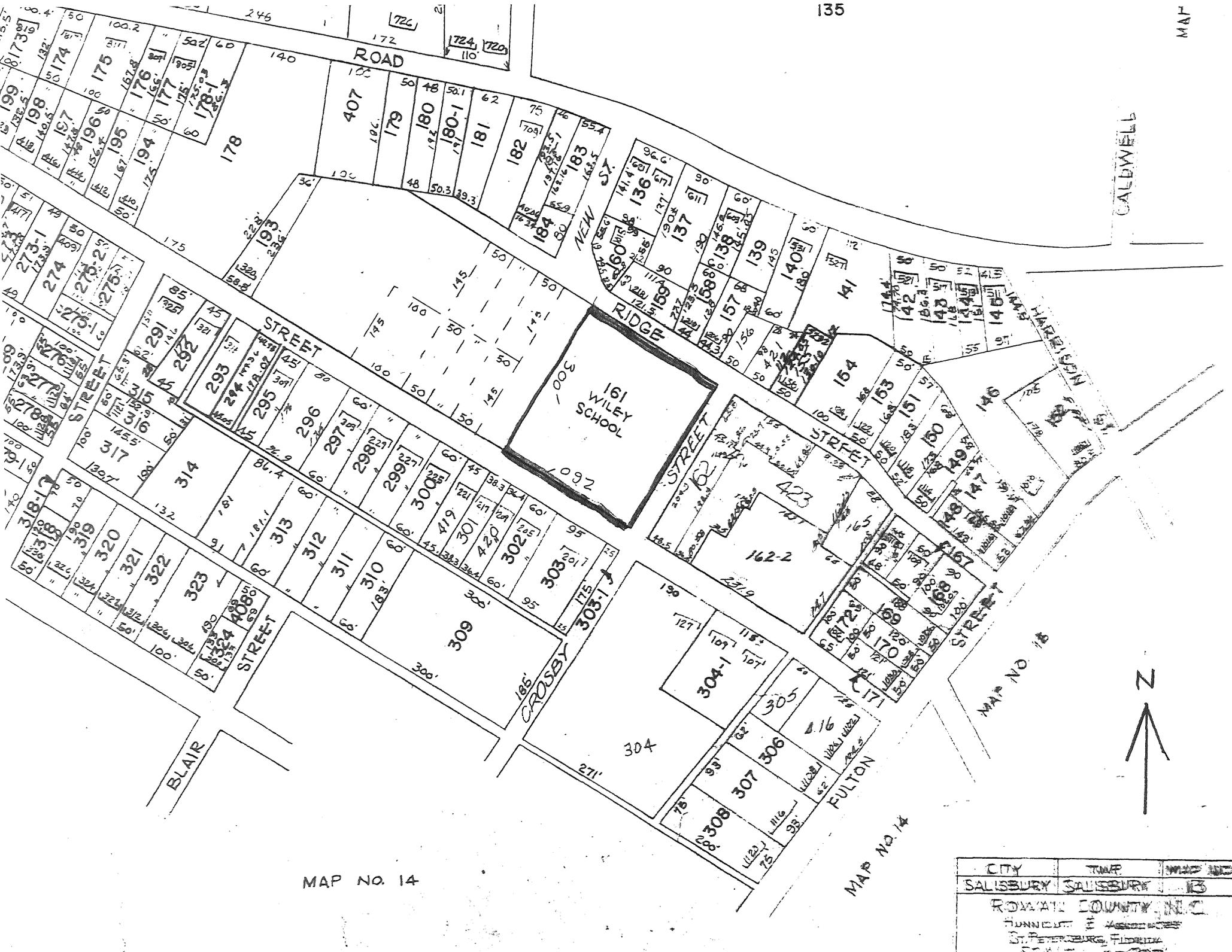
Boundary Justification

Although the original school lot, purchased in 1916, was 300 x 400 feet, by 1922 the Sanborn map indicates that the lot size had been reduced to 300 x 300 feet [2.06 acres]. Construction of Crosby Street in the eastern forty-foot section of the school lot sometime after 1922 reduced the lot to its present size, 300 x 260 feet [1.79 acres].

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane M. Young, consultant date June 12, 1988  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ telephone (704)598-0094  
 street & number 100 E. Innes St., Suite 3 city or town Salisbury state NC zip code 28144



MAP NO. 14

MAP NO 14

CITY	TWP	RANGE
SALISBURY	SALISBURY	13
ROWAN COUNTY, N.C.		
FUNNELS & ASSOCIATES		
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA		
SCALE 1" = 100'		

SALISBURY QUAD  
ZONE 17

ALVIN H. WILEY  
SCHOOL

546470  
3946460

