

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Pfeiffer University Historic District

Other names/site number _____

2. Location

Street & number North side of US 52, 1.0 mile north of junction with NC 49 N/A not for publication

City or town Misenheimer N/A vicinity

State North Carolina code NC county Stanly code 167 zip code 28109

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPO 3/16/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
14	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
	1	objects
15	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

-0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/SCHOOL

EDUCATION/education-related housing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/college

EDUCATION/education-related housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Stone

roof Asphalt

other Metal

Slate

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Philanthropy

Period of Significance

1923-1948

Significant Dates

1923

1935

1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Pfeiffer, Henry

Pfeiffer, Annie Merner

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Poundstone, Odis Clay--architect

Bradshaw, Leonidas Sloan--builder

Wagoner, Edward Walter--builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

North Carolina Division of Archives and History

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Approximately 14.50**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 564740 3927020
Zone Easting Northing3 17 565120 3926600
Zone Easting Northing2 17 565120 39269204 17 564680 3926780

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Davyd Foard Hoodorganization _____ date 30 June 1998street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-4331city or town Vale state N.C. zip code 28168**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. Charles Ambrose, Presidentstreet & number Post Office Box 960 telephone 704/463-1360city or town Misenheimer state N.C. zip code 28109-0960

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.5 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (024-0013), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

The Pfeiffer University Historic District, comprising eleven major Georgian Revival-style brick academic buildings erected between 1923 and 1948, together with four lesser buildings, one structure, and one object, is an important, imposing educational complex located at Misenheimer in the extreme northwest corner of Stanly County, about one-and-a-quarter miles inside the border with Cabarrus County. The buildings included in this district are situated in an essentially formal, symmetrical arrangement around the edges of a generally rectangular lawn, forming the principal historic college grounds, which lie on the north side of US 52 linking Albemarle, the Stanly County seat, with Salisbury, the Rowan County seat to the northwest. The path of US 52 is parallel with the tracks of the Norfolk & Southern (formerly Yadkin) Railroad which carry about forty feet south of the highway. This core area is the center and oldest part of the campus established here in 1909-1910, and it includes the oldest surviving buildings associated with the university except for Gowell Cottage. (Mrs. Annie B. Davis Gowell, a teacher and principal, built the cottage in 1913 as her residence on the site now occupied by Washington Hall (#12); to allow for Washington Hall's construction, the cottage was moved in 1941 to a position north of Cline Hall (#7), from which it was moved again in 1976 to its present location on the south side of the railroad tracks where it has been fitted up as an alumni center.)

In plan the buildings are arranged along two axes which are linked by a series of asphalt drives and concrete walkways on the grass-covered and tree-shaded lawn. This arrangement reflects the particular circumstances of the university's history. The oldest building in the district, the Administration Building (#1), erected in 1923 and remodeled in 1936, dates to the first decades of the college's operation here and a period when relatively little thought—and funds—were expended on the formal arrangement of its grounds. While it faces due south and toward US 52, its façade is at an odd angle to the public road. In the early 1930s, when the college came under the benevolence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer of New York, the services of architect Odus Clay Poundstone were called upon; he devised a campus plan in which a series of new buildings would be symmetrically arranged around a large rectangular campus green—to the west of the Administration Building—on the north side of US 52 and in parallel relationships with the road along whose path passersby could appreciate the imposing facades of the proposed buildings (#3-#5) that he also linked by arcades to each other and the Administration Building.

Cognizant of the historic value of the Administration Building, Mr. Poundstone created a second axis on the east side of the building, in the form of a lane which extends off the north side of US 52 and terminates in front of the Merner Center (#11). To integrate this axis with the campus lawn, an oval green was devised in front of the Administration Building. The lane begins between a pair of Georgian Revival-style brick gates, at the north edge of US 52 and on axis with the Administration Building, wraps around the east side of the oval green, and then continues in a straight path to the Merner Center. The gates are the easternmost of a pairing which anchor the east and west sides of the principal, elliptical drive on the campus green. Mr. Poundstone located the President's House (#8) on the east side of this lane at the "foot" of the oval and facing south to US 52. In 1937 Mr. Poundstone positioned Jane Freeman Hall (#9) north of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 2

President's House, facing west onto the lane. The Delight and Garfield Merner Center was built in 1942 at the north end of the lane.

That same year the positioning of the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10) seemingly disobeyed both of the campus' organizing features when Mr. Poundstone, with the assistance of landscape architect W. Stuart Washburn, located it at the east edge of the then existing campus and facing southeast to US 52. However, the chapel, and particularly its steeple, serves to visually "enclose" the road-front campus on its east/southeast end while Washington Hall (#12), also built in 1942, encloses the west/northwest end of the campus green. Through the creation of the campus green and the east lane axis, and the placement of the principal buildings along their edges, Mr. Poundstone maximized their effect and presentation to travelers on US 52. The two final important buildings in the district, Mitchell Gymnasium (#13) of 1948-1950 and the United States Post Office (#14) of 1958 complement his intention.

While Mr. Poundstone's planning for the campus is an important feature of its overall design and appearance, the character of the Pfeiffer University Historic District is formed by its red brick classically-detailed Georgian Revival-style architecture. Like many architects of his generation who were trained in the Beaux-Arts tradition, Mr. Poundstone was a skilled architect with a facility in giving clients important-looking buildings for relatively low cost. His symmetrically-composed buildings have Flemish-bond elevations with limestone/cast stone dressings, parapet or pedimented gable ends, consistent fenestration, traditional Georgian-Revival detailing, and well-placed ornament. His buildings survive today, in good repair, sixty-three to fifty-six years after their construction, except for the blinds on Rowe, Merner, and Cline dormitories which have been taken down.

1. Administration Building
1923; remodeled in 1936
Contributing building

This two-story brick building, raised on a full-story basement, represents two periods of construction: its original building in 1923, and its Georgian Revival-style remodeling in 1936 to designs prepared by Odis Clay Poundstone. Surviving documentary photographs from the early 1930s show it to have been a conventional, essentially rectangular educational building of the 1920s with symmetrical elevations and a parapet roof. Its five-bay entrance block on the south façade projected slightly forward of the broad flanking east and west bays which contained large rectangular openings fitted with six three-over-one sash windows. Said to have cost \$70,000 and named Margaret Jackson Freeman Hall in honor of its principal donor, Margaret Jackson Freeman of Philadelphia, it was the first brick building erected by the school; Freeman Hall was dedicated on 2 September 1923 and housed administrative offices, classrooms, a 250-seat auditorium, (gymnasium facilities), and other needs of the small school.

Mr. Poundstone's designs for remodeling the building cast it in a classical dress which complemented the Georgian Revival-style of the five major buildings erected on campus in 1935 through the gifts of Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer. The original brick elevations were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 3

overlaid with Flemish-bond brickwork with limestone/cast stone belt courses and dressings, and the old parapet roof was replaced by a hipped asphalt-shingle roof. A new classical cornice was enriched with modillion blocks and the doorways were likewise enriched with classical enframements. The projecting center entrance block on the south façade was treated as a temple-form frontispiece with pilasters rising to simple fluted capitals. The original doorway with its tall fanlight was replaced by a segmental-arch doorway with columns flanking a recessed entrance and its paneled reveals. The openings in the block's bays to either side and above the front entrance were regrouped as single openings and fitted with a trio of three-over-one window sash below splayed arches with keystones. Rather oddly, given the extent of the remodeling, Mr. Poundstone retained the older, conventional three-over-one sash and the soldier course lintels on the building. The east and west side elevations have near-center entrances at the basement levels and tall, arch-headed windows above which illuminate the stairwells at each end linking the building's three stories. The arch-headed opening on the west side also contains paired doors opening onto the open terrace linking this floor with the second story of Rowe Hall. Paired windows occur on the basement levels while the first and second story elevations have large openings, like those on the façade containing six sash windows which illuminate(d) classrooms. The rear, north elevation has a pendant projecting five-bay block with varied sized window openings on its basement and first stories which illuminated the former gymnasium space here. The second-story bays contain tall openings fitted with paired three-over-one sash below three-pane transoms which illuminate the auditorium.

The interior reflects features of its original construction, the 1936 remodeling, and a series of adaptations over the sixty-plus years to the present. A number of original doors with their transoms and frames survive as do baseboards and chair rails in the halls, etc. The walls are mostly painted plaster, the floors are carpeted or covered with tile, and the ceilings have been lowered with acoustical panels in metal frames. The basement level houses administrative offices, the campus computer center, and the mail and printing center in the former gymnasium space. The entire first story of the building is given over to offices including those of the president, the provost and dean of the college, financial aid and admissions. The auditorium, theater shop, costume rooms, and related theater department offices occupy the second story. In the northwest corner of the floor is a single large classroom which appears to have survived intact from the 1923 building program. It has framed blackboards carrying the full length of its east and north walls and a recessed closet in its northeast corner.

2. Garage
Ca. 1923-1930
Contributing building

This two-vehicle gable-front brick garage is laid up in one-to-five bond and covered with a front-gable roof of asphalt shingles. Its shallow eaves are well-molded. The original paired openings on the east front have been infilled with brick; a door opening at the south edge of the front contains a nine-pane above cross-panel door. Window openings in the center of the north and south sides are fitted with six-over-six sash. The rear west elevation is blind except for a rectangular louvered ventilator in the upper gable end like one which appears on the front. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 4

interior has been sheathed with sheet paneling and the ceiling lowered with acoustical panels in frame.

3. Rowe Hall
1935
Contributing building

Rowe Hall is one of the three Georgian Revival-style dormitories erected to the designs of Odie Clay Poundstone in 1935 by Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw of Salisbury. The original rectangular two-story brick-veneer building was expanded to a U-shaped plan in 1960 by the addition of two three-story ells at the east and west ends of its rear elevation. The Flemish bond elevations are enriched with cast-stone string courses and a modillion block cornice. The front first-story window openings contain twelve-over-twelve sash with cast-stone sills and lintels; the other openings are simply framed and hold like sash. The symmetrical south façade has a seven-bay center block flanked by two-bay parapet gable ends which finish at their peaks as chimneys and contain arch-headed attic windows. A two-story Ionic portico shelters the five center bays of the façade; it has a flagstone floor. The classical Federal-style doorway enframes paired three-panel doors below a decorative transom. The east and west sides of the building are engaged by one-story arcaded passages with parapet decks which link it with the Administration Building to the east and Memer Hall to the west. Doors open onto both levels of the passages. The rear elevation of Rowe Hall is dominated by the three-story flat-roof ells which flank the original five-bay center section of the building. The ells are laid up in Flemish bond and repeat the general symmetry of the 1935 building; the window openings hold eight-over-eight sash. Each ell has seven student rooms plus a bathroom on each floor; the bathrooms and a stair linking the three floors are positioned in the north ends of the ells.

The intact interior of Rowe Hall has a center hall plan on each floor with student rooms ranked on its north and south sides. The T-plan hall on the first story has a tile floor, a vertical pine wainscot with a molded chair rail, plaster walls and ceiling, and a wood cornice. The reception hall, on the east side of the entrance hall, retains its original three-light chandelier. The student rooms have three-panel doors with three-pane transoms in plain surrounds, opening into the halls; inside the rooms these doorways are flanked by closets with three-panel doors. The Rowe Hall parlor is located at the west end of the first story. It has an oak floor, a vertical pine wainscot below plaster walls, and a fully paneled fireplace wall at its north end; the fireplace, with its brick surround and molded shelf, is flanked by former window openings which were fitted with mirrors when the ells were added. The finish of the second story is essentially the same as the first except that the hall is simply finished with a chair rail rather than a pine wainscot and lacks the pine cornice. The bathrooms retain some original fittings, including mirrors; however, most of the fixtures and finishes have been replaced or renewed over time.

A bronze plaque in the parlor informs readers that Rowe Hall was "Built and Furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer" and "Named in Honor of Anna K. Rowe, Corresponding Secretary of the New York Conference, W. H. M. S. in 1935."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 5

4. Merner Hall
1935
Contributing building

The exterior design, finish, and appearance of Merner Hall is identical to that of Rowe Hall except that the ell on the west end of its rear elevation is original to the building's erection in 1935; the ell at the east end of the rear is contemporary with the ells on Rowe Hall and identical in appearance. The west elevation of the west ell is nine bays wide and generally symmetrical in its arrangement of windows, some of which are smaller than others and in bathrooms; their number and placement suggest that the rooms in this 1935 ell might have been designed with bathrooms en suite and occupied by faculty. A near-center door on the first story is protected by a handsome bracketed hood. A parapet, inset with four stone panels, links the parapet gable ends of the elevation. The ell's rear elevation is four bays wide.

The interior finish of Merner Hall is essentially the same as that of Rowe Hall. The plan is the same except that the parlor is located in the east end of the building. Its finish is like that of Rowe Hall, and it retains six original metal sconces and a matching metal chandelier. A bronze plaque on the wall to the west of the fireplace notes the Pfeiffers' gift of the building and its furnishings; it was named in honor of Mrs. Annie Merner Pfeiffer, president of the New York Conference, Woman's Home Missionary Society. Here, too, the former window openings on either side of the fireplace are fitted with mirrors.

5. Goode Hall
1935
Contributing building

Goode Hall, also built in 1935 to the design of Odis Clay Poundstone by Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw, is a Georgian Revival-style brick building covered by a side-gable roof enframed by parapet gable ends which rise to finish with two chimney stacks. Its Flemish-bond elevations are enlivened with cast-stone dressings. The one-story building is raised on a full basement to give added import to the college dining room on the main level. The seven-bay south façade is symmetrical with corresponding window openings on the basement and first stories and inset cast-stone panels in the parapet frieze crowning the elevation. The basement openings hold eight-over-eight sash windows in four-part stepped surrounds below splayed arches. Openings on the first story hold twelve-over-twelve sash above paneled aprons, protected by wrought iron railings; cast-stone lintels carry across the openings. The center bays hold entrances at the basement and first-story levels and a panel in the parapet frieze inscribed "GOODE HALL." The main entrance, into the dining room, is accessed by the curving arms of a metal staircase which rise to a stoop. Here paired doors, fitted with six panes above two panels, are surmounted by a rectangular fifteen-pane transom. A bronze plaque, like those seen earlier and mounted here to the west of the door, confirms the gift of the building and its furnishings by Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer and the building's naming in honor of Ida H. Goode, national president of the Woman's Home Missionary Society in 1935. A handsome cast-iron lantern, probably original to 1935, lights the entrance. A door below the stoop floor opens into the basement. In the early 1950s one-story-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 6

on-basement one-bay wings were added to either side of Goode Hall: they follow the fenestration pattern of the original block and have flat parapet roofs. The side elevations of Goode Hall are engaged by parapet deck passages which link it with Merner Hall to the east and Cline Hall to the west. They abut hipped-roof shed blocks flanking the original one-story kitchen ell on the rear elevation. A two-level flat-roof service block, containing refrigerators and other facilities, stands at the north end of the ell. The fenestration of these parts of the building reflect their functional nature.

After the new student dining room opened in 1964 in the J. Lem Stokes Student Center, this building was used for a variety of classroom, instructional, and office spaces. The former kitchen and related spaces are used for art instruction, and in 1978 the former dining room was refitted as the Grace and Cameron West Art Gallery. The pine-paneled dining room walls (wainscot?) were hung with fabric faced panels for the mounting and display of art works. The beamed ceiling remains in place as do the room's six original metal chandeliers. In the early 1950s when the wings were added, the window openings at each end were refitted as doorways into single rooms which are now used as classrooms. Some thirteen of the original maple (?) dining hall tables survive in these rooms. The ground/basement level of the building housed the college's heating plant, laundry, and related functions, including a barber shop. Now, this space has been partitioned for office, classroom, and storage use; however, significant aspects of its original finish survive.

6. "Practice Home"
1941-1942
Contributing building

An article in the CHARLOTTE OBSERVER on 23 May 1941 announced the construction of this building together with the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel, Washington Hall, and the Delight and Garfield Merner Center. Its function was also described.

A practice home where girls will receive practical training in housekeeping, living within a family budget. This home will be operated under the supervision of an especially trained staff member. This building will be located probably back of Goode hall.

(There is also a campus tradition that this one-story brick cottage was built for occupation by an employee in charge of maintaining the college heating plant nearby in the basement of Goode Hall. That was possibly a later use.) It is now a bachelor faculty residence.

The small one-story brick cottage is laid up in Flemish bond and consists of three offset blocks, all covered by side-gable asphalt shingle roofs. The two-bay center block, finished with a modest modillion-block cornice, contains the entrance and a window to the west; fluted pilasters flank the opening fitted with a nine-pane above cross-paneled door. The offset block to the east is two bays wide and three bays deep while the smaller block on the west, originally an open/screened porch, has been enclosed and finished with one window on the south front and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 7

paired windows on the west. These openings and those on the rear elevation contain either eight-over-eight or six-over-six sash.

The interior of the "practice home" is modestly but well finished with oak floors, plaster walls, and simply-molded baseboards and door and window surrounds. It contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bathroom; the enclosed porch is now used as a library.

7. Cline Hall
1935
Contributing building

A dormitory, Cline Hall is one of five buildings erected in 1935 to the design of Odus Clay Poundstone by Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw as the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer. Except for three features it is a virtual replica of the main blocks of both Rowe and Merner Halls which were erected at the same time. Here the two-story five-bay Tuscan portico is omitted on the south façade where a flagstone stoop with metal railings is positioned in front of the entrance. In its place Mr. Poundstone focused attention on the first-story windows of the seven-bay main block which he positioned above paneled aprons with metal railings, an elaboration seen earlier on Goode Hall. The third difference between Cline Hall and those contemporary residence halls is that here he added a two-tier porch on the west end of the dormitory. It features four paneled-face two-story piers and two responding pilasters which rise to support a full modillion block cornice. The first level of the porch has a paved brick floor; it is enclosed by a wrought-iron railing repeating the design of the balconies and stoop railing seen on the façade. It is furnished with three hanging Colonial Revival-style suspended ceiling lanterns and ceiling-mounted swings. The second level of the porch has the appearance of a sleeping porch or solarium; its elevations, between the pilasters and piers, are fully glazed with sash windows. The rear elevation of the building has a symmetrical arrangement of windows on both levels and doors on the first story opening into the interior stairwells.

The interior of Cline Hall retains the same interior finish as appears in Rowe and Merner Halls, and the reception room likewise retains its original chandelier. The parlor is located at the west end of the first story and opens onto the porch. Because this dormitory has no eells, the room is brighter with paired windows on its south, west, and north elevations. The parlor has a tall, head-height pine paneled wainscot and fully paneled chimney breast. Seven double-light "Early American" metal wall sconces remain in place as does the room's original chandelier. A bronze plaque, like others in the 1935 buildings, identify Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer as donors. The building is named in honor of Mary Josephine Cline, bureau secretary of the Woman's Home Missionary Society from 1912 to 1926. The first frame dormitory at the Misenheimer campus, erected in 1913, was named in her honor; it was torn down while these 1935 buildings were being completed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 8

8. President's House
1935
Contributing building

Comparable with the better Georgian Revival-style residences of the 1920s and 1930s, the President's House is a two-story five-bay brick-veneer house laid up in Flemish bond with cast stone dressings; it is covered with a side-gable slate roof. The eaves of the house are finished with a modillion block cornice which returns on its gable ends. Also like houses of that era, there is a diminution in the character and quality of the detailing from the façade to the side elevations and to the rear. The five-bay south façade is enhanced through the use of a slightly projecting pavilion which holds the three center bays; it is finished with a pedimented gable front with an attic fanlight encircled by a header course. A handsome Tuscan Revival-style doorway in the center bay features paneled reveals, a blind fan-shape transom, and an unusual Georgian-Gothic door with lancet glazing above a molded panel. A bronze plaque to the west of the door identifies Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer as donors of the residence. The tall window openings to either side contain four-over-four sash above molded panels. They rest on a cast stone water table and have stone lintels; the shorter window openings on the second story, which hold eight-over-eight sash, rest on a like belt course and have splayed brick lintels. The second story windows are fitted with louvered blinds. The main block is flanked by one-story frame blocks of different dates and unequal widths. The block on the west represents an enclosure/rebuilding of the house's original side porch as a sunroom or den. It is sheathed with weatherboards and has a simple flat parapet roof. Paired four-over-four sash are set in its front and rear elevations and two conventional single openings with like sash occur on the long west side. The house's chimney rises in the center of this west gable end where it is flanked by windows on the second story and quarter round louvered ventilators at the attic level. The south frame block has a single window on the front and back, and a door and window on the east side. There are three windows on the second story and a circular louvered ventilator in the attic. The rear elevation of the house has two slightly offset, shallow two-story ells, which are covered with hipped roofs, and a one-story frame ell which appears to be an enclosure of an earlier screened service porch. Nestled into the juncture of the two brick ells and beside the furnace chimney is a small, attractive porch in the plan of a quarter circle with molded square piers; it protects a door opening into the center hall. The stone dressings are absent here; a soldier course replaces the belt course and the windows have soldier course lintels.

The interior of the President's House is built on a center, stair hall plan with the living room to the west and the dining room and kitchen on its east side. The floors are oak and the walls plaster; the first-story rooms have a molded chair rail, baseboards, molded window and door surrounds, and molded cornices. The living room mantel has a crossetted cushion frieze. In the dining room, inset china cabinets flank the French doors in its east wall; they have paired eight-pane glazed doors at the top and blind paneled doors at the bottom. The finishes in the breakfast room and kitchen have been changed over time as has the cabinetry. The staircase, with its turned railing and ramped hand rail, rises northward along the hall's west wall to the second story. Four bedrooms and two bathrooms are here and most rooms retain their three-panel doors; two bedrooms have their original glass and metal chandeliers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 9

9. Jane Freeman Hall
1937
Contributing building

Erected in 1937 at a cost of approximately \$100,000, Jane Freeman Hall is the largest building in the district, and until the construction of the John Balle Harris Science Building in 1957 it was the largest classroom and faculty office building on the campus of Pfeiffer College. Jane Freeman Hall was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer, and it was named for Jane Hill Freeman, the national treasurer of the Woman's Home Missionary Society in 1937. It was designed by Odis Clay Poundstone and constructed by Edward Walter Wagoner of Salisbury. While a building of this size might have overwhelmed the earlier, smaller buildings on the campus, Poundstone lessened the impact of the large U-shaped building by dividing its mass into three blocks, each of which is covered by a hipped roof. This symmetrical three-part composition is not unlike his earlier treatment of the dormitories where he flanked a recessed center block by parapet gable end blocks. The building is laid up in Flemish bond and enhanced with a cast stone water table, belt course, and dressings. The eaves of the asphalt shingle roof are finished with a modillion block cornice.

The west façade of Jane Freeman Hall has a five-part division consisting of a thirteen-bay wide center block with single-bay recessed hyphens linking it with two-bay end blocks. A handsomely-detailed segmental arch entranceway, with fluted Tuscan pilasters, enframes the double-door entrance with paneled reveals and a decorative transom. The six first-story windows to either side hold twelve-over-twelve sash below splayed lintels with keystones. The second story has a symmetrical nine-bay arrangement with shorter openings also holding twelve-over-twelve sash. All these windows have stepped four-part wood frames inside the openings. This fenestration pattern is generally consistent throughout the building. The single-bay recessed hyphens flanking the center section have elaborate Federal-style doorways on the first story and a window on the second story. Here paired, partially-glazed doors, set below beautiful fan-detailed blind transoms, open into stair halls which link the two stories and connect with the principal corridors on each story. While the end blocks of the façade are technically two bays wide the presence of the interior-end chimneys suggest a third bay below the rise of their stacks at each end.

The south elevation of the building has a symmetrical arrangement of ten windows on the first story and eight windows on the second story. The longer north elevation of Jane Freeman Hall has an asymmetrical arrangement of window openings on the first and second stories which reflect the different interior spaces of the multi-purpose building. There is a general symmetry to the westernmost two-thirds of the elevation where a center entrance opens into the principal first-story corridor; it is immediately flanked by small windows with three larger windows to either side. The second level of this section has two large rectangular openings of five sash windows each, a shorter three-window section—all illuminating the library reading room—and a single conventional window. The eastern end of this north block containing the library stacks, has small metal frame windows on three levels. The rear elevation of the three principal blocks varies block to block. The east end of the south block mirrors the two-bay arrangement of its

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 10

front west elevation. Small metal frame windows on three levels are symmetrically arranged across the east end of the north block and illuminate the former library stacks here. The main center block has an asymmetrical arrangement of window openings on each story which reflect the several functions of the offices, classrooms, bathrooms, and related spaces they illuminate.

The following description of the interior of Jane Freeman Hall is taken from the December 1937 edition of "The Torch," the student newspaper of Pfeiffer Junior College.

The beautiful two-story building is of brick and may be entered through three imposing front entrances and one main library entrance on the north side. A main corridor runs the length of the building, the floor of which is covered with asphalt tile of a marble effect. Off the corridor on first floor are the biology, chemistry and physics laboratories, two lecture rooms, two rooms for commercial courses, and the Home Economics department, which includes the sewing room, kitchen, and model bedroom, living and dining room, and bath.

On the second floor, the woodwork is of knotty white pine. There is dormitory space for thirty boys, a living room for them, a matron's office and two suites for two young married couples of the staff.

In the north wing is the library, the ceiling of which is of acoustical material in pastel tints, made doubly attractive by the indirect lighting system. A large fire place is at one end of the room, a "U"-shaped librarian's desk is at the other. The furniture is standard library furniture and the seating capacity will be fifty-five. The shelves are removable and plentiful enough to permit expansion of the present number of volumes. The room was designed to give an atmosphere of restful quiet, and this has been accomplished remarkably well.

Following the construction of the John Balle Harris Science Building in 1957 and the relocation of the college library to the Merner Center (#11), both in the 1950s, the rooms given to those purposes were used generally for classroom and meeting spaces. In 1977 Jane Freeman Hall was renovated to remove some of the obsolete features and to upgrade other aspects of the building; however, most of the appointments which distinguished the original building were retained in place, particularly the pine paneled wainscot in the second story hall and library, most of the original doors and their transoms, the fittings of the two apartments in the south wing which are now used for faculty lounge and office space, and the very good second-story bathroom for the boy's dormitory which has original terrazo floors, metal toilet stalls, wall-hung sinks, and three beautiful mottled ivory-pink ceramic-tile shower stalls with black borders. The former dormitory rooms remain intact and are now used as faculty offices.

10. Henry Pfeiffer Chapel
1941-1942
Contributing building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 11

On 26 February 1941 Annie Merner Pfeiffer wrote to a friend, _____, of her plans for Pfeiffer Junior College.

What of the future? As I have said before in this letter Dr. Sharp has a fine program for the coming year. In 1942, I am expecting to erect a very fine memorial chapel for Mr. Pfeiffer who died two years ago. I know he would want this very much, and I feel that this will do much for the spiritual life of the school which is so vital to any institution (quoted in Bangle, 193).

The "very fine memorial chapel for Mr. Pfeiffer" was designed by Odis Clay Poundstone and erected in 1941-1942 by Edward Walter Wagoner of Salisbury as part of a four-building construction project on the junior college campus. The Georgian Revival-style red brick building with classical detailing repeated the traditional building program which Mr. Poundstone had instituted in 1935 at Pfeiffer with his first five buildings on campus. Its elevations are laid up in Flemish bond and enhanced with cast stone dressings.

The chapel is built on a T-plan with the dominant stem of the "T" containing a large auditorium which seats approximately five hundred persons. The dominant feature of the chapel, as with many Protestant churches, is the steeple which towers above the façade and over the campus, symbolizing the Christian virtues advocated by the school's founder and later benefactors. The principal features of the southwest-facing façade are the portico and the steeple. The tetrastyle portico has a limestone trimmed brick floor and wood columns rising from metal bases to composite Ionic capitals. The outer pair of the four columns across the front of the portico are matched at the front wall of the chapel by corresponding columns and shadow pilasters. These columns rise to a full entablature, which completely encircles the auditorium, and a stucco-faced pediment. A large, almost over-scaled fanlight, is set in the center of the pediment. The facade of the chapel is blind except for the center entrance. The elaborate doorway, set in a slightly projecting pavilion, has a molded, crossetted surround supporting a cushion frieze and a swan's neck pediment; "HENRY PFEIFFER CHAPEL" appears in metal letters on the face of the cushion frieze. Heavy seven-panel paired doors are set below a rectangular transom with diamond panes. The steeple rises above the pedimented façade of the chapel; its first stage is a square-in-plan balustraded brick base, with a circular façade window, which supports the octagonal lantern. Four of the lantern's eight sides hold tall multi-pane arch-headed windows; the top of the lantern is heavily molded and supports, in turn, the base of the spire. The eight-sided conical spire is finished with a weathervane and cross.

The long southeast and northwest sides of the chapel have a symmetrical seven-bay division. Short, small windows, with eight-over-eight sash, flank the five tall center openings illuminating the auditorium. These openings, with cast stone sills and lintels, hold large twelve-over-sixteen sash below a four-pane transom; the sash and transom are fitted with a soft yellow translucent glass. The southernmost short, small window opening on the southeast side has been enlarged and fitted with a door and ramp for handicap access into the east anteroom flanking the vestibule.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 12

The top of the chapel's T-plan is a two-story rectangle with pedimented gable ends facing southeast and northwest and a shallow projecting pedimented six-bay block on its long rear northeast elevation. Its elevations are laid up in Flemish bond and finished with a cast stone water table and belt course which serves as the base of the second-story window openings. The molded eaves and dentil cornice of this block is simpler in its detail than the rich entablature on the auditorium block. The four-bay gable ends of this rear block are symmetrical and nearly identical, and they include doorways with crossetted surrounds, a cushion frieze, and pediment which hold a nine-pane above cross-panel door. The taller first-story openings with cast stone keystones in splayed lintels hold eight-over-twelve sash while the shorter, second-story windows hold eight-over-eight sash. Circular windows, with header brick frames and cast stone keystones, are set in the pedimented ends. The rear elevation has a symmetrical eight-bay arrangement with corresponding windows on each level which repeat the fenestration pattern of the gable ends. The wide pedimented gable end here has a curious triangular stucco-face field holding a circular ventilator.

The interior of the chapel is handsomely finished in the Georgian-Revival style. The front doors open into a vestibule which is paved with alternating diamond squares of rose and beige terrazzo. The vestibule is encircled with a tall paneled wainscot below a molded rail; the plaster walls and ceiling are finished with an acanthus leaf cornice. Doorways into the east and west anterooms to either side hold six-panel (mahogany?) doors. Those doors and the paired seven-panel doors opening into the chapel are set in handsome Federal-style surrounds. An important portrait of Henry Pfeiffer, signed "Kazanjan N. Y." hangs on the west wall of the vestibule across from a marble dedicatory plaque.

The same impressive finish seen on the exterior of the chapel and its vestibule appears in the auditorium. The tile-covered floor of the rectangular assembly room slopes to the north to a stage, recessed inside an arch. The auditorium has a principal center aisle with two subsidiary aisles, slightly off axis with doors opening into the anterooms. The auditorium's woodwork is Georgian Revival in style. Four tiers of seating have painted ends and backs with maple seats. Double-tier paneled wainscoting encircles the room; it and the other woodwork is painted white while the plaster walls are painted a soft rose pink. A dentil cornice encircles the barrel-vaulted ceiling of the auditorium. Brass chandeliers with a double tier of etched glass globes hang over the center aisle and like two-globe sconces are positioned between the windows. The apse stage at the north end of the chapel is set within a molded arch rising from octagonal columns and flanked by doors, opening into parallel halls, below large rectangular ornamental grilles. The apse is the location of a valuable pipe organ, the gift of Mr. Pfeiffer's brother, and movable choir seating. A wide panel of velvet drapery hangs on the rear wall of the apse, between doors opening into the back hall, and it serves as the backdrop for a metal cross.

The large rear block of the chapel is well finished for use as Sunday School rooms and classrooms, rehearsal, and office space for the music department. The halls flanking the apse connect with the principal corridor which carries the width of the building between the doors in each of its gable ends. The halls and corridors on both stories are finished with a vertical pine wainscot and six-panel doors in molded surrounds. The floors are tile and the walls plaster. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 13

metal stair to the second story, located in the west end of the block, is grained to resemble wood. Lavatories for men and women are located on the second story.

11. Delight and Garfield Merner Center
1941-1942
Contributing building

In the CHARLOTTE OBSERVER article of 23 May 1941, describing the new building program being undertaken at Pfeiffer Junior College, the as-yet unnamed Merner Center was described as "a vocational building designed for teaching various trades." Very few vocational arts buildings of the period were given such an imposing Georgian Revival-style dress. It was designed by Odie Clay Poundstone and erected by Edward Walter Wagoner of Salisbury. In the early-mid 1950s the building was renovated as the college library, and it served this purpose until the completion of the Gustavus Adolphus Pfeiffer Library in 1967. During the years thereafter it has served a variety of classroom and office uses. The exterior of the brick-veneer building is laid up in Flemish bond red brick and finished with cast stone dressings and a good modillion-block cornice. The front, principal block of the Merner Center is one-story in height and covered by a side-gable roof of asphalt shingles. The south façade has a three-part composition featuring a projecting gable-front entrance bay flanked by five bays to either side. The entrance is recessed in a handsome cast-stone/limestone frontispiece whose quoining is echoed at the corners of the projecting pavilion. The present partially-glazed door and sidelights are replacements while the twelve-pane transom is original. "DELIGHT AND GARFIELD MERNER CENTER" in metal letters appears across the frieze enclosing the pediment where a circular, stone-enframed attic window is inset. The five tall bays to either side are fitted with eight-over-eight-over-eight window sash and cast stone sills and lintels. The east and west gable ends of the front block have a two-bay arrangement flanking interior-end chimneys. The rear elevation of this block has a like three-part division with four-bay east and west "thirds" flanking a hipped roof glazed hyphen in the center; this hyphen connects with a three-story flat roof rectangular block which was probably added in the 1950s for stacks when the building was converted for library use. The east and west ends of the rear block are blind; the north elevation has a symmetrical seven-bay arrangement with corresponding six-over-six sash windows on all levels.

The interior finish of the Merner Center appears to date to the 1950s renovation and is of good traditional appearance and quality. The front door opens into a cross-hall finished with a vertical pine wainscot. A marble plaque, like the one in the chapel, has an inscription stating the building's naming in honor of Garfield David Merner and Delight Merner. Doors, forming part of a three-part partially-glazed partition wall, open from the east and west ends of the hall into large reading rooms in the front block. These reading rooms have tile floors, fully paneled pine sheathed walls, and recent dropped ceilings with acoustical tile panels. Long stretches of pine shelving line their walls and recall their earlier function. An arch-headed opening with a glazed transom, in the north end of the cross hall, opens into a passage, flanked by offices, which leads to a hall in the hyphen; it connects, in turn, with the three-story former stack area of the building whose floors are linked by a metal stair. This area now contains offices and storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

7

14

Section number _____ Page _____

12. Washington Hall
1941-1942
Contributing building

Erected in 1941-1942 by Edward Walter Wagoner of Salisbury to the design of Odis Clay Poundstone, Washington Hall is positioned perpendicular to Cline Hall (#7) and encloses the northwest end of the university's campus green. The Georgian Revival style of the building continues the classical precedent established in 1935; however, this two-story Flemish-bond dormitory, originally designed for male students, departs slightly from the format of Rowe, Merner, and Cline Halls. Here the seven-bay center of the east façade is enlivened by a two-story pilaster screen which engages the five center bays; the fluted Ionic capitals of the pilasters support a full entablature whose modillion-block cornice then continues around the building. The Federal-style center entrance has paneled reveals and paired replacement six-pane doors below a diamond-pane transom like that of the chapel entrance. The twelve-over-twelve sash windows have four-part stepped wood frames; the first-story openings have cost stone sills and lintels while the upper windows have splayed brick lintels. Five arch-headed copper-sheathed attic dormers are set in the roof over corresponding windows between the pilasters. The projecting pedimented gable-front blocks at each end of the façade have a two-bay arrangement flanking interior-end chimneys; paired quarter-circle attic windows flank the blind face of the chimneys. The north end of the building has a three-bay arrangement on each level. The south elevation, longer than the building's north wall, features an imposing two-story portico with a turned balustrade between paneled piers. The outer pair of the portico's four columns have corresponding pilasters against the wall. The capitals are a fluted composite Ionic order. A Federal-style doorway holds a six-panel door opening into the south end of the dormitory's center hall. The rear west elevation of Washington Hall has a symmetrical appearance, despite the unequal lengths of the two end blocks. Its center three bays, including a projecting bay window, project beyond the main plane of the wall; these windows, and windows at the north and south sides of the shallow block illuminate the parlor in the west center of the dormitory.

The room arrangement and interior finish of Washington Hall are very similar to that of the 1935 residence halls and, if anything, in slightly better condition. The first and second-story halls have a vertical pine wainscot; the doors into the student rooms have the prescription three panels below three-pane transoms, and are simply framed. A marble plaque states the building's erection "in honor of The Father of Our Country and in Memory of George Washington Pfeiffer, 1858-1917." Directly opposite the front door is the entrance into the parlor where paired six-pane above panel doors are surmounted by a six-pane transom. The oak floor of the parlor is lowered two steps below the hall floor. The room is fully sheathed in white pine paneling and has a beam ceiling with patterned celotex. A small chandelier hangs from the ceiling and four of the room's original six two-light sconces remain in place. The paneled chimney breast includes a dentil-molded shelf above a cushion frieze.

13. Mitchell Gymnasium
1948-1950
Contributing building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

7

15

Section number _____ Page _____

The just completed Mitchell Gymnasium was heralded in an article in the school newspaper, "The Pfeiffer News," in its January 1950 issue.

One of the best, if not the best, gymnasiums at any junior college in North Carolina was formally opened January 4, at 8 o'clock on our campus. The girls' team met the Y.W.C.A. of Kannapolis in the preliminary contest. Nellie Parker, a scrapping forward for the Pantherettes had the honor of scoring the first goal in the new gym in a regularly scheduled game. The "Y" turned back the locals 37-32.

The gym was built and furnished at a cost of approximately \$160,000. No essential convenience was left out in construction of the huge structure. The floor is the maximum size, 50x94 feet. The overall size of the building is 80x162 feet, built of brick furnished by Yadkin Brickyard.

Money for its construction came from the estate of Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer. The gymnasium carries the name Mitchell, once borne by the College when it was called Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School.

Although the designer and contractor of the building have not been identified, the building's two principal south entrances are such specific copies of the entrance into Mermer Center that Mr. Poundstone is the likely architect for this building. Despite its somewhat utilitarian appearance, the gymnasium is a classically-detailed, symmetrical building with Flemish-bond elevations enlivened with cast stone dressings. It is a rectangular building with small single-bay inset blocks flanking the seven-bay center block; the three units of the building are covered with a flat roof whose parapet is defined by a cast-stone belt course and copping. The central main block, containing the gymnasium basketball arena, has a seven-bay arrangement on its south façade where the window openings on the main level have corresponding stucco-face panels in the parapet. Their original sash type has not been identified; the openings with their splayed lintels and cast stone keystones have been infilled with sheet paneling. Entrances are centered in the south face of each end block. Their cast stone surrounds duplicate those seen next door, to the east, on the Mermer Center. However, these retain their original (or very early) paired doors below twelve-pane transoms. These doors open into small lobbies providing access to the basketball arena. The east and west elevations of these end blocks have a generally symmetrical six-bay arrangement of five windows and an arch-headed opening fitted with recessed paired doors; they open into halls that both connect with the gymnasium's front halls and cement stairs which descend to the arena floor. The rear elevation of the gymnasium has seven symmetrically-positioned windows illuminating the basketball arena and a door on floor level.

The interior of Mitchell Gymnasium remains little changed over the course of its fifty-year life. The front halls open onto stepped poured-cement bleacher type seating which carries on an east/west axis the entire width of the building's center block. Three small rooms and a closet also open off these entrance halls and a passage links them with the secondary side halls. A reading of the surviving plan indicates that the side entrances and these secondary halls were probably designed for use by the home and visiting teams and that the trio of rooms off their

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

7

16

Section number _____ Page _____

north side were for changing and showers. Virtually all of the interior spaces have walls of painted brick and plaster ceilings. The floors are either terra cotta tile, cement, or modern materials. The basketball arena has painted brick walls, a maple floor, and an open metal truss ceiling. The bleacher seating along its entire south side is made up of three narrow boards mounted on cast-iron brackets fixed in the cement. After the completion of the Merner Center for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation to the northeast of the historic district in 1972, this athletic facility has been used for intramural sports, dances, and other recreational activities.

14. United States Post Office
1958-1959
Noncontributing building

This small one-story rectangular brick-veneer building repeats the Georgian Revival-style building program for the campus of Pfeiffer instituted by Mr. Poundstone with his 1935 buildings. Its elevations are laid up in Flemish bond and it has a gable-front asphalt shingle roof. The post office has a full-façade tetrastyle portico facing east onto the campus green with a stucco-faced pediment; the portico is supported by brick piers and has a slate floor. Paired doors in the façade's center bay are flanked by windows with twelve-over-twelve sash. The post office's south side, accessible to the public parking, has a generally symmetrical five-bay arrangement with a center entrance; the nine-pane above three-panel door has an eight-pane transom, and the window openings have twelve-over-twelve sash. A shallow inset gable is positioned over the south door. An offset gable-roof block at the west end of the building houses mail storage in an enclosed room with an open loading dock in its northwest corner. The north elevation, facing Washington Hall, has a five-bay arrangement of twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The interior of the post office includes an L-shaped lobby, sales counter, and banks of rental boxes on three walls. The finishes are conventional.

15. Utility Building
Ca. 1935-1937
Contributing building

This small square-in-plan Flemish-bond brick building, probably designed by Mr. Poundstone, was originally constructed as a pump house for the school water supply. It is covered with a hipped asphalt shingle roof. A metal clad six-panel door is set in its south face. The other three walls have symmetrically-placed openings with cast stone sills and soldier course lintels. After the building ceased to be used as a pump house, it was refitted as a snack shop operated by business school students.

16. Statue of Emily Prudden
1996
Noncontributing object

This life-size representational bronze sculpture of Emily Prudden, the founder of Oberlin Home and School, was placed here and dedicated in 1996. The statue stands on a granite base which is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

7

17

Section number _____ Page _____

enframed by a granite border, presumably to contain a planting of evergreen or flowering annuals.

17. Campus Gates
1935
Contributing structure

The east and west drives entering the historic campus grounds from the north side of US 52 are marked by brick Georgian Revival-style gates which were probably designed by Odis Clay Poundstone. These consist of principal piers, which are connected by a concrete base and length of iron fence, quarter-round in plan, to simpler secondary brick piers with recessed panels on their faces and tone caps. The principal piers have a two-part design consisting of a main pier, topped by a fluted band of cresting and surmounted by a carved stone urn, which is flanked on its outer edge by a shorter supporting brace finished with a volute. The faces of the main piers hold later granite panels on which "PFEIFFER COLLEGE" is inscribed; colonial-style wall lamps are mounted near their tops.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 18

Summary Statement

The Pfeiffer University Historic District, a fifteen-building academic complex, including the institution's first brick building, erected in 1923 and remodeled in 1936, and nine imposing Georgian Revival-style academic buildings erected between 1935 and 1942, holds statewide significance in the areas of architecture, education, and philanthropy and satisfies National Register Criteria A, B, and C. Renamed Pfeiffer University in 1996, the school has undergone a long educational evolution which is reflected in the sequence of names by which it has been known since ca. 1898. During this period its role has evolved from a charitable home and school for underprivileged boarding and day students, through junior college and college status, to become a university with a satellite campus in Charlotte. The period of significance begins in 1923 when the first brick academic building was erected on the original ten-acre tract acquired here as the new campus of the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School in 1909 and ends in 1948 when the construction of Mitchell Gymnasium was undertaken.

Beginning in 1884 Emily C. Prudden (1832-1917), a New England educator, established a series of fifteen schools in western North Carolina where underprivileged children could be educated in a nurturing Christian environment. The Oberlin Home and School, opened at Lick Mountain in Caldwell County ca. 1898 and the forerunner of today's Pfeiffer University, is the only one of those schools to survive as an institution. In 1903 she transferred operation of the Oberlin School, together with its frame home and school buildings, to the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a charitable organization founded in 1880 and headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. Supported by the gift of \$1,000 from Mrs. Mary A. Mitchell, Oberlin was renamed the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School in 1903 in honor of Mrs. Mitchell's stepson.

In 1909 the board of the Woman's Home Missionary Society decided to relocate the school to Misenheimer, a village in northwest Stanly County served by the Yadkin Railroad, where it acquired a ten-acre tract. An imposing two-and-one-half-story combination dormitory and classroom building was erected and classes began here in the spring of 1910; a boy's dormitory, Cline Hall, was added in 1913. In 1914 the main building was destroyed by fire, and classrooms and living accommodations were both crowded into Cline Hall and its 1916 annex until 1923 when the school's first brick building, the present-day Administration Building, was erected.

During the 1920s, and particularly in the 1930s, the school underwent dramatic changes in both its curriculum and facilities. As the conditions and quality of public education steadily improved in rural Stanly County and North Carolina through the 1920s, the pressing need for charity-supported grade school education lessened and the school trustees increasingly turned their attention to the high school grades and to junior college work. In 1934 the school was renamed Mitchell Junior College and High School. Meanwhile the Mitchell School and other Southern institutions supported by the Woman's Home Missionary Society were visited by a delegation of its officers and financial supporters. In retrospect the most important member of this group was Annie Memer Pfeiffer (1860-1946), the wife of Henry Pfeiffer (1857-1939), a philanthropist and owner and president of William R. Warner & Co., one of the nation's major producers of drug

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

8

19

Section number _____ Page _____

and pharmaceutical products which continues today as Warner-Lambert. The couple were childless and they lavished their fortune on educational and Methodist Episcopal Church-related charities and institutions.

The rebuilding of the Misenheimer campus began in 1935 when the Pfeiffers financed the construction of five brick Georgian Revival-style buildings designed by architect Odis Clay Poundstone; in the summer of that year the trustees renamed the school Pfeiffer Junior College in honor of their munificent gift. In 1936 the college's original 1923 brick building was remodeled to Mr. Poundstone's design through an additional gift by the Pfeiffers. The next year the couple financed the construction of science buildings at both Pfeiffer and Bennett Colleges, and both were designed by Mr. Poundstone. After Mr. Pfeiffer's death in 1939, Mrs. Pfeiffer continued her support of these North Carolina institutions; however, her support for Pfeiffer Junior College and its endowment far exceeded her important gifts to Bennett College. In 1942 she donated four new buildings to Pfeiffer, all designed by Mr. Poundstone; the most impressive of these was the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel. After her death in 1946 the construction of Mitchell Gymnasium was supported by her estate, and the Pfeiffer family has continued its support of the college which bears its name.

Pfeiffer University and the Pfeiffer University Historic District survive today as an important example of educational philanthropy and campus planning in North Carolina. The group of eleven buildings here, all designed (or redesigned) by Odis Clay Poundstone is the largest known group of buildings at a single site in the nation which are associated with the philanthropy of Henry and Annie Mermer Pfeiffer, a long tradition of charitable giving which affected institutions throughout the United States and in Korea and South America. The buildings comprising this district are important as an architectural reflection of the unprecedented investment in collegiate institutions in North Carolina during the 1920s and 1930s and for their association with the career of Odis Clay Poundstone, an as-yet relatively obscure Atlanta-based architect whose vision and talents contributed to the rebuilding of two private colleges in North Carolina and whose eleven designed/redesigned buildings here constitute the largest known body of his work at a single site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 20

Historical Background, Education, and Philanthropy Significance

Pfeiffer University, with an academic campus of 325 acres at Misenheimer, a satellite campus on Park Road in Charlotte, and 1,800 students enrolled in its classes in 1998, has a long and complicated history whose evolution can be read in its sequential name changes. The school, opened ca. 1898 by Miss Emily C. Prudden, was first known as the Oberlin Home and School, a boarding school for underprivileged girls in mountainous Caldwell County. In 1903 the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church assumed responsibility for the school's operation, and using an earlier gift of \$1,000 from Mrs. Mary A. Mitchell, the school's educational offerings and facilities were improved and it was renamed the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School, accepting both male and female students. A disastrous fire in 1908, a lack of local financial support and its remote location prompted the relocation of Mitchell School in 1909-1910 to a small campus of ten acres at Misenheimer, a stop of the Yadkin Railroad. New buildings were erected for classrooms and dormitory use, its programs were expanded to a full high school campus curriculum, and in 1923 the addition of a large three-story brick building (#1) gave the campus an air of promise and importance. The fortunes of the small, yet ever struggling school, by now offering junior college courses, were forever changed after Mrs. Annie Merner Pfeiffer visited the campus in/about 1932. Three years later she and her husband financed the construction of five imposing Georgian-Revival-style buildings—three dormitories (#3, #4, #7), a dining hall (#5), and president's house (#8). In the summer of 1935 Mitchell Junior College was renamed Pfeiffer Junior College to honor the munificence of Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer; in 1936 the Pfeiffers underwrote the remodeling of the school's first brick building (#1). The Pfeiffers' generosity, continued in 1937 with the construction of Jane Freeman Hall (#9), was concluded through Mrs. Pfeiffer's support for the construction of Washington Hall (#12), the Delight and Garfield Merner Center (#11), and the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10). Mrs. Pfeiffer's creation of an endowment fund for the college has assured their support of its educational goals to the present. The gymnasium, completed in 1950, was named Mitchell Gymnasium in honor of its first major donor; however, it was not until 1996, that the name and presence of the school's founder, Emily C. Prudden, was prominently reflected here by a bronze figural sculpture on the oval in front of the Administration Building.

Oberlin Home and School

Emily C. Prudden (1832-1917), the daughter of Joseph and Charlotte Prudden, was born in Orange, Connecticut, on 13 June 1832. Deaf from the age of seventeen, she spent the first decades of her adult life caring for her sister's orphaned children, an occupation which ended in 1880 with the death of her niece Jane Colton. Events proved Miss Prudden had quickly overcome any disqualification from deafness, and endowed with formidable energy and a small but significant income, she came to the South; in 1882-1883 she served as a housemother at Brainerd Institute in Chester, South Carolina. Her biographers have cited that work and her first-hand experience with the crippling lack of educational opportunities for girls as the turning point in her life. She immediately set about putting her talent and means to correcting that disadvantage and in 1884 she undertook the first in a series of educational charities which would

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 21

occupy her for the remainder of her life. In all, she would establish fifteen schools, providing traditional classroom instruction, training in domestic skills, and Christian education in a nurturing environment. Eight of those schools were for white students, seven for black pupils; of that number only one, the Oberlin Home and School, would survive, and through evolution become Pfeiffer University. Jones Seminary, her first school, was at All Healing Springs in Gaston County. In 1887 she established and opened Skyland Institute in Blowing Rock, and the next year she placed the Lincoln Academy, a school for black girls, into operation. All of these schools, and the others she established, were located in western North Carolina; in each instance, once she had organized the school and established its general program, she sought a charity or religious organization to support and carry on its operation. This effort was critical in a state which lagged in providing universal education to its citizens.

Oberlin Home and School was established ca. 1898 at Lick Mountain, Caldwell County, on land which Miss Prudden acquired from Henry Keller and his wife on 29 January 1898 (Caldwell Deeds, Book 31, 296-299). Two months earlier, on 1 December 1897, Mr. Keller had advertised the property for sale in the LENOIR TOPIC.

I wish to sell my farm of about 100 acres at foot of Lick Mountain, four miles from Hudson. There are about 500 fine apple trees on the place and the fruit alone could be made to pay for the place in a few years. Good two story log dwelling house; good barn, etc. Any one desiring a good home with plenty of fruit and good water, would do well to write me or come and see me. Call on or address, Henry Keller, Hudson, N. C.

In its next weekly edition, on 8 December 1897, the LENOIR TOPIC informed its readers of the likely sale of the farm in its "Local Matters" column.

The land recently advertised by us for Mr. Henry Keller, we learn has been sold to Miss Pruden, the founder of Skyland Academy at Blowing Rock. The understanding is that she wishes to put up a large building on the top of the Lick Mountain for the purpose of carrying on a school, and, perhaps, as a hotel part of the year. The trade has not been closed, but is pending.

Miss Prudden acquired the Keller property, a total of some 132.75 acres, in two transactions on the same day. The bulk of the property, a tract of 96.75 acres, was purchased for \$317.24 from Henry and Sarah J. Keller. The second, contiguous parcel, a holding of thirty-six acres, was purchased for \$132.84 from the couple.

It was here, on this substantial acreage in Little River Township on the side of Lick Mountain, that Miss Prudden established the school that would come to be Pfeiffer University.¹ At this distance it is unclear whether the existing log house was utilized and expanded as the school's first building or whether Miss Prudden immediately erected a two-story frame house, described in tradition as having either eight or eleven rooms; it served as both a dormitory for boarding students and classrooms. Some years later Miss Prudden is said to have erected a separate classroom building. The school's name honors both Oberlin College in Ohio and Johann

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 22

Friedrich Oberlin (17__-1826), the Strastbourg-born pastor and educator. Miss Prudden remained associated with Oberlin Home and School until 1903 when she deeded the school property to the Woman's Home Missionary Society under those auspices it would operate until 1939.² The Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church had been organized in 1880 and was headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio; it was one of a group of denominational-affiliated institutions which supported philanthropic and educational projects in the South from the period of Reconstruction through the Depression. That same year the school was renamed the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School, in honor of a gift of \$1,000 by Mrs. Mary A. Mitchell (18__-1904) which was applied to the school as was a subsequent gift of \$2,000. Ebenezer Mitchell has been identified as Mrs. Mitchell's stepson and a Civil War veteran who had been in North Carolina as a soldier.

The school's success, encouraged by the arrival of Miss Mary Pauline Abbott of Pennsylvania as principal in the fall of 1903, soon took an unfortunate turn. In 1904, in an attempt to raise funds from Northern subscribers, Miss Abbott gave an interview to a Northern journalist in which she described the generally impoverished circumstances and living conditions of many of the local children in the area. The article generated quick and bitter denunciations of Miss Abbott by Caldwell County citizens who resented being characterized as "backward." The school was forced to close and Miss Abbott went to teach at the Aaron Seminary at Montezuma in what is now Avery County. There she met the Reverend Clark Haltom, a Methodist Episcopal Church minister from Misenheimer (a community known as Gladstone until 1904), who encouraged her to come here and teach in a small existing school. She did but left after a year in 1906 to become superintendent of the Nazareth Orphan's Home near Rockwell in Rowan County.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society reopened the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School in 1905 with Miss Emily Bartholomew and Miss Ellsworth Apperson as teachers; however, during the night of 20 January 1908, the Mitchell Home burned to the ground. Without a residence for both teachers and students, the school closed here and relocated to temporary quarters in the town of Lenoir. This move did not prove satisfactory and in 1908-1909, the leaders of the Woman's Home Missionary Society considered relocating the school to a new location that was less remote, accessible to rail transportation, and offered amenities to the teachers and students that had been lacking at Lick Mountain. It is easy to see the influence of Miss Mary Abbott in the decision to relocate the Mitchell School to Misenheimer. In July 1909 the Woman's Home Missionary Society acquired a tract of ten acres on the north side of the Yadkin Railroad for \$400 from W. C. Holton and his wife of Rhea County, Tennessee (Stanly County Deeds: 39, 235).

Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School at Misenheimer

Once land was acquired here, rapid progress on the new school plant ensued. A large imposing two-and-a-half-story building, described as being "concrete" but probably of frame construction with a stucco or pebble-dash finish, was erected in 1909. In February 1910 the movement of students, materials, and furnishings was begun, and the first classes were held here in the spring of 1910. Miss Bartholomew was the superintendent of the new school plant with Miss Apperson

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 23

as her assistant. Classes were held in a series of rooms on the first story of the building and the upper stories were used as dormitory space. On 28 July 1909 the campus was expanded by the purchase of a small adjoining tract of one acre and fifty poles from George L. and L. V. (wife) Reynolds for \$45 (Stanly County Deeds: 39, 236); Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds conveyed a three-acre tract to the school proprietors on 7 June 1910 (Stanly County Deeds: 41, 39). The Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School operated on this campus of about fifteen acres for a decade. (Soon after the school was established here both Miss Bartholomew and Miss Apperson left.) The first class of high school graduates received diplomas in 1913. That autumn a new faculty was in place, except for the Rev. W. J. Plint, who had charge of the boys on campus; among the new teachers was Mrs. Annie B. Gowell who arrived with both energy and a small private income and was destined to have a long influence here. Over time problems had ensued from housing both boys and girls in separate quarters of a single building. In 1913 a boy's dormitory, named Cline Hall in honor of Mrs. A. B. Cline, bureau secretary in the Woman's Home Missionary Society, was erected; Cline Hall was a three-story weatherboarded frame building, symmetrical in design and with simple Colonial Revival-style detailing.

With the erection of Cline Hall, the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School took on an appearance of promise and substance reflected in the two substantial buildings, as well as a group of smaller ones, including the decorated frame cottage of Mrs. Gowell. That promise had a short life. In the evening of 28 June 1914 the main building at the Mitchell School burned to the ground. The boys in Cline Hall doubled up and academic work was moved into the dormitory. A two-story annex was quickly built and the school operated in these buildings for some nine years. During this period Miss Emily C. Prudden died on Christmas Day 1917 in Hickory; her body was returned to Orange, Connecticut, for interment in the family plot. The confined circumstances of a single large, crowded building made for difficult circumstances, for both students and teachers, and a steady turnover of faculty resulted. Mrs. Gowell remained steadfast in her commitment to the school and in 1922 she was named principal, a post she held until retiring in 1927. That same year, on 30 July 1922, ground was broken for the construction of a new main building.

The completion of the new brick building, the Administration Building (#1), in the summer of 1923 heralded a new day for the school. It was originally named Freeman Hall in honor of Miss Margaret J. Freeman of Philadelphia, a principal donor to the project. Other important changes also occurred at the school in the 1920s. On 25 May 1922, the Woman's Home Missionary Society purchased an additional 11.50-acre tract adjoining the campus for \$2,000 from John A. and Augusta Moss (Stanly County Deeds: 67, 277); the campus was thereby enlarged to about twenty-six acres.

Through the course of the late 1910s and the 1920s, the school system in Stanly County had steadily improved, in part through the overall consolidation program implemented by the state department of education. Consequently the needs for grade school education, provided for by the Mitchell School since its inception, were being increasingly met by the public school system. As a result, the trustees of the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School undertook a shift in its curriculum by adding normal school courses in 1928 and dropping the first and second

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

8

24

Section number _____ Page _____

elementary grades. In the autumn of 1928 a census of students indicated 106 students in the grades, 77 students in high school, and 7 college students.

Change continued in the 1930s as the school trustees saw its future as a junior college. In 1931, the school discontinued offering instruction in grades three and four. The next year the state department of public instruction approved the junior college curriculum and instruction at the school. The early 1930s also saw the happening of two events which would prove critical to the future of the school. In 1932 Mrs. Henry (Annie Merner) Pfeiffer, the president of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church visited Mitchell Junior College with her friend Mrs. John C. Rowe while on a tour of Southern institutions affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Within the space of a few years Mrs. Pfeiffer and her husband would become the institution's major benefactors, underwriting the erection of ten surviving buildings, and in 1935 it would be renamed Pfeiffer Junior College in their honor. In July 1933, Mr. Wick Shafter Sharp (1898-1965) succeeded Miss Caroline Flagg Youngs as head of the school, becoming both the first man to head the institution in its history and the first person to hold the title of president. It was during his ten-year tenure, ending in 1943, that nine major educational buildings were erected on the campus and the school's first brick building was remodeled to its present appearance. That group of facilities, plus three secondary buildings, constitute thirteen of the fifteen buildings in the Pfeiffer University Historic District. The 1930s would also mark the period of highest institutional accomplishment by the Woman's Home Missionary Society in North Carolina where it was a principal sponsor of two junior colleges: the school at Misenheimer and Bennett College for Women at Greensboro, a school for black female students. Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer were the principal donors to both schools in the 1930s; they financed the construction of five buildings at Bennett College between 1934 and 1941. At the end of the decade, on 2 August 1939, the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church conveyed the Pfeiffer Junior College buildings and grounds to Pfeiffer Junior College, Inc. (Stanly County Deeds: 113, 323-327).

Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer: Benefactors of Pfeiffer College

Through their gifts to Pfeiffer and Bennett Colleges, Henry Pfeiffer (1857-1939) and his wife Annie Merner (1860-1946) joined rank with the Duke Family in their support of private collegiate education in North Carolina in the pre-World War II period, years in which the Kenan and Hill families also gave generously to the University of North Carolina. While their philanthropy affected the fortunes of many institutions, it was probably at Pfeiffer that it had its largest effect and where Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer's munificence was rewarded in the renaming of the school. Henry Pfeiffer was born in Lewiston, Pennsylvania, on 3 March 1857 and moved as a boy with his family to Cedar Falls, Iowa. It was there that he met Annie Merner, a native of Ontario whose parents had also moved their family to Cedar Falls; the couple was married on 7 March 1882. Mr. Pfeiffer was engaged in the retail drug business until 1891 when he and Mrs. Pfeiffer moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and established a drug manufacturing concern. In 1901 he founded the Pfeiffer Chemical Company and in 1908 he purchased William R. Warner & Co., a venerable Philadelphia company; he moved its headquarters to New York in 1916. During the next twenty years, he raised the company to one of the nation's leading manufacturers of drugs,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 25

pharmaceuticals, and chemicals used in the drug trade. At his death the company had factories in both St. Louis and New York and in fifteen foreign countries. The headquarters were located in Manhattan. In 1950 the company was renamed Warner-Hudnut and went public; after the purchase of Lambert Pharmacal in 1955 it was renamed Warner-Lambert in which style it continues today.

In his obituary the NEW YORK TIMES (14 April 1939) reported that:

Mr. Pfeiffer's benefactions were to religious and educational institutions. Most of his philanthropies were made to institutions conducted under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which he belonged.

Methodist Episcopal institutions in the United States, India, China and South America were aided by their (he and Mrs. Pfeiffer's) benefactions.

The beneficiaries cited in the newspaper included: MacMurray College at Jacksonville, Illinois; Tilton Junior College, Tilton, New Hampshire; Women's Christian College, Seoul, Korea; Ward American College, Buenos Aires, Argentina; North Central College, Naperville, Illinois; the Methodist Episcopal Church Home, New York; the Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, Manhattan; Brooklyn Methodist Hospital; and the two North Carolina colleges.

After her husband's death Annie Merner Pfeifer continued the couple's philanthropy and its focus on Methodist Episcopal institutions, particularly Bennett and Pfeiffer Colleges. The fifth building bearing the Pfeiffer name at Bennett College, the Annie Merner Chapel and Little Theatre, was dedicated in 1941. Here at Pfeiffer she personally financed the construction of three additional buildings: the Delight and Garfield Merner Center (#11); Washington Hall (#12), a dormitory; and the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10). All of these buildings were erected in 1942. She also underwrote the construction of several buildings at the Ethel Harpst Home in Cedartown, Georgia, a library building at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois, and a chapel at Florida Southern College. The couple had lived at 370 Riverside Drive in New York; after her husband's death she moved to 180 Riverside Drive where she died on 8 January 1946 (NEW YORK TIMES, 9 January 1946).

In 1941 Mrs. Pfeiffer recalled the experience of her visit to Misenheimer in 1932.

Everything was very much in need of repairs but the one thing that impressed itself upon me was the very great apparent need for such (a) school in this vicinity.

The boys and girls who were in the school at that time showed great promise in their faces and we were told by some of the people living near the school that there were many more boys and girls eager to come to the school who could not come at that time because of the lack which was very apparent. Mr. Pfeiffer and I have always been very much interested in boys and girls who show promise of something very fine in them but because of circumstances cannot afford to get an education unless helped in some way.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 26

Because of this we set about to make it possible for more boys and girls to come under the Christian influence of our school (Mrs. Pfeiffer to _____, 26 February 1941, quoted in Bangle, 117).

Within a year or two of her visit Mrs. Pfeiffer had reached the decision to make major contributions to the school at Misenheimer while also continuing the couple's work at Bennett College, a philanthropy which probably also resulted from the 1932 visit to Methodist Episcopal Church institutions in the South. The architect for the Pfeiffer buildings at both schools was Odis Clay Poundstone, an Atlanta architect, about whose career relatively little is now known. Meanwhile, in the winter of 1934 President Sharp had resolved the purchase of a 110.76-acre tract adjoining the college by the Woman's Home Missionary Society for \$5,000 (Stanly County Deeds: 97, 118). This was probably the first of Mrs. Pfeiffer's gifts to the college. That same year another tract, of 109.50 acres, near the school became available, and Mr. Sharp sought Mrs. Pfeiffer's help with its purchase for \$2,500; this property was to be the location of the school farm. With Mrs. Pfeiffer's agreement to support the acquisition with a gift in January 1935, the Woman's Home Missionary Society proceeded with the purchase on 11 August 1934 (Stanly County Deeds: 98, 113). A few days earlier, on 6 August 1934, Mrs. Pfeiffer had written to Mr. Sharp concerning that proposal (and perhaps others):

I am hoping some of your dreams can come true for Mitchell next year. We are anxiously awaiting for Mr. Poundstone's drawings of the dormitories and needs for Mitchell. The worst is the prices are soaring every year. You, however, are indeed showing good management to meet your monthly obligations and maintain a small balance. I am interested in your project, but there is a limit to what anyone can do (quoted in Bangle, 149).

In 1934 the school trustees decided to reduce the high school course offerings to the eleventh and twelfth grades, and the name of the school was changed to Mitchell Junior College and High School.

Mitchell Junior College and High School

Improvements to the campus at Misenheimer moved quickly in the autumn of 1934 and through 1935. At the quarterly meeting of the board of trustees of the Woman's Home Missionary Society in October, Mr. Poundstone's drawing(s) for a dormitory and dining hall (Goode Hall, #5) were presented and approved. By the next meeting in January 1935, plans had been laid and Mrs. Pfeiffer's financial support secured for the construction of two additional buildings (dormitories) on the campus; this decision had been predicated on the understanding that it would be more advantageous to contract for four major buildings at once than the original two now and others later (Bangle, 150-151).

When the project was let out for bids it consisted of the three dormitories, the dining hall, and the president's house, all designed by Mr. Poundstone. The bids were opened on 6 February 1935 at Misenheimer, and the two lowest were found to be those of David Augustus Holbrooks of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 27

Albemarle and Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw of Salisbury. Mr. Bradshaw's company was awarded the general contract for the five buildings at \$143,119.00 and the plumbing and heating contract was awarded to Albemarle Plumbing and Heating Company at \$28,325. Those total costs of \$171,444.00 did not include the furnishings for the five buildings or the architect's costs for design and supervision of construction.

The five new buildings for the campus of Mitchell Junior College and High School were essentially completed between February and September 1935, in part because there was relatively little construction occurring in the region in the mid 1930s and Mr. Bradshaw was able to bring a large work force to the site. The ground breaking for the five buildings was held in special ceremonies on Monday morning, 25 February 1935, with different individuals associated with the college performing the honors; Mrs. Sharp broke the ground for the President's House (#8). Construction proceeded apace. The work is recorded in a series of photographs, dating from 18 April to 24 November 1935, which were shot by Harry E. Lindley who served as resident engineer at the job site from 22 February through 11 August. Later, apparently in 1941, he mounted them in two scrapbooks entitled "Pfeiffer in the Making"; they are now housed in the Pfeiffer University Archives. The pace of the building project is also recorded in articles that appeared in "The Torch," the college newspaper, and other regional newspapers including the SALISBURY POST (14 April 1935).

Pfeiffer Junior College

As work was moving to completion the college board of trustees, mindful of a name conflict with Presbyterian-affiliated Mitchell Junior College in Statesville, voted on 5 August to rename the institution Pfeiffer Junior College in tribute to the magnificent gifts of Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer (SNP, 13 August 1935). Pfeiffer Junior College opened with 160 students for the 1935-1936 year. Ceremonies attending the dedication of the newly-completed buildings were scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 16-17 November 1935. The STANLY NEWS AND PRESS printed long articles on the college history and dedication in its 15 November issue under a panoramic photograph of the campus which illustrated the new buildings. On Saturday afternoon, the doors of the school were opened for a public viewing of the plant, and that evening a dinner was held to celebrate the achievement. The Sunday afternoon ceremonies began at 1:30 in the auditorium of the Administration Building (#1) where the dedicatory sermon was preached by the Reverend William Fraser McDowell, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The procession marched to the porch of Merner Hall (#4) where Mrs. W. H. C. Goode, president of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, presided. The cornerstone was laid by Mrs. Pfeiffer. The keys to the college were presented by Mr. Poundstone to Mrs. Pfeiffer who, in turn, presented them to Mrs. Goode who presented them to Mr. Sharp, the college president (CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 18 November 1935; STANLY NEWS AND PRESS, 12 November, 15 November, 19 November 1935).

Even as these five buildings were moving to completion plans were developed for new projects on the campus. The renovation and remodeling of the Administration Building (#1) was the first of these to be completed and it was dedicated on 15 November 1936; that same week Mrs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 28

Pfeiffer was in Greensboro for ceremonies marking the construction of the Henry Pfeiffer Science Hall at Bennett College (Bangle, 169). As that building was being erected, Mr. Poundstone completed the plans for a new science building for Pfeiffer Junior College; the multi-purpose building would contain laboratory and classroom space for science courses, the college library in the north wing, two faculty apartments in the south wing, and male dormitory space (STANLY NEWS AND PRESS, 30 March 1937). Named the Jane Freeman Hall, the two-story Georgian Revival-style building was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, 5 December 1937 (STANLY NEWS AND PRESS, 3 December 1937). In 1938 grades eleven and twelve of high school were discontinued, and the curriculum was devoted exclusively to college work.

Henry Pfeiffer's final illness and death on 13 April 1939 occupied Mrs. Pfeiffer's energies for some time; however, she soon returned to her philanthropies and arranged to construct three final important buildings at Pfeiffer Junior College: Washington Hall (#12), the Delight and Garfield Merner Center (#11), and the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10). Odis Clay Poundstone was the architect for all three buildings plus a building described as a "practice home" for teaching domestic sciences that is probably the brick veneer cottage (#6) standing to the north of Goode Hall. The gift of the buildings and their construction was announced in the spring of 1941 and the contract awarded to Edward Walter Wagoner and Sons of Salisbury who began work in the summer of that year (CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 23 May 1941). The erection of these buildings was in addition to a gift of \$150,000 to the college endowment by Mrs. Pfeiffer and donations to the endowment totaling \$140,000 by Mr. Pfeiffer's younger brother Gustavus Adolphus Pfeiffer, the president of the Richard Hudnut Company. Washington Hall (#12) was built on the site of the Gowell Cottage with its façade perpendicular to that of Cline Hall (#7); it was dedicated in honor of President George Washington and in memory of his namesake George Washington Pfeiffer (1858-1917), a brother of Mr. Pfeiffer. Washington Hall effectively closed the northwest end of the campus green. Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10), with its towering steeple, serves a similar function at the southeast end of the main campus; it contains a large auditorium, Sunday School rooms, and facilities for the music department. The Delight and Garfield Merner Center (#11) was built at the north end of the avenue axis which Poundstone had devised along the east side of the Administration Building. It was built as a vocational arts building for boys; however, in the early 1950s it was converted to use as the college library.

These buildings marked the end of Mrs. Pfeiffer's active involvement in plant development at Pfeiffer Junior College and they were the capstones of Dr. Sharp's career as president of the college. In 1943 he resigned and in 1944 he was succeeded by Dr. Chi M. Waggoner, a nephew of Mrs. Pfeiffer. An era came to an end on 8 January 1946 when Mrs. Pfeiffer died at her residence on Riverside Drive in New York City. The second line of her obituary headline in the NEW YORK TIMES read simply "Helped Colleges" (9 January 1946). The final important building erected on the academic campus on the north side of US 52 was the Mitchell Gymnasium (#13) which was begun in 1948 and completed in 1950; its construction was financed by funds from the estate of Mrs. Pfeiffer.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 29Pfeiffer Junior College Becomes Pfeiffer College

Two propitious events in the history of Pfeiffer occurred in 1953. While both Dr. Sharp and Dr. Waggoner brought training and experience to their tenure as presidents of the college, Dr. John Lemacks Stokes II had those qualifications and others which he used over the course of fifteen years during which Pfeiffer became a four-year college and greatly expanded its campus with major projects on the south side of US 52. He began his tenure in early July 1953 and was inaugurated president in October. The death of Adolphus Gustavus Pfeiffer (1872-1953) resulted in a bequest to the college which allowed it to enlarge and expand its curriculum and move toward senior college status. In 1954 the school dropped "Junior" from its name and was Pfeiffer College thereafter, and the four-year program at Pfeiffer was accredited in 1959/1960 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In 1961 Pfeiffer College came under the joint sponsorship of the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church, the Women's Society of Christian Service, and the Wesleyan Service Guild.

Additions to the physical plant of Pfeiffer College during Dr. Stokes' tenure nearly equaled those of Dr. Sharp's era. Despite the interruption of US 52 and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks, the trustees decided that future development at the college would occur on the south side of the highway. A dormitory quadrangle and three major educational buildings were located in complementing locations and relationships there and situated to face northeast onto the campus center. The Georgian Revival style of the 1930s and 1940s buildings was replicated in the new facilities. In 1955-1956 Foote, Kluffling, and Plyler Halls were erected as male dormitories and form three sides of a quadrangle whose fourth side is open on the north/northeast. Foote Hall was named in honor of Louise Foote, the wife of G. A. Pfeiffer, and houses eighty students on three stories. Kluffling Hall, with thirty-two double rooms for sixty-four boys, was named in memory of Henry Pfeiffer's mother, Barbara Kluffling. Plyler Hall was named in honor of C. D. Plyler, a local merchant, who had advanced both goods and credit to the school during difficult periods; it housed ninety-two students on three stories. In the 1960s two additional male residence halls were erected on the quadrangle plan immediately behind (southwest of) the above group. Vaughn Hall, a three-story residence for ninety-four male students, was completed in 1962 and named for Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Vaughn. Ervin Hall, named for Paul Ervin, the chairman of the college board of trustees, was completed in 1964.

A challenge grant of \$750,000 from the Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation sparked a successful fund-raising campaign in 1956. This income allowed the college to erect the John Balle Harris Science Building which faces north/northeast to the Administration Building. It was named for John Balle Harris (18__-1956), the editor of the STANLY NEWS AND PRESS, a member of the board of trustees, and a long-time supporter of the college. The United States Post Office (#14) was built in 1958 beside and south of Washington Hall, and a twelve-unit rental apartment complex was finished in 1960 for faculty, staff, and married students. The dining facilities of Goode Hall (#5) had long been inadequate to an increasing student body and in 1964 new dining facilities were opened in the newly-completed J. Lem Stokes II Student Center which also provided entertainment and recreational opportunities for students, as well as a student bookstore and infirmary. The final building erected during Dr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 30

Stokes' term as president was the Gustavus Adolphus Pfeiffer Library. Early in his presidency the college library had been moved from Jane Freeman Hall to attractive renovated rooms in the Merner Center (#11). Completed in June 1967, this imposing Georgian Revival-style building provided modern research and library facilities which had been previously unavailable to students, and it marked yet another important stage in the Pfeiffer family's philanthropy.

Pfeiffer College was next headed by three presidents who served relatively brief tenures, but oversaw important developments at the college. Dr. Jack Jones Early, president from 1969 to 1971, was involved in the development of a new athletic facility to the northeast of the historic campus (and across a creek which had been seen previously as an impediment to future development here). The Garfield David Merner Center for Health and Physical Education was designed by Nils Larsen of Winston-Salem and completed in 1972. During its construction Dr. Douglas Reid Sasser became president and he served until resigning in 1978 to become president of Scarritt College. Later that year the college turned to one of its own past educators and administrators when it selected Dr. Cameron P. West as the sixth president of Pfeiffer College. He had served as professor and chairman of the division of education at Pfeiffer from 1956 to 1960 and then as academic dean of the college until 1966; he was president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities when he accepted the presidency of Pfeiffer. He successfully guided the development of the Charlotte campus of Pfeiffer which had opened in 1977 as a facility for adult education.

Pfeiffer University

Dr. Cameron P. West's decade of leadership was succeeded by the like ten-year presidency of Dr. Zane E. Eargle. Dr. Eargle undertook important initiatives in areas of curriculum, programs, plant, and finance that have proven successful and enhanced the profile of the college. He continued the expansion of curriculum offerings at the Charlotte campus which moved to its present location on Park Road in university-owned buildings dedicated in 1996. When he became president the college offered one master's degree program; four master's degrees are now offered including one in business administration. At the same time the enrollment at the Misenheimer campus more than doubled from 874 students in 1988 to 1,840 students in 1998. He has also been successful in raising the endowment at Pfeiffer College from less than \$3 million in 1988 to \$9 million. Throughout this period he and his wife Joan have undertaken a series of improvements to the physical landscape of the historic campus. A respect for the history of the college has guided many of their actions, not the least of which was to secure funds for the preparation of this National Register nomination. Dr. Eargle's lasting accomplishment, however, has been the development that elevated Pfeiffer College to Pfeiffer University in 1996. Christopher Bramlett, a former chairman of the Pfeiffer College board of trustees praised Dr. Eargle on word of his resignation simply stating "Pfeiffer University will be his legacy" (Pfeiffer University "New Directions," Spring 1998).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 31

Architectural Significance

Pfeiffer University Historic District holds statewide significance in the area of architecture for its association with the career of Atlanta-based architect Odis Clay Poundstone, a specialist in school design, and for its position in the history of campus planning in North Carolina as one of a small number of collegiate educational institutions which were either rebuilt or greatly enlarged during the interwar period. Mr. Poundstone was the designer of at least ten of the fifteen buildings in the district, all erected between 1935 and 1942, and he prepared the drawings for the remodeling of the school's first brick building, the Administration Building (#1), which was completed in 1936. This body of work and these buildings, representing the creation of an essentially new academic facility, is part of the statewide and national program of collegiate building which occurred between the World Wars. Although modest in scale and costliness when compared with the creation of the Gothic Revival-style campus for Duke University at Durham, the rebuilding of Pfeiffer ranks with the expansion of Bennett College in Greensboro where Poundstone designed five buildings, the Polk Place development on the University of North Carolina campus at Chapel Hill, and Duke University as an important architectural expression of the unprecedented investment in collegiate educational facilities in North Carolina during the interwar period.

Odis Clay Poundstone (1889-1974), the architect of at least fifteen buildings and one remodeling on the campuses of Pfeiffer and Bennett Colleges, is an as yet little-heralded Atlanta-based architect who had a wide and prolific career as a specialist in educational facility design. Only recently, with this nomination and research by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., of the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office, in association with the nomination of the Mountain Hill District Consolidated School, has an appreciation emerged for the man and his career. Mr. Poundstone was born in Alabama in 1889 and in 1912 he enrolled in Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Science where he received a "Special Degree in Architecture" in 1914. He returned to his native Alabama, working in both Birmingham and Anniston, until 1920 when he relocated to Atlanta, Georgia. There he formed a partnership with Frank Lockwood (1865-1936) and the two men became registered architects in Georgia with registration numbers 75 and 76, respectively; Mr. Poundstone joined the American Institute of Architects in 1923. The firm of Lockwood and Poundstone operated until dissolution on 1 January 1932. Although the extent of the firm's practice has yet to be documented, records indicate the firm specialized in school design while carrying on a general practice in architecture. During the 1930s, when he was designing most of the buildings erected here at Pfeiffer and those for Bennett College, Mr. Poundstone appears to have been practicing alone; however, he had taken Sanford Ayres into his employ by 1934 when Mr. Ayres prepared a colored pencil presentation drawing of Cline, Goode, Merner, and Rowe Halls which survives. Some years later he took James Bausman Godwin, Jr., into his practice and subsequently, in the 1940s, the three men formed the firm of Poundstone, Ayres and Godwin. This second firm also specialized in school design until it was dissolved in the mid-1950s; among its known buildings is the Margaret Mitchell Elementary School in Atlanta. Beginning in the 1950s, he relocated his residence, living in Florida for a time, and later in Alabama where he died in Mobile on 21 May 1974 (ATLANTA

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 32

CONSTITUTION, 23 and 24 May 1974). Mrs. Poundstone predeceased him in 1966, and he was buried beside her at Westview Abbey Cemetery in Atlanta.³

The question of how Mr. Poundstone came to know the leaders of the Woman's Home Missionary Society and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer, his patron for the Pfeiffer buildings at Misenheimer and Bennett College, is unresolved. However, he enjoyed their respect and confidence and provided to them handsome and imposing buildings at a relatively low cost. Mr. Poundstone is also known to have designed at least one other building, erected through the generosity of Mrs. Pfeiffer and under the auspices of the Woman's Home Missionary Society in 1935/1936; the farm house at the Ethel Harpst Home in Cedartown, Georgia, was one of a number of Cedartown buildings he is known to have designed. One of the earliest mentions of him in connection with this work at Misenheimer occurs in a letter which Mrs. Pfeiffer wrote to Wick Shafter Sharp, president of the Mitchell School, on 6 August 1934, when she noted "We are anxiously awaiting for Mr. Poundstone's drawings of the dormitories and needs at Mitchell" (Bangle, 149). Two months later, in October, the board of trustees of the Woman's Home Missionary Society reviewed and accepted his drawing(s) for the Misenheimer campus. Mr. Poundstone apparently met with the trustees in January 1935 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where the proposal to erect four new buildings, rather than two, was approved. When the contracts for the Mitchell School buildings were let in February 1935, they included five buildings: three dormitories—Rowe Hall (#3), Merner Hall (#4), Cline Hall (#7), Goode Hall (#5); a dining hall; and the President's House (#8). All five were completed in 1935 by Leonidas Sloan Bradshaw (1884-1951), a prominent Salisbury contractor who had erected Boyden High School (NR, 1996) in 1925-1926. The newly-completed and furnished buildings were opened for public inspection on Saturday, 16 November, and dedicated on Sunday, the 17th.

The Georgian-Revival-style brick buildings, all facing onto US 52, presented a distinguished collegiate tableau to travelers between Salisbury and Albemarle and visitors to the school. All are built of brick, provided by the Yadkin Brick Yards, laid up in Flemish bond and finished with stone or cast stone dressings. Their design falls within the conventions of Georgian Revival-style collegiate buildings where the maximum effect was achieved by symmetry, good proportions, repetition of form, materials, and detailing, and the use of well-placed ornament. One stroke of Poundstone's genius was to link the four academic buildings with each other and the existing main building by arcaded walkways which provided shelter during inclement weather and emphasized their architectural cohesion. The design of Rowe and Merner Halls is the same and both are fronted by two-story Tuscan porticoes. Cline Hall is built to essentially the same plan; however, the portico is absent on the façade but its role as an exterior porch is served by the two-level porch on its west end. All three dormitories consist of seven-bay main blocks flanked by two-bay parapet gable ends. The design of Goode Hall, a seven-bay one-story brick building on a raised basement, also features parapet gable ends. The President's House is a five-bay two-story brick-veneer house with a handsome doorway, molded eaves with modillion blocks, and a pedimented façade gable with an inset attic fanlight.

Even as these five buildings were moving to completion Mr. Poundstone was at work on other facilities for the school. On 14 April 1935 the SALISBURY POST reported on "Future Plans."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 33

The present large brick building used for classrooms and administrative purposes, will be retained. Plans call for the remodeling and enlarging the building at a later date. Plans have also been drawn for a library building, as well as another plant to house other departments of the college, but these will not be built for another year or two, it is stated.

Mr. Poundstone redressed the conventional existing main building, two stories in height on a raised basement, in classical fashion. The projecting center block of the parapet-roof building was fitted with a quartet of stone pilasters which supported a pedimented gable on a new hipped roof. Poundstone's next building on the Misenheimer campus was Jane Freeman Hall which provided facilities for the teaching of sciences, a library, two faculty apartments, and dormitory accommodations. It was then the largest building on campus. The design for it coincided with his work on the Henry Pfeiffer Science Hall at Bennett College; both were completed in 1937.

Odis Clay Poundstone's final known work at Pfeiffer was the design of four buildings which were erected in 1942 as the gifts of Mrs. Pfeiffer. An announcement by Dr. Sharp, the college president, was the basis of an article which appeared in the CHARLOTTE OBSERVER on 23 May 1941. The contract for the buildings, estimated to cost about \$250,000, was awarded to Edward Walter Wagoner and Sons of Salisbury. These four buildings continued the Georgian Revival-style which Mr. Poundstone had established with the first buildings in 1935. The Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10) was the centerpiece of this building program which also included the Delight and Garfield Merner Center (#11), and Washington Hall (#12), a dormitory. The fourth building was:

A practice home where girls will receive practical training in housekeeping, living within a family budget. This home will be operated under the supervision of an especially trained staff member. This building will be located probably back of Goode hall.

The "practice home" is believed to be the small brick cottage (#6) which survives today "back of Goode hall." The newspaper article also noted that Stuart E. Washburn, an Atlanta landscape architect, was associated with Mr. Poundstone in the project which included "Paving of campus drives, top soiling of front campus, and a water tower with 60,000 gallon capacity, and extension of water mains to insure adequate fire protection for the college." Mr. Washburn probably had a voice in siting these buildings as well as the improvements to the campus green. Washington Hall enclosed the front lawn at its northwest end, and the chapel was positioned in a pendant situation at the southeast end of the campus. The Merner Center was placed at the north end of the axis avenue which Mr. Poundstone had created on the east side of the Administration Building as a counterpoint to the horizontal presentation of the school's buildings along US 52.

The final two buildings erected here on the historic campus continued the Georgian Revival styling of the interior period collegiate buildings. It is possible that Mr. Poundstone was involved in the design of Mitchell Gymnasium (#13) which was begun in 1948 and dedicated in 1950; Mrs. Pfeiffer's estate provided funds for its construction. He was probably not connected with the erection of the United States Post Office for Misenheimer (#14) in 1958, a conventional traditional building of its era. Whether, in fact, Odis Clay Poundstone can be identified as the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 34

architect of the Mitchell Gymnasium or not in no way affects his larger role as the creator of the Pfeiffer campus. His design of the five buildings erected in 1935 established the style and pattern of all subsequent building and development at Pfeiffer. While the details and actual extent of his practice have yet to be confirmed, there is no question of the importance of these ten buildings and the remodeling of the Administration Building as the largest known collection of his work at a single site in the Southeast and the best indication of his specialized talents as an architect of educational facilities.

Mr. Poundstone's accomplishment here is directly responsible for the district's statewide importance in the history of campus planning in North Carolina in the interwar period. Mr. Poundstone was educated at Cornell in the period when the Beaux Arts tradition held powerful sway in architectural education and that influence persisted in the practice of architects trained in the nation's schools in the opening decades of the twentieth century. Except for certain exceptional private commissions, architects in the interwar period saw major civic and educational projects as the best opportunity to exercise Beaux Arts theory and to apply it in the planning and design of governmental complexes and educational facilities. In "The University as City Beautiful," a chapter in his *CAMPUS: AN AMERICAN PLANNING TRADITION*, Paul Venable Turner analyzes important Beaux Arts-inspired projects including the design of Stanford University, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the United States Naval Academy. Turner also discusses the work of McKim, Mead and White at the University of Virginia where the firm redesigned the interior of Thomas Jefferson's Rotunda (after a fire) at the head of The Lawn and proposed a trio of academic buildings--Cabell, Rouss, and Cocke Halls--which were built to enclose the south end of The Lawn in Beaux Arts fashion.

As events proved, and Turner notes, Mr. Jefferson's design of the University of Virginia, together with McKim, Mead and White's work there proved to be of great and long lasting influence in American collegiate and preparatory school design in the first half of the twentieth century. It gave rise to a movement that Turner identifies as "The Jefferson Revival" whereby the use of a longitudinal axis, anchored by a dominant structure at one end, and flanked by secondary, subsidiary buildings in a generally rectangular plan--seen at the University of Virginia--came to influence campus design throughout the United States. The use of classical orders and colonnades, also a signal part of Jefferson's scheme, were readily adopted by architects. Turner immediately cites Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson's master plan for Sweet Briar College among the examples of the Jeffersonian Revival, along with the master plan for Johns Hopkins University.

Within his chapter, "The University as City Beautiful," Turner also includes a second subchapter, "The Problem of the Existing Campus." The design of new school complexes on new sites or the relocation of an old school to new grounds posed one set of problems and opportunities for architects; however, making order on an existing campus with buildings of different dates and styles, erected in an informal manner, and expanding facilities on such campuses was an altogether more vexing matter. One such project, chosen as an example for illustration by Turner, was Warren Manning's ca. 1909 proposed reordering and expansion of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 35

Guilford College in Greensboro where the landscape architect replaced the school's picturesque curving drives and walks, with an expansive formal cross-shaped court enclosed by symmetrically positioned buildings, some retained and others build anew (Turner, 240, 207).

Odis Clay Poundstone's work at Pfeiffer University in the 1930s and 1940s reflects features of Beaux Arts planning and the Jeffersonian Revival on grounds where his solution to "the problem of the existing campus" was to create order and style through the design/redesign of eleven buildings and to place them in complementing--and sometimes linked--positions for maximum visual effect. In or about 1934 when Mr. Poundstone first visited the institution, then known as the Mitchell Junior College, he found one brick building of conventional design and a group of simple frame buildings housing the school. Within two years, by the end of 1936 and through the magnificent gift of the Pfeiffers, the institution was rebuilt and housed in five new Georgian Revival-style buildings and a remodeled Administration Building; by 1942 five additional Georgian Revival-style buildings were added to the campus. Although the history and traditions of the small Methodist Episcopal-related school did not allow Mr. Poundstone to employ a grand Beaux-Arts scheme in the rebuilding of the college--and neither did its site, bound by wet ground to the north--he was able to impart a dignity and presence to the campus through the repetition of Georgian Revival styling, classical detailing, the placement of buildings in complementing symmetrical positions around a rectangular front lawn, the creation of an axis which focused on the Delight and Garfield Merner Center, and the enclosure of the historic center of the school by Washington Hall on the west and the Henry Pfeiffer Chapel on the east.

The rebuilding of Pfeiffer College occurred in the interwar period when important expansion was undertaken at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, when Duke University was created from old Trinity College, and when important planning and building was undertaken at smaller schools in North Carolina, such as Elon College. It also occurred during a time when such traditional planning and consistent, repetitive architectural programs for institutions were being challenged by modernists who advocated an entirely different approach; Mr. Turner discusses this episode in campus planning as well. The rebuilding of Pfeiffer University by Odis Clay Poundstone can be seen as a reflection of North Carolina's traditional preference for formal classical design and as a penultimate work leading up to the design of the new Wake Forest University at Winston-Salem, a campus whose Beaux Arts design would enrage the modernists in the immediate post-World War II period. The decision in the 1950s to expand the campus on the south side of US 52 has preserved the historic architectural core of Pfeiffer University in this district. That decision and subsequent decisions have held intact the remarkable achievement of Odis Clay Poundstone and the munificence of Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer. This important architectural reflection of educational philanthropy stands well when compared with other collegiate building programs of the period and is complemented by the later group of similar Georgian Revival-style buildings, erected in the 1950s and 1960s, which look north across their landscaped lawns and the paths of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad and US 52 to the historic heart of Pfeiffer University.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

8

36

Section number _____ Page _____

ENDNOTES

1. For reasons that remain unclear to this author, the administration of Pfeiffer College fixed on 1885 as the year Miss Prudden founded Oberlin Home and School at Lick Mountain, Caldwell County, and proceeded to celebrate the "centennial" of the college in 1985. This was done despite the fact that Dr. Bernard Russell, a member of the Pfeiffer College faculty, had completed research and prepared a short report, as early as the 1970s, which confirmed Miss Prudden's purchase of land in January 1898 and the subsequent establishment of the school in Caldwell County. This discrepancy was identified by this author in the late summer of 1998 when he researched the school deeds in the Caldwell County seat. A copy of Dr. Russell's five-page typescript sketch on the history of the school was then made available to him by the archivist at Pfeiffer University.
2. Through four additional purchases of adjoining property, in the years from 1898 to 1901, Miss Prudden increased the school campus by ninety-nine and three-eighths acres to a holding of just over 232 acres (Caldwell County Deeds: 31, 147-150; 32, 274-275; 34, 284-286). Most of this property was later sold privately and was not included in the conveyance of the Oberlin Home and school lands of thirty-seven acres to the Woman's Home Missionary Society in 1903. In fact, a year earlier, on 14 May 1902, Miss Prudden had transferred ownership of the Oberlin School to the American Missionary Society, headquartered in New York (Caldwell County Deeds: 35, 303-305). Nearly a year later, on 2 May 1903, the American Missionary Society conveyed the school back to Miss Prudden (Caldwell County Deeds: 36, 412-413). Just over a month later, on 8 June 1903, Miss Prudden conveyed ownership of the Oberlin Home and School property to the Woman's Home Missionary Society (Caldwell County Deeds: 36, 509-510). On 6 July 1910, after the school was reestablished at Misenheimer, the society reconveyed ownership of the thirty-seven-acre Oberlin school tract to Miss Prudden (Caldwell County Deeds: 49, 508-510).
3. Ken Thomas to Davyd Foard Hood, 5 August 1998 and 23 November 1998. Also, George S. Koyl, editor, AMERICAN ARCHITECTS DIRECTORY (1958), 442; and John F. Gane, AMERICAN ARCHITECTS DIRECTORY, Third Edition (1970), 731.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 9 Page 37

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number 9 Page 38

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

10

39

Section number _____ Page _____

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a tract of approximately 14.50 acres located on the north and northeast side of US 52 at Misenheimer; the boundary of the nominated property is outlined on the enclosed campus map. The property appears on Stanly County Tax Map #6613-00 and is a part of the larger holding of 325 acres which forms the campus and related grounds of Pfeiffer University.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the historic central grounds of Pfeiffer University that serve as the site and setting of the educational complex erected between 1923 and 1948.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Pfeiffer University Historic District, Stanly County, North Carolina

Section number Photographs Page 40Photograph Schedule (the following information applies to all photographs)

1. Name of property: Pfeiffer University Historic District
2. Location of Property: Stanly County, North Carolina
3. Photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
4. Dates of photographs: 22-23 March 1998
5. Location of original negatives: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Photographs

- A. View into campus grounds, looking northeast from US 52; east campus gates (#17) in foreground with, left to right, Administration Building (#1), Jane Freeman Hall (#9), and President's House (#8).
- B. View on campus grounds, looking southeast, from President's House (#8) to Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10).
- C. Henry Pfeiffer Chapel (#10), looking northwest across path of Ward Drive.
- D. Jane Freeman Hall (#9), looking south.
- E. Delight and Garfield Merner Center (#11), looking north.
- F. Administration Building (#1), looking northwest.
- G. View, looking west/northwest, toward Goode Hall (#5) with Rowe Hall (#3) in foreground and Merner Hall (#4) in middle ground.
- H. View of front lawn, looking north/northeast, with, left to right, Goode Hall (#5), Merner Hall (#4), and Rowe Hall (#3).
- I. View, looking northwest, with, left to right, Cline Hall (#7) and Goode Hall (#5).
- J. View on front lawn, looking northwest, with, left to right, United States Post Office (#14) and Washington Hall (#12).

