

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Dell School Campus
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
NW corner US 421 and SR 1003 NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Delway VICINITY OF Third CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE
North Carolina CODE 037 COUNTY Sampson CODE 163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Several - see attached list
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER
REGISTER OF DEEDS
SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE
CITY, TOWN
CLINTON, N.C. 28328 STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

<u>Thomas Butchko</u> ORGANIZATION	<u>Jim Sumner, Researcher</u> DATE
<u>Survey and Planning Branch</u> STREET & NUMBER	<u>Research Branch</u> TELEPHONE
<u>109 E. Jones St.</u> CITY OR TOWN	<u>(919) 733-6545</u> STATE
<u>Raleigh,</u>	<u>NC 27611</u>

NE
1193

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE # <u>4</u> , 1958

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dell School Campus at Delway comprises the five surviving structures associated with Dell School - the long vacant Dell School, the Principal's House, the greatly reduced and altered Girls Club/Dormitory, and two essentially intact private dwellings: The Carlton-Alderman House, and the Beach Alderamn House. These buildings were associated with the Dell School during its existence from 1902 until 1923. Also within the boundaries of the district is one mobile home which is located between the Dell School building and the Carl Alderman House. This is the only intrusive element within the district. The brick school building occupied the central location on the campus with the four major supporting structures - the Principal's House, the Girl's Club/Dormitory, the Boys Dormitory (demolished) and the Evergreen Baptist Church (demolished) - located across the street. A series of symetrically-laid curving walks connected all parts of the campus. A row of trees connected the four supporting structures; a number of these trees survive today. The construction of US 421, connecting Greensboro and Wilmington, through Delway necessitated the demolition of the church (it was rebuilt on one of the corners of the intersection with SR 1003 - see map) and the Boys Dorm, which sat directly in the path of the road. The highway is just 40 feet east of the School building; the resulting traffic and noise have compromised the building's adaptive use potential. All the dwellings are inhabited.

In 1902 three local men, C. C. Johnson, William J. Fryar and A. R. Herring, sensing a need for increased local educational opportunities, founded the Dell School. The campus was built on land given by C. C. Johnson. The school's reputation grew in the region, especially in the literary and musical fields. In 1908 the large, two-story brick academy was built by W. L. Beach, Richard L. Herring and Joe Smith, and the original frame school structure was added onto the Girls Club and Dormitory. Admitted to the state system of Baptist Secondary Schools in 1909, the Dell School, in its brief 21-year history, counted among its pupils six foreign missionaries, sixteen physicians and twenty ministers. According to local tradition, Evergreen Baptist, the school's affiliated church, sent more men into the ministry than any other church of its size in the state.¹ Increasing state interest in public schools led to the establishment of public schools around 1920 in Ingold and Harrells, five and eight miles away respectively. The Bpatist Convention withdrew its support in 1922 and the school closed its doors after commencement in 1923. Most of the school's property was purchased by James M. Ezzell in 1925. His son, James M. Ezzell, Jr., still owns most of the campus.

1. Dell Academy Building

The large two-story American bond (6:1) brick structure, built in the Colonial Revival style, extends for a facade length of one hundred feet, a depth of seventy feet and contains thirteen thousand square feet. The bricks, according to the present owner, James M. Ezzell, Jr., were made in front of his house north of Delway on US 421. The center section, fifty-by-sixty feet, is flanked by transverse twenty-five-by-seventy feet pavillions on the east and west. At the center of the south facade is the primary entrance, consisting of double doors with side lights and a transom sheltered by a hipped-roof porch supported by paired Tuscan columns. The nine-bay-by-seven-bay structure is crowned by a tall gable roof over the main

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block and hipped roof over the side blocks, permitting a taller ceiling for the second floor auditorium; a hipper dormer is the uppermost element. The original pyramidal central bell cupola has been removed from the roof's crest. Multiple interior end chimneys are arranged around the rear and side elevations. Sash are large two-over-two with large, two-pane transom lights. On the second story of the front elevation and flanking each side of the entrance are large, round-arched windows that illuminate the first landing of the interior stairwell. Other details on the restrained exterior are simple, corbelled brick dentils at the cornice and a water table above the stuccoed foundation.

The short entrance hall connects to the transverse hall, which runs the length of the building, opening onto recessed arched stoops on the east and west elevations. Off of this hall are arranged the two offices which flank the entrance hall, their adjacent twin stairwells, and the six first floor classrooms which are located one in each corner of the transverse pavillions and two along the north end of the hall across from the offices and stairs. The classrooms are quite large in size, measuring about 25 by 30 feet, and are simply plastered with a sheathed, beaded board wainscot.

The long, half-turn staircases have a large railing carried by heavy square spindles and terminate with large newels. A suprisingly large auditorium with rear balcony occupies the entire central part of the second floor. The raised stage, from which three dressing rooms radiate occupies the southern area. The arrangement of rooms in the pavillion wings is identical, containing one large classroom, one small classroom and two small, square music rooms, all finished similar to those on the first floor.

2. Principal's House

This frame, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay house was built in the Queen Anne style about 1903 as the residence for the principal of the Dell School. It is located directly across SR 1003 (south) of the birck school building. Sheltering the house is a hipped roof of standing seam metal with projecting roof gables and several small gabled dormers; decorative sunbursts mark the gable's crowns. Interior common bond brick chimneys with corbeled brick caps pierce the roof. The northwest bay of the front facade projects from the main block. Turned posts carry the front porch across the north (front) facade; the porch continues along the east and west elevations for one bay. The plastered, center hall interior, has a handsome staircase and beaded tongue-and-groove sheathed wainscoting in the hall. Along the rear elevation is a short, one room ell and shed rooms. The house was initially occupied by the school's first principal, the Rev. Walter N. Johnson, a son of C. C. Johnson, one the school's founders. Two of the school's principals later became noted in their respective fields. Rosser T. Taylor, principal from 1914 to 1915, later became head of the English Department at Northwestern University. Ivan L. Bennett, principal from 1916 to 1917, left the school to join the army, and as a Major General in World War II, he was Chief of Chaplains for all the Allied forces. Along with most of the Dell campus, the Principal's House was purchased in 1925 by James M. Ezzell, St., his son, James M. Ezzell, Jr., currently owns the property and uses it for rental purposes.

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3p66 3. Dell School Girls Club/Dormitory

The Gils Club/Dormitory was a large, rambling, two-story, frame structure, sheltered under a gable roof; the present structure has been greatly reduced from the original and altered with the erection of a new porch stoop and the application of vinyl siding. The original frame school building, built in 1902, was added onto the rear of this structure when the present brick structure was built in 1908. The Girls Club was acquired from the school about 1930 by Mrs. Edna Allen Bennett; her husband is the son of Ivan L. Bennett, a former principal at the school.

3p64 4. Carlton-Alderman House

This little frame dwelling was built in 1902 for Carson Carlton (dates unknown), a member of a prominent New Hope, Duplin County family, as a residence for his children who attended the school.² One of his fourteen children, a daughter, Mary Jane Carlton, taught here.

The house was purchased in about 1910 by the Rev. J. M. Alderman (dates unknown), the pastor of the local Baptist Church and Chairman of the Dell School Board of Trustees. It was acquired, along with most of the school's complex in 1925, by James M. Ezzell, who married a daughter of Alderman. Ezzell's son presently owns the house and rents it. The three-bay-by-one-bay, weatherboard house is sheltered under a gable roof; a gable projects over the center bay and forms the porch which is supported by turned posts. This simple house was given traditional local elements; returning boxed cornices, six-over-six window sash, and sidelights and a transom surrounding the entrance. On the rear northwest is a one-room ell. All the mantels in the plastered interior have been removed. The house was moved to its present location, west of the school building, in the late 1950s from the other side of the little crossroads of Delway.

3p69 5. Beach-Alderman House

This two-story, frame, side hall plan house was built about 1902-1903 for Walter L. Beach, who was connected with the Dell School. He taught Latin, was later the business manager for about eight to ten years, and in 1908 was one of the builders of the brick school building. Walter's brother was C. M. Beach, Dell's second principal from 1903 until 1914. The house was sold to Walton Alderman, whose brother, the Rev. J. M. Alderman, was pastor of the local Baptist Church and Chairman of the Dell School Board of Trustees. The weatherboard house is sheltered under a front gable roof; a two-story wing extends from the rear northwest. Window sash of the three-bay-by-two-bay house are four-over-four. A porch of turned post extends across the front (east) facade.

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6 Mobile Home

This modest mobile home is the only intrusive structure within the district. It appears to have been built in the 1960s and is a typical aluminum-sided "single-wide" mobile home with skirting.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

 X STATE

_____ LOCAL

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"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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

1902 - 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dell School Campus comprises the five surviving structures associated with the Dell School, a private academy which operated here from 1902 to 1923. Although construction of the adjacent US 421, connecting Greensboro and Wilmington, has had a heavy impact on it, the campus remains relatively intact. The campus centers around the large vacant two-story brick school built in 1908 as the school's second classroom building. Other surviving campus buildings are the Queen Anne style Principal's House, the greatly reduced and altered Girls Club/Dormitory, and two private residences built in connection with the school, all built between 1902 and 1908. Founded in 1902 by three prominent local citizens to further the area's educational opportunities, Dell School was a part of the state system of Baptist secondary schools from 1909 until 1922, attaining a regional reputation for excellence in its musical and literary fields. In its brief 21-year history, Dell School counted among its pupils six foreign missionaries, sixteen physicians, and twenty ministers. Evergreen Baptist Church (demolished) the affiliated church, sent more men into the ministry than any other church of its size in the state. Two of Dell's principals became noted in their separate fields: Rosser T. Taylor, later head of the English Department at Northwestern University, and Ivan L. Bennett, a Major General in World War II and Chief of Chaplains for all Allied forces. The school, because of increasing state support for public education, closed its doors in 1923, at which time the campus was sold to James M. Ezzell. Although most of the structures are currently occupied, the brick school building has been vacant for a number of years. Located at the rural crossroads of Delway, which derived its name from the Dell School, the campus, although splintered by US 421, retains an important position in the development of educational opportunities in the area in the early 20th century.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Dell School is associated with the increasing interest in secondary education in the county and state during the turn of the century, and the role of the Baptist Church had in assisting educational opportunities. The present community of Delway grew up around the school.
- C. The school's buildings reflect the current styles of their day, most notably the large, handsome brick school building in the Colonial Revival style and the Queen Anne style Principal's House.

Criteria exception:

- B. The Carlton-Alderman House (# 4) was moved to its present location on the west side of the School Building from across the crossroads in the late 1950s. The reason for the move is not known, but may be associated with the construction of US 421. Although the interior has been altered somewhat, the exterior exhibits traditional, popular style and massing.

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Statement of Significance cont.

School, the campus, although splintered by U.S. 421 and partially overgrown, retains an important position in the development of educational opportunities in the Sampson County area prior to public education.

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From its inception, the Dell School was closely associated with the local Baptist churches, particularly the Dell and Bethel Baptist churches. In 1909, the school became formally affiliated with the Baptist State Convention school system and received financial support from the state's Baptists. By this time, the school offered a curriculum that⁴ included music, art, band, and religious study in addition to the standard courses.

The community of Delway grew up around the school in its early years. The Delway post office opened in 1902. William Fryar, one of the school's founders, was postmaster from 1902 until 1915. A number of area merchants were closely related to the school, especially William Bland Johnson (1887-1934). Johnson operated a large general store in Delway. He contributed heavily to the school and supplied⁵ groceries to the school at cost. Other merchants helped furnish the dormitories. Charles Beach served as principal of Dell School until 1914. He was replaced by Rosser H. Taylor, a recent Wake Forest graduate. Taylor stayed only two years before leaving to further his academic career with post graduate work at the University of North Carolina and the University of Michigan. He eventually became a department head at Furman and Western Carolina. He was replaced as principal by L. B. Olive, who held the position from 1915 until 1917. He was replaced by the Reverend Ivan L. Bennett who stayed until 1918. He left to become an army chaplain. During the Second World War, Bennett was Chief of Chaplains of the United States Army. He was succeeded as principal by Owen L. Herring, 1918-1919; B. R. Page, 1919-1921; H. L. Swain, 1921-1922; and N. E. Gresham, 1922-1923.⁶

For a variety of reasons, the Dell School ceased operation after the 1922-23 school year. The Baptist State Convention withdrew its financial support in 1922, about the same time public high schools opened nearby, in Harrells and in Ingold. Attempts were made to integrate the school into the public school system, but these attempts were not successful. During its relatively brief existence, the school exerted a considerable influence on the surrounding area, producing six foreign missionaries, sixteen physicians, and twenty ministers. An example of the type of community leader produced by the school is the Reverend Leonidas Lafayette Johnson, a 1912 graduate of Dell who later attended Wake Forest and the Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Johnson (1895-1979) was a Baptist minister for 66 years and served over 30 churches in eastern North Carolina.

The Dell campus district contains five buildings, two of which were private dwellings associated with the school. The 1908 administration building is the most important structure. Containing office space, an auditorium, classrooms, study rooms, and music rooms, the Academy Building was the dominant campus structure. The Principal's house was built in 1903 and is located directly across the street from the Academy Building. All of the school's principals lived in the house. The Girls Club/Dormitory was constructed in 1904. Its primary use was as a girl's dormitory.

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The two private residences associated with the school are the Carlton-Alderman House and the Beach-Alderman House. The Carlton-Alderman House was built about 1902 by Carson Carlton, a prominent Duplin County citizen. He built the house for a number of his children who were associated with the school, including daughter Mary Jane Carlton, who taught at the school from its inception and who was in charge of the primary department. Other Carlton children attended the school and lived in the house. Rooms were also frequently rented to students. In 1910, the house was purchased by the Reverend Joseph Matthew Alderman (1866-1931). Alderman was pastor of a local Baptist church, was chairman of the school's board of trustees, and chairman of the executive committee. His wife, Mary Perry Alderman (1874-1963), was matron of the girls' dormitory.

The Beach-Alderman House was also built around 1902. Its builder, Walter Beach, was the school's business manager and Latin teacher. His brother, Charles M. Beach, was the longtime principal of the Dell School. The house was purchased by Walton Alderman, brother of Joseph Matthew Alderman.

Following the closing of the school, much of the campus was purchased by James Ezzell, Sr. (1891-1953) and inherited by his son James Ezzell, Jr. (b. 1925). The elder Ezzell was a farmer and businessman. He opened a general store in Delway in 1925, shortly after the closing of Dell School which he operated until 1946. He married Lila Brewer Alderman (1897-1974), a daughter of the Reverend Joseph Matthew Alderman. James Ezzell, Jr. is a prominent Delway businessman. Mr. Ezzell owns the Academy Building, the Principal's House, and the Carlton-Alderman House. The Girls Club/Dormitory is owned by Mrs. Edna Allen Bennett, a daughter-in-law of former principal Ivan Bennett, while the Beach-Alderman House is owned by John Hayes.

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Notes

¹Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, third edition, 1973), 589-590; Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Heritage Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 103, 413, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County; Sampson Independent, September 16, 1976.

²Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 103.

³Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 103, 298-299.

⁴Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 103. In 1919, the Dell and Bethel churches merged to form the Evergreen Baptist Church.

⁵Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 22, 103, 458.

⁶Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 103; Jaques Cattell (ed.) Directory of American Scholars (New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 3rd Edition, 1957), 740.

⁷Sampson Independent, September 16, 1976; Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 103, 458.

⁸Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 103, 282; Sampson Independent, September 16, 1976.

⁹Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage Sampson County, 193, 299.

¹⁰Information supplied by the owners.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Dell School was a private academy located in the eastern part of Sampson County, near the community of Delway, which grew up around the school. The Dell School was only in operation from 1902 until 1923. Yet during that brief period, the school attained a reputation for high scholarship and exerted important influence on Sampson and surrounding counties.

The Dell school was founded during a period when the public school system of North Carolina, under the leadership of Governor Charles B. Aycock, was beginning to overcome decades of neglect and inadequacy. In rural Sampson County, however, these improvements came slowly. The private academy remained the best means of educating rural students for a good part of the early twentieth century. The Dell School was founded for this purpose largely through the efforts of three local citizens: Calhoun C. Johnson, William Jefferson Fryar, and A. R. Herring. The campus was built on land donated to the school by Johnson. William Jefferson Fryar (1860-1916) was a graduate of Wake Forest College, a large landowner, and the first postmaster of the Delway post office. Herring was also a large landowner and a member of a prominent Sampson family. The Johnson family was particularly important to the development of the school as one of C. C. Johnson's eleven children was the school's first principal and several others attended the school.

The first principal of the school was Walter N. Johnson, a Baptist minister and a son of C. C. Johnson. Mary Carlton was in charge of the primary department that first year, which saw an enrollment of 95 students, about half of whom boarded in town. In 1903, Charles Maynard Beach was hired as the school's first fulltime principal² to replace the Reverend Johnson whose status was always as an interim principal.

Charles Maynard Beach was a native of Lenoir, North Carolina. He came east to attend Wake Forest College, where he received A.B. and M.A. degrees. He moved to Sampson County shortly after graduation to become principal of the Dell School. Beach remained principal until 1914 and presided over a period of growth for the school. In 1904, separate boys and girls dormitories were constructed. The main administration building was completed in 1908. In addition to housing the school's administrative functions, the building also contained classrooms, auditoriums, and so forth.³

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bizzell, Oscar M., ed. The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: The Hunter Publishing Company, 1983.

Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 15 acres

UTM REFERENCES

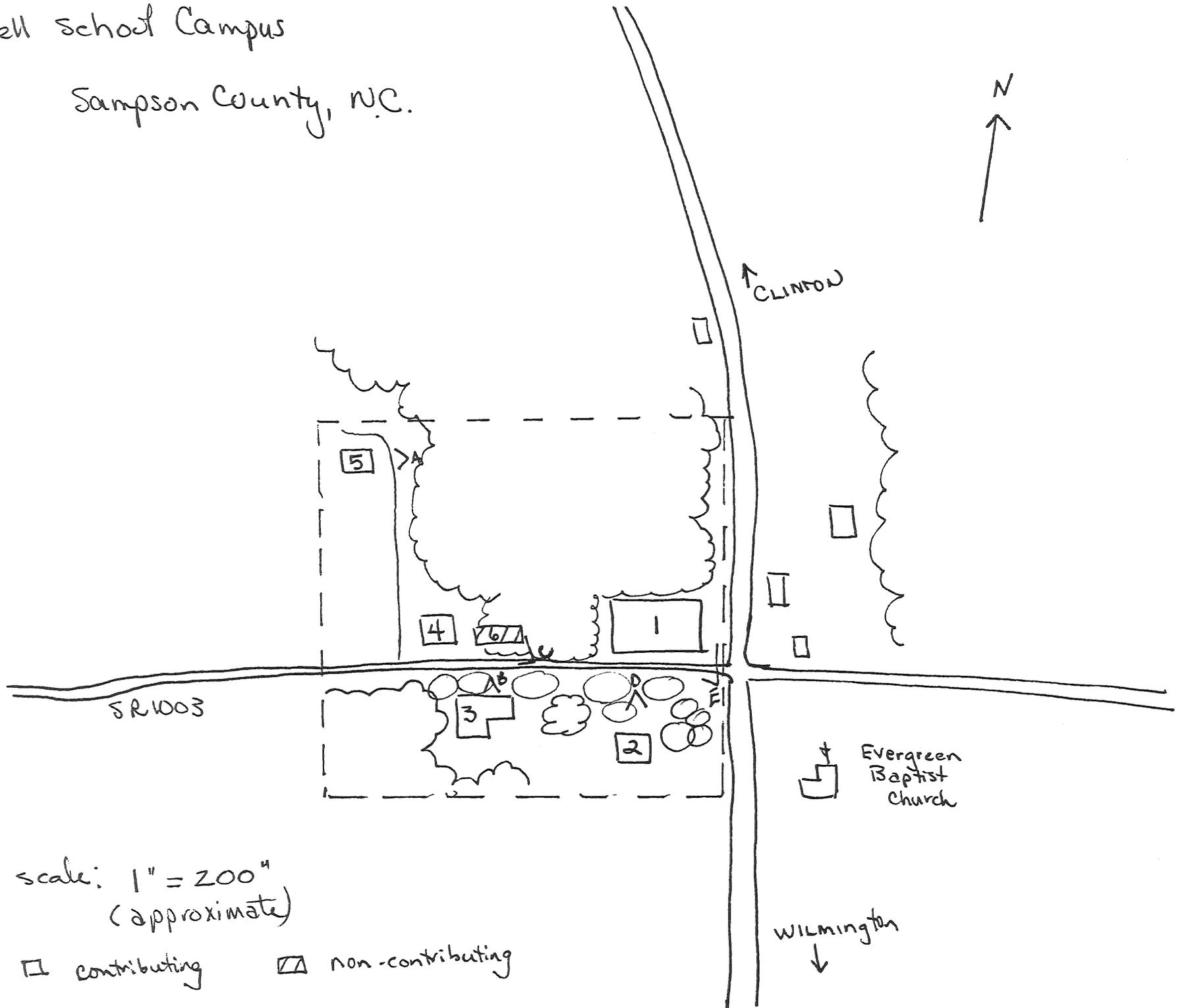
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	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	754900	3854200	D	17	754700	3854175

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated includes the grounds of the six structures in the district and is located primarily along SR 1003 and US 421 at Delway, as illustrated on the site map. This is tract # 29 as registered in the Sampson County Register of Deeds, Book 906, page 206. A copy of the deed is enclosed.

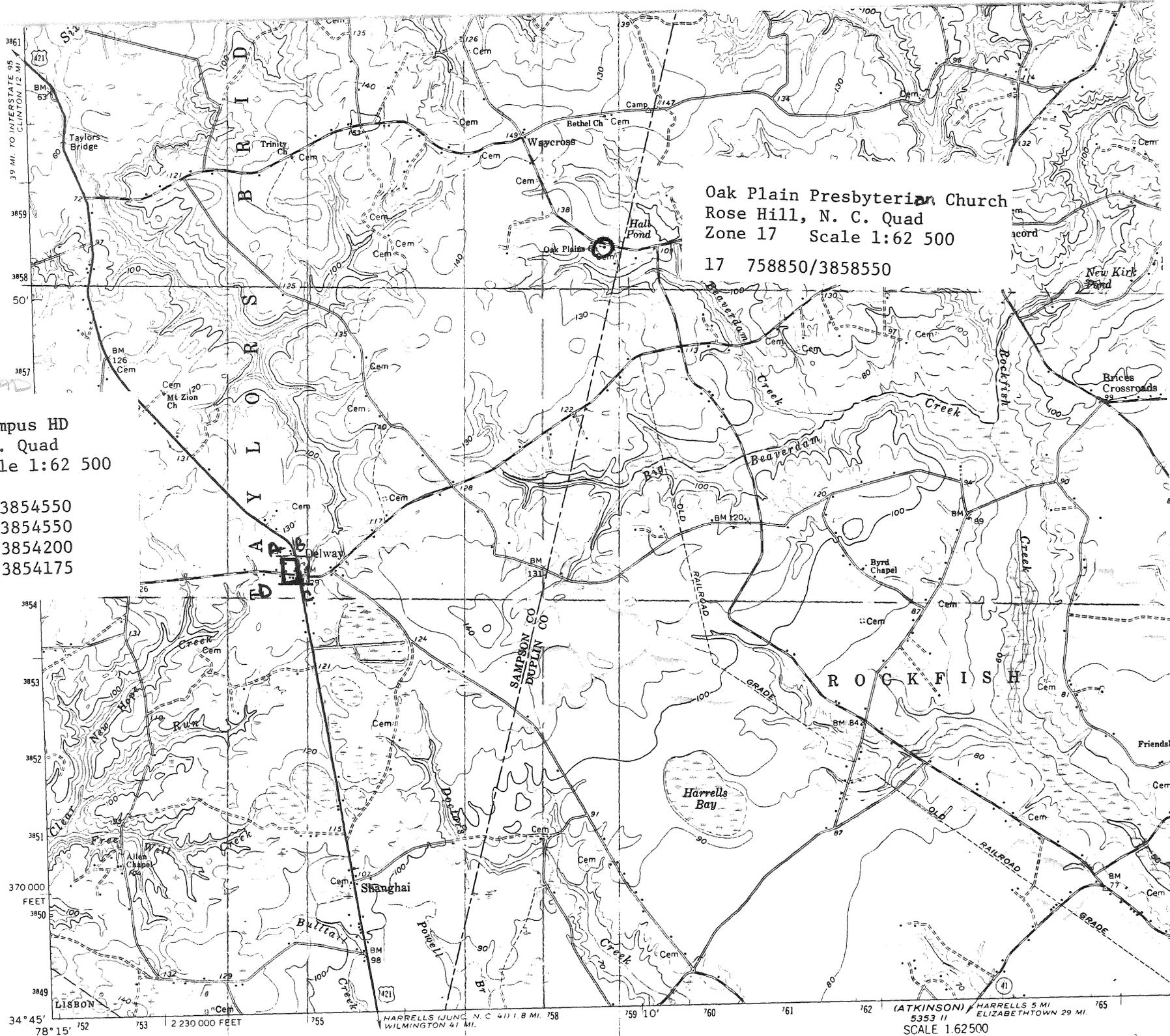
Dell School Campus

Sampson County, N.C.



scale: 1" = 200"
(approximate)

□ contributing ▨ non-contributing



Oak Plain Presbyterian Church
 Rose Hill, N. C. Quad
 Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500
 17 758850/3858550

DELLWAY QUAD
 Dell School Campus HD
 Rose Hill N. C. Quad
 Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

- A 17 754675/3854550
- B 17 754850/3854550
- C 17 754900/3854200
- D 17 754700/3854175



LITTLE TIGER
GRILL
←