

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lea Laboratory
AND/OR COMMON

Lea Laboratory

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary —NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Wake Forest

— VICINITY OF

#4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Wake

183

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Unoccupied

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wake Forest

— VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wake County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lea Laboratory, the oldest remaining building on the original campus of Wake Forest University, is a handsome Colonial Revival style structure which forms the north side of the campus green. The green, a grassed area encompassing approximately five acres in the center of the campus, is planted with large oaks. Centered on the green is the site of the campus well, marked by a marble fountain erected by the class of 1911. The fountain is sheltered by a polygonal gazebo supported on slender Doric columns, with a pyramidal tin roof with eaves of exposed rafters. A short distance behind Lea Laboratory, a low fieldstone wall adjacent to North Avenue forms the northern boundary of the campus.

The well-proportioned brick building is an intriguing blend of Colonial and Victorian elements. It consists of a two-story pedimented central block, three bays wide and seven deep, flanked by one-story pedimented wings, three bays wide and three deep, connected to the central block with recessed hyphens, four bays wide and three deep. The walls, laid in Flemish bond, are articulated by a water table and a string course which separates the stories of the central block. Low gabled slate roofs with boxed, molded cornices and eaves terminate the building. Nine interior brick chimneys with tall stacks and corbeled caps, typical of the Queen Anne style, project from the roofs: one from the central block and four from each wing. With the exception of the sills and keystones of the openings, the delicate decorative detail of the building is executed in wood.

The main entrance, located in the center bay of the central block of the main (south) facade, is a double door, each leaf with four raised panels, surmounted by a lintel adorned with a dentil course, and a fanlight with arched wooden tracery. The door is set within a round-arched opening with a raised-paneled soffit and reveals and a molded architrave. The entrance is emphasized by a shallow molded broken pediment with a dentil cornice, supported by pilasters with eccentric Doric capitals. Three quarried granite steps ascend to the stone entrance sill. A rectangular marble cornerstone is centered on the main facade between the two stories of the central block. In the center bay of each pedimented wing is a subsidiary entrance, consisting of a double door, each leaf with three raised panels, surmounted by a dentil cornice and fanlight and set within a molded architrave. The east entrance fanlight is very similar to that of the main entrance, while the west fanlight contains an additional circular motif. Each of these doors is set within a round-arched opening with an arched brick surround with stone keystones at the top and sides. The first story of the main facade contains round-arched sixteen-over-sixteen sash windows with molded stone sills and stone keystones. The muntins of the upper sash terminate in arched tracery. The main facade windows of the second story of the central block consist of rectangular sash with flat brick arches but are otherwise identical to those of the first story. The ornate roof entablature of the main facade of the central block is composed of a molded architrave, a brick frieze, a cornice with a delicate dentil course and arched corbel course, and molded eaves which carry around the pediment. (Only the molded cornice defines the raking lines of the pediment.) The brick tympanum contains a large oval window with curved muntins set within a molded frame and brick surround with four stone keystones.

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The decorative finish of the side and rear elevations is much simpler than that of the main facade. Windows identical to those of the first-story main facade, with the exception of the stone sills, which are plain, pierce the side elevations of the wings. Windows identical to those of the first-story main facade, with the exception of the keystones, which are brick, occur on the rear wing elevations. The side and rear elevations of the central block contain rectangular sixteen-over-sixteen sash windows identical to those of the upper story of the main facade of the central block with the exception of plain sills and brick keystones. The eave treatment of the sides and rear of the main block and of the wings consists of a cove cornice and molded eave, which continues across the rear gable end of the central block to form a pediment, and forms eave returns on the rear gable ends of the wings. The rear pediment of the central block has a brick tympanum and a four-pane lunette window with a molded architrave and an arched brick surround. The gable end of each wing contains a rectangular nine-pane casement set within a segmental-arched opening.

The building has three rear entrances. In the center bay of the central block is a narrow double door, each leaf with two raised panels. This is surmounted by a lintel with a dentil course and a single-pane transom. A short flight of wooden steps with molded balusters and handrail and turned newels ascends to this entrance. In the inner bay of each wing, adjacent to the central block, is a door set within an opening identical to those of the rear wing windows, with a geometrically-paned fan-light and a replacement glazed door. The basement beneath the central block is reached by doors which flank the central rear entrance. Each door has four raised panels and is set within a plain surround. Eight-pane casement windows illuminate the basement.

Although the building has housed a variety of activities since its construction as a chemistry laboratory, the original floor plan is still discernible, though additional rooms have been partitioned off, and much of the original fabric remains. The first floor originally contained four rooms: a large room in the central block with a smaller room behind it, and a single room in each wing. Three small rooms have been added within these large spaces. The second floor, which contains four rooms, appears to be essentially unaltered. In the northeast corner of the central block, an enclosed stair rises in two flights to the second floor. This enclosed stair continues in the same corner from the second floor to the unfinished attic. A wooden ladder leads to a scuttle hole in the roof. The remaining original interior finish consists of plaster walls, molded plaster cornices, two-part molded architraves, doors with six flat panels and decorative cast-iron hardware.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1887-1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Appleton Wilson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lea Laboratory is the oldest surviving building of Wake Forest College, among the oldest colleges in the state. It was one of the first chemical laboratories constructed on a Southern college campus. Designed by architect John Appleton Wilson of Baltimore and completed in 1888, it is an unusually early and rather scholarly example of the Colonial Revival style. Pervading the carefully academic Colonial character of the building with its pedimented main block is an irrepressibly Victorian spirit expressed in the chimneys, doors, and other details.

Lea Laboratory was the fourth permanent building to be erected on the first campus of Wake Forest College in northeastern Wake County. The structure was named for Sidney Slade Lea, a wealthy Caswell County tobacco farmer, and his wife Fannie E. Lea.

Wake Forest College opened its doors in 1834 as Wake Forest Institute. Its site, about fifteen miles north of the town of Raleigh, was selected by a committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in 1832. The 615-acre tract of forested farmland was purchased by the Convention from Dr. Calvin Jones on August 28, 1832, for \$2,000. It was the sixth institution of higher learning to be established in North Carolina.

In May, 1834, the college's board of trustees resolved to construct a permanent building as soon as funds were available, and to erect immediately several temporary houses. Three of the latter structures were completed before the end of 1834. In December of that year the trustees authorized construction of the college's first permanent building, to be known as "The College Building." It was designed by a Mr. Ligon and built for \$13,000 by Captain John Berry, who agreed to complete his work by January 1, 1837. The edifice of brick made from local clay, measuring 135 feet wide by sixty-five feet deep and facing east, served a variety of purposes and was (with the exception of a small wooden house used by a group of male preparatory students in 1866-1867) the campus's only building until 1878. In that year Colonel J. M. Heck and Mr. John G. Williams of Raleigh sponsored a new building to house a hall of science and the college's literary societies (the library). The Heck-Williams Building was constructed of brick made from local clay. A third building, comprising a large chapel and four recitation rooms, and also of brick, appeared soon after the completion of the Heck-Williams Building.

Wake Forest's board of trustees had long shown an interest in securing the facilities necessary for the teaching of chemistry. By 1885 a committee appointed by the trustees had obtained from Sidney S. Lea a pledge of \$8,000 specifically for this purpose.

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Lea, a member of one of Caswell County's oldest families, was born there in 1810. He was a successful tobacco farmer who took an active and generous interest in the affairs of the Beulah Missionary Baptist Church of Leasburg, Caswell County, before the Civil War and until at least as late as 1879.

Lea's first act of philanthropy toward Wake Forest College came in 1882, when he pledged \$3,500 to a fund drive which sought to increase the college's endowment. This amount was later increased to \$5,000. His concern for Wake Forest apparently stemmed from a general interest in Baptist affairs: only one member of his immediate family--his brother John G. Lea--attended the institution. (Lea died March 18, 1892. His will provided that a quantity of bank stock be given to the trustees of Wake Forest College "to be used as they think best for the interest of the College.")

Late in 1886 plans for the proposed laboratory building were drawn by architect John Appleton Wilson, of Baltimore, under the direction of Dr. James R. Duggan of the college's chemistry department. An executive committee of the board of trustees provided that the laboratory be erected "in the north side of the Campus and not nearer the Heck-Williams Library Building than 100 feet." In January, 1887, the trustees provided that the new building when completed should be known as the "Lea Laboratory," in honor of Sidney Lea and his wife Fannie (Mrs. Lea had died September 18, 1886).

Wilson, who studied architecture at M.I.T. and began his career in 1875, worked extensively in Maryland and surrounding states. The building seems to be the earliest known example of the Colonial Revival style in North Carolina, and is in the forefront of the national Colonial Revival movement. Wilson's personal interest in history, evidenced by his active involvement with the Maryland Historical Society, may have influenced his choice of design. The overall design, with its pedimented main block and wings, is academically correct, but the presence of such late Victorian decorative elements as the paneled doors, rear stair newels, and Queen Anne chimneys betray its transitional position. This naive blend of two eras gives the design an individuality often lacking in more mature Colonial Revival buildings.

In March, 1887, the building contract was let to Ellington, Royster & Company, of Raleigh, and construction began on April 27, 1887. The building, constructed principally from "penitentiary" brick, was completed and ready for occupation by early October, 1888. Total cost of the structure was \$13,000.

The new building's central portion measured about sixty feet by thirty feet and contained a stairway to the second story. On both sides of the central portion were one-story wings measuring thirty-two feet by thirty-seven feet. It stood at least 100 feet north of the Heck-Williams Building and, unlike its neighbors that faced east, faced south. Its second story included lecture rooms and offices, one of which was occupied by the college's president until 1901. The west wing was used by the chemistry department for many years, while the east served as a biological and mineralogical laboratory.

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The west wing chemical laboratory facility was designed by Dr. James Reynolds Duggan, a young chemistry professor on the faculty. When completed it was "said to be the best of its kind south of Baltimore." Its design was praised as one that "is still /1943/ approved and used in much more costly structures in the great universities of the country."

In the spring of 1900 an astronomical observatory was established on the roof of the Lea building. In 1904 the biology department moved into larger quarters in a new building. Although now occupied only by the chemistry department, Lea Laboratory was enlarged by the addition of gables at the ends of the wings in 1920. This resulted principally from increased student enrollment and a greater scholarly interest in the subject of chemistry.

Other new buildings and the remodeling or expansion of existing buildings followed. By 1933 thirteen buildings existed both on and off the original campus grounds. The College Building, the oldest structure on the campus, was destroyed by fire on May 5, 1933. Wingate Memorial Hall, the campus's third building, was likewise destroyed on February 14, 1934. The Heck-Williams Building, the second building to be added, was razed sometime between 1956 (the year the entire college was relocated in Winston-Salem) and 1962, leaving the 1887-1888 Lea Laboratory as the original campus's oldest surviving structure. The old Wake Forest campus serves today as the Southeastern Baptist Seminary.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, Leasburg, Caswell County. Church Minutes and History, 1834-1879. Microfilm of original, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Biblical Recorder (Raleigh). Death notice, March 30, 1892.

Branson, L., ed. The North Carolina Business Directory, 1877 and 1878. Fifth Edition; Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1878.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 724340 3984530
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist;

architectural description by Ruth Little-Stokes, survey specialist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

5 March 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

919/829-7862

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Historic Preservation Act.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 5 March 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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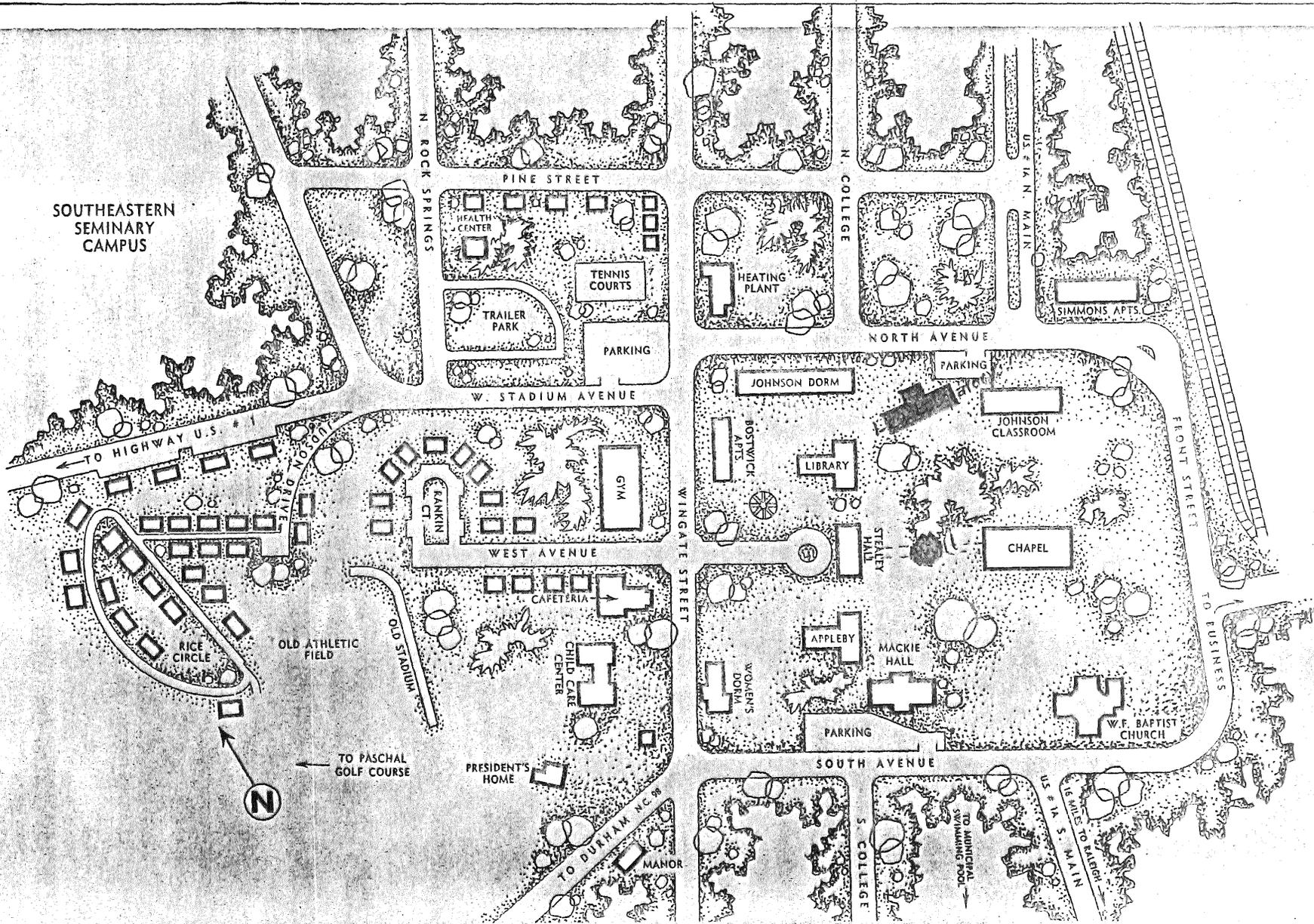
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- Wake Forest Alumni Directory. Winston-Salem: Wake Forest University Department of Alumni Activities, 1961.

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY CAMPUS



N. ROCK SPRINGS

PINE STREET

HEALTH CENTER
TRAILER PARK
TENNIS COURTS
PARKING

W. STADIUM AVENUE

FANKIN CT.
GYM

WEST AVENUE

CAFETERIA
CHILD CARE CENTER

PRESIDENT'S HOME

TO DURHAM, N.C. 28
MANOR

WINGATE STREET

N. COLLEGE

HEATING PLANT

NORTH AVENUE

JOHNSON DORM
JOHNSON CLASSROOM
LIBRARY
CHapel
MACKIE HALL
W.F. BAPTIST CHURCH
PARKING

SOUTH AVENUE

S. COLLEGE

TO ARTIFICIAL SWIMMING POOL

U.S. #1A S. MAIN
REAR ENTRANCE TO PARKING

FRONT STREET
TO BUSINESS

SIMMONS APTS.



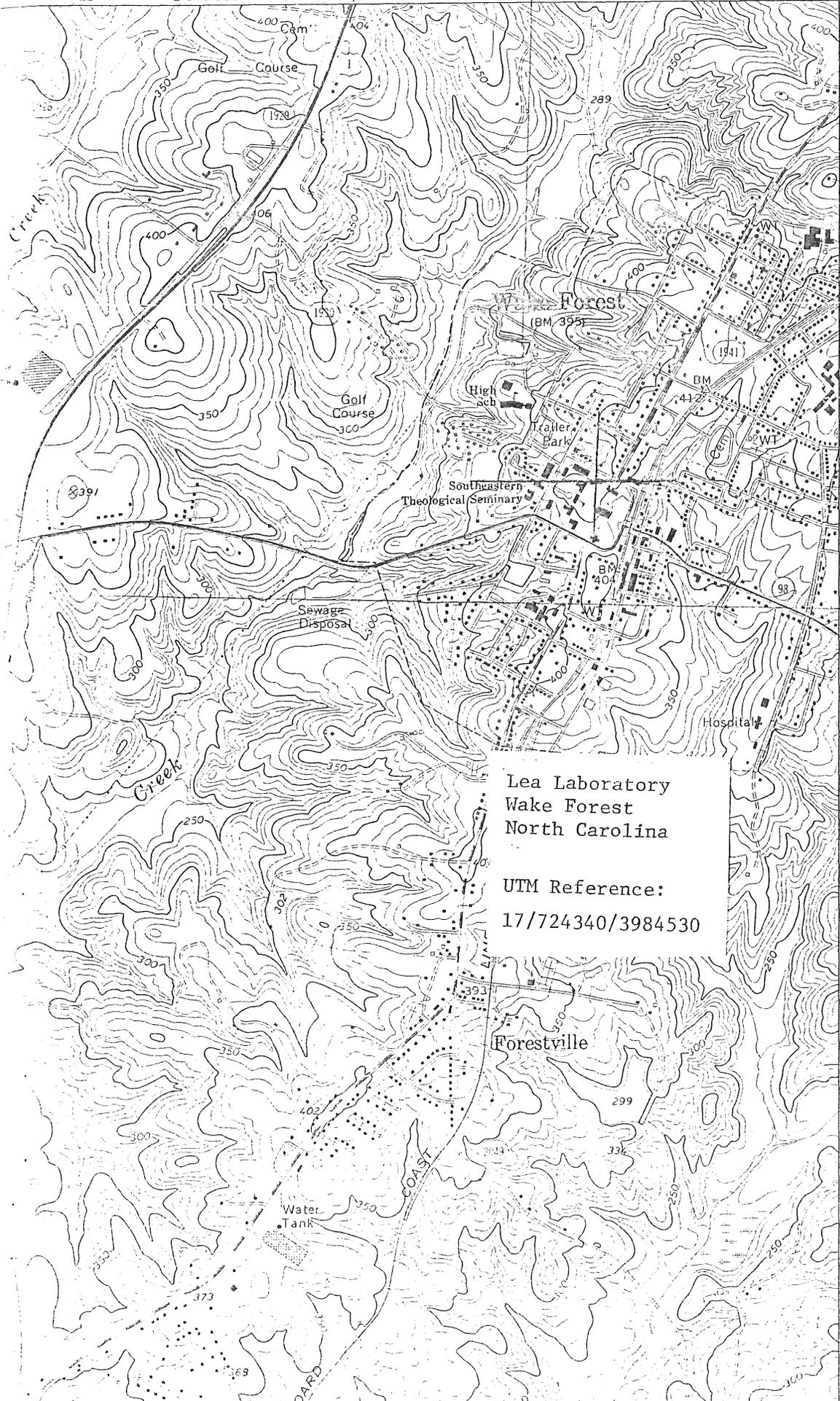
TO PASCHAL GOLF COURSE

TO HIGHWAY U.S. #1

WAKE FOREST QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA - WAKE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 RALEIGH 15' QUADRANGLE

722 2 140 000 FEET 723 HENDERSON 24 MI FRANKLINTON 9 MI 724 725 78° 30' 36° 00'



Lea Laboratory
Wake Forest
North Carolina

UTM Reference:
17/724340/3984530

Forestville

YOUNGSVILLE 3 MI.

6 MI. TO U.S. 401
20 MI. TO U.S. 64

57'30"

3981

