

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 any 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 Yancey Collegiate Institute Historic District

other names/site number Burnsville High School; (former) Burnsville Elementary School; Parkway Playhouse

#### 2. Location

street & number School Drive and Green Mountain Drive not for publication N/A  
city or town Burnsville vicinity N/A  
state North Carolina code NC county Yancey code 199 zip code 28714

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffery A. Crow SHPO 7/1/03  
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

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 or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**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 a 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.)

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1914 - 1953

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1919

1926

1936

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary Location of Additional Data**
- State Historic Preservation Office
  - \_\_\_ Other State agency
  - \_\_\_ Federal agency
  - \_\_\_ Local government
  - \_\_\_ University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
Yancey County Public Library

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 3.2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17 383250 3975840  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ 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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Clay Griffith

organization Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. date June 16, 2003

street & number 825-C Merrimon Ave., #345 telephone (828) 281-3852

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28804

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### Additional Documentation

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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)

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### Property Owner

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

name Two owners – Yancey County and Yancey County Board of Education (see owner list for addresses)

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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with recessed end pavilions. Red brick veneer extends the height of the first floor above the brick foundation walls, and the second floor is covered with wood shingles. The building, which is oriented with its central corridor running north-south, is capped by a hip roof with a central hip-roof dormer on the east side. An attached, one-story, hip roof, partial-width porch shelters the original entrance on the east side of the building. The porch, as built, stood on tall brick piers and was reached by a set of stairs on the south end, but both the porch and its foundation were enclosed some time in the second half of the twentieth century. A small, gable-roof entry porch on the west façade is supported on square brick posts and shelters a single-leaf entry. Windows on the first and second floors are six-over-six double-hung sash with the exception of smaller four-over-four windows in the exposed north and south walls flanking the pavilions. Window openings on the first floor are topped by flat arches, but the fixed four-light windows in the foundation walls have segmental arched openings. Two single-run-with-landing wooden exterior fire stairs, which were added to the west and north elevations some time in the second half of the twentieth century, are seriously deteriorated.

On the interior, the dormitory contained twenty-six rooms organized around a central north-south corridor on both floors. A closed stairway is centrally placed on the west side of the corridor, where the current entrance is located. Larger common rooms stand opposite the stairway on both floors. Two dormitory rooms are located on both floors of the pavilions at either end. Doors to the pavilion rooms are topped with transoms.

Brown Dormitory for Boys was used in the 1920s and 1930s by the public school system as classrooms for elementary students. The building was used as housing by the Burnsville Playhouse, Inc. and School of Dramatic Arts for drama students beginning in 1949.<sup>1</sup>

**2. (Former) Burnsville High School Gymnasium (Parkway Playhouse). 1933, 1947, 1955.  
Contributing building.**

In 1933 a new gymnasium was constructed for Burnsville High School on a site just northwest of the YCI Administration Building (#4), which had been sold to the Yancey County public school system in 1926 and used for a high school. Built of frame and sheathed with German siding, the gym was capped by large wooden trusses supporting a gable roof. It served as a school gym until 1947, when a modern gymnasium (#6) was completed and the building was renovated for use as a theater by the Burnsville

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<sup>1</sup> Evelyn Hope Bailey, *Parkway Playhouse, History of a Western North Carolina Summer Theater*, Vol. 1 (Burnsville, NC: published by author, 1996), 14.

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Playhouse, Inc. and School of Dramatic Arts.<sup>2</sup> The original gymnasium was a simple, one-story, rectangular-plan structure with square window openings and a gable roof running east to west. A four-story stage house, whose gable roof runs perpendicular to the gymnasium, was added to the east end of the original building. Two gable-roof ells built in the 1950s—one for dressing rooms and one for a workshop—extend eastward from the rear of the stage house.

W. T. Chichester, technical director for the drama department at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, designed the theater renovation. Using manpower provided by the Veterans Administration, the old gym was fitted with a stage 35-feet deep, 50-feet wide, and 60-feet high; a large backstage area, lobby, box office, and restrooms. The auditorium held seating for 400, and the stage house was fitted with the best technical equipment available, including counterweight rigging and a standard switchboard deck. Local blacksmith Daniel Boone VI handcrafted and donated four wrought-iron chandeliers for the auditorium. In 1950 he donated a matching fifth chandelier for the lobby. Heavy summer rains drumming on the building's original metal roof during performances created such a distraction that the roof was replaced with a composition shingle roof in 1948.<sup>3</sup>

Dressing rooms were added in 1955-56 to the rear (east) of the stage house under the auspices of the University of Miami's Drama Department, who assumed sponsorship of the theater and summer workshop from Woman's College of the University of North Carolina in 1954. An enlarged scene workshop, designed by Gordon Bennett, technical director of the Playhouse from 1948-52 and later managing director, was constructed in 1966.<sup>4</sup>

In 1964, the North Carolina Legislature awarded the Playhouse a \$25,000 grant to elevate the floor in the auditorium, repair the roof, renovate the dormitory, and make other repairs.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Outdoor Theater. 1950-52. Contributing structure

The outdoor amphitheater located on the north side of the Parkway Playhouse (#2) was designed by Gordon Bennett and constructed of native stone. The random-coursed stonework with raised joints is accented by concrete copings and red brick facing on the arched openings. The stage is poured concrete. The theater is an extension of the flagstone terrace, steps, outdoor fireplace, and retaining wall, also

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<sup>2</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 4. The theater was referred to as the "Parkway Playhouse" as early as 1949, but the name was not legally changed to Parkway Playhouse of Burnsville, Inc. until 1979. See E. Bailey 1996, 2.

<sup>3</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 4-5.

<sup>4</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 24-26, 51.

<sup>5</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 47.

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designed by Bennett, which were completed in 1950 and fill the space between the building and Green Mountain Road on the west and northwest sides. The outdoor theater, begun in 1950, was first used for a performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the third production of the 1952 season. Rustic timbers, few of which still exist, offered seating for approximately 300.<sup>6</sup>

**4. (Second) Administration Building, Yancey Collegiate Institute. 1919, 1922.  
Contributing building.**

Built in 1919 at a cost of \$43,000, the two-story red brick structure replaced the previous administration building of the Yancey Collegiate Institute that was built in 1901 and destroyed by fire in 1918. The second administration building was one of the most modern buildings in the county and contained twelve classrooms, two society halls, two music studios, a study hall, and a large auditorium. The entire building was equipped with steam heat and electric lights.<sup>7</sup> Fire severely damaged the second administration building in 1922, but the building was reconstructed on the surviving foundations, reintegrating the exterior brick walls and first floor structure. First floor interior walls were rebuilt with solid masonry one-foot thick. With the exception of an interior stair that was eliminated the building is believed to have been faithfully reconstructed.

The imposing Classical Revival administration and classroom building is constructed of brick laid in running bond and is capped by a side gable roof. The building has a rectangular massing with projecting, enclosed stairwells at the east and west ends added ca. 1922, as well as added smaller, flat-roofed corner blocks to the northeast and northwest containing restrooms. The gently sloping topography of the site reveals a partial basement, which is exposed on the north side of the building and runs the length of the structure. A full height, central portico with a broad pediment supported by four square brick posts dominates the main (south) façade. The posts rest on poured concrete bases and are topped by square concrete caps. Vertical beaded board covers a plain entablature. The block modillions under the soffit and pediment have been covered with synthetic siding. The façade extends four bays on either side of the portico. Windows throughout are single and paired six-over-six double-hung sash with concrete sills and a double brick header course. The placement and configurations of the windows are generally balanced across the façade but not symmetrical. The main entrance consists of double doors with sidelights under a segmental arch transom with a concrete keystone painted white. The entrance is flanked by single windows on the first floor while a paired window unit is located directly above.

<sup>6</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 15, 18-19.

<sup>7</sup> Edgar F. Hunter, Jr., "A History of Yancey Collegiate Institute" (MA thesis, Appalachian State Teachers College, 1952), 73.

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Yancey County, North Carolina**Section 7. Narrative Description**

The campus of the Yancey Collegiate Institute (YCI), a Baptist-sponsored secondary education institution, occupies a prominent hilltop site roughly one-quarter mile north of Burnsville's town square. Two buildings from the initial period of the church-sponsored school (1901-1926) survive, but the campus has been used continually for educational purposes since the property was sold to the Yancey County Board of Education in 1926. The YCI's second administration building and a modern, 1946 gymnasium stand on the full block encircled by School Drive, a one-way loop, and bordered by a native stone retaining wall. Concrete steps pierce the retaining wall and sidewalks approach the administration building from each of the cardinal directions. The sidewalk on the west side of the building is flanked by mature locust trees. The modern gym, the second built for the public high school, stands at the southeast corner of the block, and a new wooden children's playground, Kid Mountain, was erected in the southwest corner of the block in 2001. A former gymnasium (now the Parkway Playhouse) erected for Burnsville High School is located across School Drive from the administration building to the northwest, and Brown Dormitory for Boys, a YCI structure built in 1914, sits on a parcel in the northwest corner of the intersection of Green Mountain Road and School Drive. The Watson Home for Girls, a 1916 YCI building, occupied the site of the WPA-era Burnsville High School located on the south of School Drive. Burnsville High School, which was formerly housed in the YCI administration building, moved across the street to the new stone building in 1940. The high school building now houses the offices of Yancey County Schools. Otherwise the grounds of the YCI are surrounded by mostly residential structures, some of which served as faculty and staff housing during the period that the YCI was in operation.

The Yancey Collegiate Institute Historic District consists of seven contributing buildings, along with a structure and an object that contribute to the district, and one non-contributing structure located on property contiguous to the block formed by School Drive where the second administration building of the school is situated. The resources in the district represent the surviving institutional buildings associated with the YCI and their later use as public schools. The inventory list is organized geographically from the northwest to the southeast. The inventory begins with buildings on the north side School Drive from west to east. The inventory continues with the buildings located on the block formed by School Drive, a one-way circle, and ends with structures located on the south side of the road.

**1. Brown Dormitory for Boys. 1914. Contributing building.**

Constructed in 1914, the Brown Dormitory for Boys provided accommodations for male boarding students attending the YCI. Brown Dormitory is a two-story-plus-basement, rectangular-plan building

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A secondary entrance to the building is located on the west elevation and is marked by a one-story portico, which projects from a two-story hip-roof enclosed stairwell that, in turn, projects from the end of the building. Square brick corner posts support the pediment of the portico, which shelters a triple entrance. The center double-leaf entry opens directly into the main corridor of the building, running west to east. Single-leaf entrances flank the central entry and access the stairways located on either side of the corridor. Each of the entries is topped by a multi-light transom.

The north (rear) elevation of the building is dominated by numerous window openings across an otherwise flat wall. The windows are single and paired six-over-six double-hung sash with concrete sills and a double brick header course above. Windows illuminating the first floor classrooms alternate single and paired units, although the pattern is not consistent across the entire façade. Windows on the second floor, however, are regularly spaced in pairs. The partial basement is exposed on the north elevation, and three wood-framed panels located in the center of basement wall served as coal chutes. A small door flanked by two square, fixed windows provides access to the boiler and mechanical room. A classroom was located on either side of the mechanical area, and these were entered through an exterior door and lit by a single and paired window unit with two-over-two sash.

Located at the northeast and northwest corners of the building, in the angle between the main building and the projecting stairwells, two two-story restroom blocks were added ca. 1927 to provide improved facilities. The blocks, which are similar in construction and details as the main building, are offset slightly so that the floor level of the restrooms fall in between those of the main building. A half-flight of stairs extending from the landing of the projecting stairwell provides access to the facilities. Two one-over-one double-hung windows on each floor of the block punctuate the otherwise plain exterior of the corner blocks.

The simple east elevation is broken by the projecting stairwell, which contains only a single stairway located on the north side of the central interior corridor. An uncovered single-leaf entry in both the south and east wall of the stairwell is reached by a small set of steps and provides access to the interior. The stair is illuminated by individual six-over-six windows.

The interior of the Administration Building is organized around the broad central corridor, which runs west to east and is intersected at its center by a shorter hallway extending from the main (south) entrance. Classrooms and offices of varying sizes open from the north and south sides onto the main corridor, which retains its original wood flooring. Six-panel wood doors are topped by transoms, although the transoms and interior corridor windows have been boarded over. The second floor originally contained a gymnasium and studio rooms but in the late 1920s was fitted with a stage, proscenium, and sloped

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seating for use by the Burnsville Little Theater. All of the second floor partitions were removed in 2002.

**5. Playground. 2001. Non-contributing object.**

Located in the southwest corner of the block formed by School Drive, the substantial wooden playground complex was constructed in 2001 on an open area of the school property. The playground area, known as "Kid Mountain," is fenced and self-contained.

**6. Gymnasium. Ca. 1946. Contributing building.**

The modern gymnasium built for Burnsville High School stands at the southeast corner of the block formed by School Road and is constructed in a plain utilitarian style. The large, rectangular-plan building contains a single open-span space under its gently curving roof. Steel bowstring trusses permit the open span gymnasium and support the roof structure. The end walls are plain brick with a stepped parapet. The side walls are relieved by buttresses forming six bays and small, square, metal-frame, four-light windows. On the front (south) façade a small metal canopy and enclosed vestibule were constructed in the 1960s to provide a sheltered entrance. A one-story, hip roof block extends across the north elevation and provides access to the service areas of the building. The construction of this building allowed the Yancey County Board of Education to offer the old gym (#2) for the Burnsville Playhouse.

**7. Retaining Wall, Ca. 1950. Contributing object.**

The block formed by School Drive, a one-way loop road, is bordered by a randomly-coursed native stone retaining wall. A similarity of materials and workmanship indicates that the wall was likely built around the same time as the retaining wall and outdoor theater (#3) were constructed at the Parkway Playhouse. The retaining wall around School Drive averages three to four feet in height and is capped by a concrete coping. On each of the four sides of the block a set of concrete steps flanked by stone piers pierces the wall. Sidewalks lead from each set of steps to the YCI Administration Building, except for the south side.

**8. Burnsville High School, 1939. Contributing building.**

The Burnsville High School was built as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1939, one of five similar school buildings constructed in Yancey County. The high school is a one and one-half story, randomly-coursed stone building resting on a full basement, which is exposed on the rear (south) and east side due to the sloping nature of the site. The asphalt shingle gable roof is pierced by four

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### Section 8. Statement of Significance

The Yancey Collegiate Institute (YCI) Historic District contains the structures associated with the Baptist-sponsored Yancey Collegiate Institute, a prominent secondary school located in Burnsville, Yancey County, during the early twentieth century. The Yancey Collegiate Institute campus was sold to the Yancey County Board of Education in 1926 and it historically continued to play a significant role in the county's public education system through 1953. The Yancey Collegiate Institute Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C and holds local significance in the areas of education and architecture. The district also meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties because the district derives primary significance from its contributions to the development of education in Yancey County and from its architectural merit.

Established in 1901, the YCI educated students until 1926 when the facilities were sold to the Yancey County Board of Education. Formed in response to the disorganized state of education in the county at the turn of the twentieth century, the YCI quickly established itself as a quality institution of higher education rooted in the religious ideals of the Baptist church. The district includes the YCI's second Administration Building and the Brown Dormitory for Boys, two of the earliest surviving educational facilities in the county, as well as two gymnasiums built for Burnsville High School. The centerpiece of the district is the Administration Building, an imposing Classical Revival-style brick structure, situated on a prominent site north of Burnsville's Town Square. The Administration Building subsequently served as the public Burnsville High School and later as Burnsville Elementary School, from the 1940s until 1991. The period of significance for the district, which contains nine contributing resources and one non-contributing object, begins in 1914 with the construction of the earliest surviving building—the Brown Dormitory for Boys—and ends in 1953. Although the school continued to operate after 1953, this time period is not of exceptional significance.

#### *Historic Background and Education Context*

Formed in 1833 from Buncombe and Burke counties, Yancey County was one of the earliest counties established in the western region of North Carolina. Yancey County's boundaries were altered throughout the mid-nineteenth century as several other counties were formed from land belonging to Yancey County. In 1872, when part of the county was annexed to Mitchell County, the present area of Yancey County was established. The Black Mountains, which stretch across the southern part of the county, are the highest in the eastern United States, but their steep terrain yields to fertile forests and farmland to the north as the ridges and streams fall toward the Toe River, which serves as the county's

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small gable dormers with louvered vents on the front (north) façade and two on the rear. A small cross gable marks the front entrance, which consists of a double-leaf door under a transom and is recessed beneath a flat arch opening. The entrance doors are replacements and the transom has been covered. Four windows bays flank the entrance on each side. The windows openings with concrete sills remain intact but have been filled with three one-over-one replacement windows and modern weatherboard siding. Smaller single window openings with flat arches, concrete sills, and one-over-one replacement windows are interspersed between every two openings and immediately east of the entrance.

The west façade is dominated by the gable-end parapet, which is capped by a concrete coping and rises to a central crenellation. A semi-circular opening with a louvered vent is centered in the gable end above a recessed entrance, which consists of replacement double-leaf doors, a covered transom, and beaded-board siding beneath a flat arch opening. The entrance is flanked by single window openings to either side. The openings with flat arch lintels and concrete sills are filled with two one-over-one replacement windows and modern wood siding. Concrete steps with solid stone walls and a wide concrete coping extend to the sidewalk.

The rear (south) elevation is composed of ten bays above the exposed basement. Five window bays flank an exterior stone chimney, which rises against the rear wall of the building. The center eight bays replicate the window openings on the main façade with concrete sills, three one-over-one replacement windows, and modern weatherboard infill. The end bays are smaller openings with flat arch lintels, concrete sills, two one-over-one replacement windows, and modern wood siding. A large service entrance is located at the southwest corner of the basement level beneath the end window bay. A single-leaf entry and four window bays are located on the east side of the chimney at the basement level. The window bays are the smaller openings with flat arch lintels, concrete sills, and two one-over-one replacement windows.

The elevation on the east end mimics the west end façade but varies due to the significant change in topography. The east end replicates the stepped parapet of the west end with blind window openings flanking the recessed entrance. A retaining wall supporting the sidewalk along School Drive to the north, however, exposes the basement level on the east end. A projecting block of the same stone construction on the northern portion of the elevation extends the sidewalk from School Drive to the east entrance. Concrete steps adjoin the retaining wall on one side and reach eastward from the projecting block to a landing where they turn to the south to complete their run. An arched opening in the projecting block accesses a recessed entrance to the basement beneath the main level entrance. Two smaller window openings are located at the southeast corner of the east elevation.

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Yancey County, North Carolina**9. Vocational Education Building, Ca. 1940. Contributing building.**

Location south of the present Board of Education offices (#8), the one-story red brick veneer, front gable building housed vocational education classes for Burnsville High School beginning in the 1940s. The rectangular plan building is constructed of concrete block and structure ceramic tile faced with red brick veneer. The front-gable roof, which features a simple, flat cornice with returns, is covered with asphalt shingles and is pierced by two interior brick flues while a third flue rises against the rear wall of the building. The front façade is two bays wide with two boarded and replacement windows flanking a single-leaf entry to one side and a garage bay on the other. The west side of the building displays an irregular pattern of large square openings with metal-frame industrial windows (some of which are partially boarded), smaller and narrower openings with metal-frame windows, a plain single-leaf entry, and two side-by-side garage bays at the southwest corner. The east side of the building is lit by two smaller metal-frame windows toward the front of the structure and four large metal-frame industrial windows toward the rear. A basement with deteriorated window and door openings is on the east side revealed by the sloping site. The rear (south) elevation is plain and overgrown. The building stands vacant and is badly deteriorated.

**10. Storage building, Ca. 1945. Contributing building.**

Located on the east side of the Vocational Education Building (#9) and behind the present Board of Education offices (#8), the storage building is a one-story, rectangular plan building with concrete block walls, a side-gable, standing-seam metal roof, and weatherboards in the gable ends. A large doorway, which probably held a double-leaf wooden door, is located on the long side of the building. The building stands vacant at present and appears to have been built as a storage facility.

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northern border. The South Toe River, Cane River, Jacks Creek, and Crabtree Creek flow through rich bottomland that has supported productive agriculture since the early nineteenth century.<sup>8</sup>

Burnsville, the county seat, occupies a central elevated site on the divide between the Cane River and the South Toe River. “Yellow Jacket” John Bailey conveyed one hundred acres for the county seat and the Town Square was laid out in 1834. Named in honor of Ottway Burns of Carteret County, a naval hero in the War of 1812, Burnsville stands near the geographical center of the county and continues to be the civic and economic center of community life.<sup>9</sup>

The hardships of farm life in the nineteenth century, and the later mineral mining and timbering industries, left little time for recreation outside of a family’s immediate surroundings. Education, however, though not a necessity of nineteenth century life compared to food and shelter was actively sought by the citizens of Yancey County. Before the formation of a county public school system in the 1840s, families sponsored subscription schools once the rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic passed from parent to child. Held in available structures, subscription schools were taught by relatively well-educated members of the community. Teachers were paid per student, though rarely in cash. Patrons alternated providing room and board for instructors from outside the community. Subscription schools continued to exist long after Yancey County organized its first board of education.<sup>10</sup>

Religion also played a significant role in the daily lives of mountain families. Many of the settlers in Yancey County were of Scots-Irish descent and came from areas where the Presbyterian Church predominated. Despite the settlers’ Presbyterian heritage, the Methodist and Baptist denominations became the most influential in the region. Of twenty-nine churches recorded in Yancey County in 1850, twenty were Baptist. Since denominational rivalry was keen throughout the area in the later nineteenth century, each of the three major sects—Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian—sought not only to combat moral decay and illiteracy, but also to extend their influence through private, church-sponsored schools.<sup>11</sup>

Despite the relative isolation of the county and many of its remote communities, the first board of education in Yancey County was formed in 1842. The board’s primary duties were establishing school districts and approving payment of teachers. Before 1850 the public school session typically lasted six

<sup>8</sup> Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Souther, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide To The Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 239; and Hunter 1952, 1-3.

<sup>9</sup> Bishir, Southern, and Martin, 239, and Hunter 1952, 4-5.

<sup>10</sup> See Flora B. Roberson in Yancey History Association, *Images of Yancey: Pictorial History of a Western North Carolina County* (Burnsville, NC: Yancey History Association, 1993), 59-61. (Hereinafter cited as *Images of Yancey*)

<sup>11</sup> Hunter 1952, 9-12.

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weeks and teachers were paid an average of sixteen dollars per month. The actual amount paid to teachers was based on the number of students taught, and the number of schools in session was based on the availability of teachers. The earliest public schools met in private homes or churches. In the mid-nineteenth century residents contributed directly to the construction of public school buildings in their communities. The use of public funds to construct schools in Yancey County apparently did not begin until the early twentieth century. The 1850 census showed that only 961 adults among the county's 7,809 residents could read or write. With a growing number of schools and longer school terms Yancey County families desired opportunities for secondary education in the latter half of the nineteenth century.<sup>12</sup>

The Methodist Church established the first secondary school in the area—Burnsville Academy, which opened in 1852 under the direction of Steven G. Adams of Tennessee. The influence of the Methodist Church had spread under the leadership of James Anderson, one of the earliest Methodist preachers to settle in the region. The Methodist-sponsored high school closed during the Civil War, but it reopened and operated until the late 1890s. Many teachers in the county schools during the late nineteenth century were trained at Burnsville Academy.<sup>13</sup>

Yancey County's public education system continued to develop in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Increases in student enrollment paralleled the general population growth in the county. School sessions were lengthened to four months by 1890, and teacher salaries also increased as the school terms were extended. Facilities and equipment, however, continued to be fairly crude and financial resources were scarce. Interestingly though, Yancey County student enrollment may have peaked in 1885, when 4,128 students attended county schools. Only 2,494 students were enrolled in 1998 although the geographical area of the county remains unchanged.<sup>14</sup>

With the closing of Burnsville Academy in the 1890s, the county was left without a secondary school for nearly a decade. Civic-minded citizens in the Bald Creek community, seven miles west of Burnsville, erected a two-story frame building in 1896 for a private high school. The Stanley McCormick School, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, opened in 1899 in Burnsville. An outstanding faculty contributed to the school's excellent reputation during the early twentieth century. Even so, it was closed in 1922, the result of the growing number of public high schools opening in Yancey County. The McCormick School was converted to a trade school under the name "Carolina New College" for a few

<sup>12</sup> Ed Hunter, "A History of Education In Yancey County" (Report, Yancey History Association, Burnsville, 1999), 4-6. Mr. Hunter was the superintendent of Yancey County Schools from 1971-1983.

<sup>13</sup> Hunter 1952, 16-18; *Images of Yancey*, 63; and James Hutchins, *A Sketch of the Yancey Collegiate Institute, Burnsville, N.C.* (Burnsville, NC: Yancey Printing Company, n.d.), 8.

<sup>14</sup> Hunter 1999, 7-8.

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years in the 1920s. Only two buildings of the McCormick School survive and are altered. Another private school, the Yancey Collegiate Institute, sponsored by the Baptist Church, opened its doors in 1901.<sup>15</sup>

The first public high school in Yancey County opened in the old private school building at Bald Creek in 1907, and by the 1920s five additional high schools had been constructed. Burnsville High School met in the former YCI Administration Building beginning in 1926, after the Yancey Baptist Association closed the school and sold the property to the county Board of Education. The Great Depression stifled education progress until five new high schools—Bald Creek, Bee Log, Burnsville, Clearmont, and Micaville—were constructed between 1935 and 1939 as part of the President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA) program. Built of native stone, four of the five buildings continue to serve as elementary schools while the fifth, Burnsville, houses the Board of Education offices. By 1940, nearly all of the one and two-teacher schools in the county were consolidated into one of the five schools, although a number of these small schools remained open in the smaller rural communities. In the next ten years, by 1950, nearly all of the one and two-teacher schools were closed and students enrolled in the consolidated schools with two exceptions—Lost Cove and Lincoln Park.<sup>16</sup>

The Lost Cove School remained opened until the mid-1950s, when the last family in the Lost Cove community moved out.<sup>17</sup> The once-thriving community grew up around a lumber operation that eventually closed in 1940. Thereafter Lost Cove was only accessible on foot, and the Board of Education kept the school open for the twelve children who remained in the community. The Lincoln Park School, which was located in the African-American community north of Burnsville, was not only the last remaining one-teacher school in the county, but also the only school for the county's Black students, both elementary and high school age. In response to parents' demands for better secondary educational opportunities, the Board of Education began transporting older students to a high school in Asheville, and a new building was erected in 1958 for grades one through eight. A federal court ruling in 1962 determining that these Yancey County students were not getting an adequate education led to the integration of Yancey County schools, the first school system in the state to be integrated.<sup>18</sup>

Consolidation of Yancey County schools continued in the second half of the twentieth century. In 1958, students from the five high schools were consolidated into new schools at Cane River and East

<sup>15</sup> Hunter 1952, 19-20; Hutchins, 8; and *Images of Yancey*, 62-63.

<sup>16</sup> Hunter 1999, 13-14.

<sup>17</sup> Hunter in his 1999 report states that the Lost Cove School closed permanently in 1955 (p. 14), but Roberson in *Images of Yancey* gives the date as 1957 (p. 67). She cites an inscription on the wall of the school written by the last teacher at Lost Cove, Sinclair B. Conley, as the source.

<sup>18</sup> Hunter 1999, 14-15.

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Yancey, each containing grades nine through twelve. Elementary grades were then moved into the WPA-era high school buildings at Bald Creek, Bee Log, Clearmont, and Micaville. Elementary students in Burnsville attended classes in the former YCI Administration Building. In 1976, high school students began attending Mountain Heritage High School, currently the county's only high school. Cane River and East Yancey became middle schools for grades six through eight. Elementary students in Burnsville continued to use the old YCI Administration Building until a new Burnsville Elementary School was completed in 1991 and opened in 1992.<sup>19</sup>

*Yancey Collegiate Institute, Burnsville High School, and Burnsville Elementary School campus and Parkway Playhouse – Historical Background*

The origin of the Yancey Collegiate Institute (YCI) dates to the 1890s when the need for better secondary education facilities was recognized by Baptists throughout the county. In particular a young lawyer and ardent Baptist, E. Frank Watson, who established a law practice in Burnsville in 1892, quickly assessed the need to improve secondary education and wasted no time gathering support for such facilities. Citing deplorable moral and spiritual conditions in Yancey County, which contained an estimated 300 illegal whiskey stills, ministers and public-minded citizens approached the Yancey Baptist Association at their meeting in August 1899 with the determination to build a high school sponsored by the Baptist Church in the county. One minister speaking in support of the Baptist school pronounced: "Now, if we do not go ahead and do something and do it quickly, these hellish Presbyterians are going to take this country." The idea was approved and the board of trustees—including Mr. Watson—was given the power to select a site and construct a school for the Baptist Association. The aim of school would be to offer secondary education of the highest quality and instill the values of a Christian education in its students.<sup>20</sup>

The lack of financial resources to fund the construction of the necessary buildings presented the biggest challenge to establishing the school. Dr. A. E. Brown, superintendent of the Mountain School Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, came to Burnsville in 1900 to offer assistance and help solicit financing for the school. County residents contributed a small amount, but the majority of the funding for construction and maintenance came from the Baptist Home Mission Board. Samuel and Jennie Bennett, successful farmers and prominent landowners, donated two acres for the school in 1900. The deed for the property stipulated that a building costing at least three thousand dollars should be erected on the property, which was to be used for school and religious purposes. If the property should

<sup>19</sup> Hunter 1999, 15; and *Images of Yancey*, 67.

<sup>20</sup> Quoted in Hutchins, 10. Hunter 1952, 24-25; and Hutchins, 9, 22-23.

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cease to be used for these purposes for five years, then the property would revert to Mr. S. M. Bennett or his heirs.<sup>21</sup>

The YCI opened for its first school session on September 9, 1901. The original administration and classroom building was the only building completed when the school opened. Built at a cost of \$4,252.72, the two-story pebbledash structure housed all of the school's functions those first years. Roswell E. Flack, despite his youth, ably served as principal the first year and was aided by two other teachers, Lydia Passmore and Florence McPeters. The first two students to enroll in the new school, James Hutchins and Joe Letterman, were also the first to graduate in 1906.<sup>22</sup>

E. E. Hawkins became principal of the YCI in 1902 and served until 1916. Under his direction, the school continued to grow, especially its facilities. Hawkins, a Madison County native and former principal of Burnsville Academy, began his tenure by eliminating the debt remaining on the Administration Building. In 1905 funds were raised for a girls' dormitory. The Watson Home for Girls stood to the south of the Administration Building (where the Board of Education offices are now located) and was named in honor of its chief benefactor, Mr. E. F. Watson. Two years later, in 1907, Dr. Brown secured funds from the State Mission Board for the Annie Armstrong Annex to the girls' dormitory. The Bennett Home for Boys, located to the west of the Administration Building, was erected in 1908 and named in honor of the Bennetts, who gave the land for the school. The Bennett Home for Boys, which was located west of the Administration Building, no longer stands. In 1914, the Home Mission Board contributed half of the \$4,000 cost of the Brown Dormitory for Boys, which stood to the northwest of the Administration Building on a lot purchased from Mrs. L. J. Carter. A new girl's dormitory was completed in 1916 and included a dining room for the whole student body, which ranged from 150 to 300 students during the years when Hawkins was principal. Although the majority of students were local boys who lived within walking distance of the school, the student population consisted of boys and girls from Yancey and the surrounding counties. Through Hawkins' direction the YCI earned a reputation as one of the finest private schools in the mountain region.<sup>23</sup>

On November 11, 1918, the original Administration Building burned to the ground. All records and the well-equipped library were consumed by the fire. Despite the loss, classes continued to meet in the Bennett Home, which was modified into classrooms. A new structure was constructed and placed into service the following year. Built at a cost of \$43,000, the second Administration Building contained

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<sup>21</sup> Hunter 1952, 25-28; and Hutchins, 10-12, 22-23.

<sup>22</sup> Hunter 1952, 28-33; and Hutchins, 12, 14.

<sup>23</sup> Hunter 1952, 34-39, 41-42; Hunter 1999, 10; and Hutchins, 12, 14-16.

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twelve classrooms, two society halls, two music studios, a study hall, and a large auditorium, and it was equipped with steam heat and electric lights.<sup>24</sup>

Entering into the 1920s, the YCI seemed to be prospering with a new Administration Building. New principal Isaac N. Carr (1920-23) increased enrollment, expanded curriculum, and achieved accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In 1922, however, the second Administration Building partially burned, and again the school's records were lost and the library and furniture destroyed. The school rebuilt the structure using the existing foundations and exterior walls. The second fire ultimately contributed to the closing of the YCI, which suffered financial problems throughout its existence. Growing debt and competition from state-funded public high schools led finally to its termination.<sup>25</sup> In 1925, the board of trustees decided to close the school and sold the facility to the county's public school system. Yancey County Board of Education purchased the entire school property for \$65,000 though it was worth more than \$105,000. Transferring the property to the county school system ensured that the property met the provisions of the Bennetts original deed stating that the land would always be used for religious or educational purposes. The YCI remained open during the 1925-26 academic term, and in the fall of 1926, the Administration Building was reopened as Burnsville High School.<sup>26</sup>

The acquisition of the YCI campus by the Board of Education provided the county with its only brick high school building. While the high school occupied the Administration Building, elementary classes were held in the Brown Dormitory for Boys. Beginning in 1935, the superintendent of county schools, James Hutchins, informed the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of his concerns about the condition of the county's five high schools. Hutchins wrote: "I think it is generally conceded that we have the poorest school buildings in any county in the State." Hutchins also notified the state superintendent that an application for WPA funding to erect four schools had been approved. The new schools, constructed of stone, at Bald Creek, Bee Log, Clearmont, and Micaville replaced earlier wooden buildings in the same communities and were completed in 1938. A fifth new high school—Burnsville—was still under construction in November 1939. With the completion of Burnsville High School, students moved across the street to their new facility and the elementary school relocated from the Brown Dormitory for Boys to the Administration Building.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Hunter 1952, 71-73; and Hutchins, 12.

<sup>25</sup> Hunter 1952, 74-78, 82-83; and Hutchins, 18-20.

<sup>26</sup> Hunter 1952, 89-92.

<sup>27</sup> Lloyd Richard Bailey, Sr., ed. *The Heritage of the Toe River Valley, Volume II, 1997* (Durham, NC: Lloyd Richard Bailey, 1997), 101. Hunter 1952, 97-92.

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After the construction of a new gym for Burnsville High School in 1947, the old gymnasium, built in 1933, was renovated for use as a theater by the Burnsville Playhouse, Inc. and School of Dramatic Arts, a non-profit organization formed to establish and operate a permanent local theater. The local drama group, the Burnsville Little Theatre, remained active through the 1930s and into the 1940s under the leadership of Rush T. Wray, a local businessman who acted in and directed productions for the group. In 1945 Wray contacted Professor William Raymond Taylor, head of the drama department at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, to explore the idea of establishing a summer theater as an extension of the university's drama programs. Professor Taylor was receptive to the idea and with the full support of the university and a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, the summer playhouse and drama school were established in 1947.<sup>28</sup>

W. T. Chichester, technical director for the drama department at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, directed the renovation of the old gymnasium into a theater. Using manpower provided by the Veterans Administration, the building was fitted with a stage 35-feet deep, 50-feet wide, and 60-feet high; a large backstage area, lobby, box office, and restrooms. The auditorium held seating for 400, and the stage house was fitted with the best technical equipment available, including counterweight rigging and a standard switchboard deck.<sup>29</sup>

The Parkway Playhouse joined an increasing number of summer stock theaters on what was commonly known as the "Straw Hat Circuit," a reference to the seasonal nature of summer theater. Summer stock theater provided both a training ground for new actors and an opportunity for established actors to practice their craft in a less competitive and less formal atmosphere away from Broadway. With many of the summer playhouses located in the resorts of New England, as well as small towns throughout the South and Midwest, summer stock theater also provided actors with a chance to escape the heat of summer in New York City.

The theater opened its first season with a production of "Claudia," a romantic comedy, followed by Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" and Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit," all directed by Professor Taylor. The casts were made up of students attending the summer drama classes and local acting enthusiasts. W. C. "Mutt" Burton, a columnist for the *Greensboro Daily News* starred as the Stage Manager in the production of "Our Town" and began a 35-year association with the Parkway Playhouse, where he was a beloved performer. Taylor selected Gordon R. Bennett, a graduate student in drama at the University of

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<sup>28</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 1-4.

<sup>29</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 4-5.

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North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to serve as technical director and scene designer. Hilmar Sallee, an assistant professor of drama at the University of Miami, taught classes for the summer program. Through these two individuals the Parkway Playhouse enjoyed a long and beneficial relationship with the two respective universities, which provided key personnel and financial support over the years.<sup>30</sup>

Taylor did not return to Burnsville after the 1951 season. Changes in the administration at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (WCUNC) forced his decision not to return. Gordon Bennett, who was serving as associate director of the Ring Theater (University of Miami), accepted an interim position as head of the drama department at the Parkway Playhouse. In early 1954, when WCUNC ended its sponsorship of the theater and drama program in Burnsville, the Parkway Playhouse Board of Directors asked Bennett to return as managing director of the whole organization. Bennett accepted and began to develop an academic and financial relationship with the University of Miami. By 1956, Bennett had established the Parkway Playhouse as one of the leading summer stock theaters in the Southeast and achieved financial independence from the university.<sup>31</sup>

The Parkway Playhouse not only occupied the old gymnasium, which housed its theater, but also utilized the YCI Administration Building for drama classes and the Brown Dormitory for Boys for housing. Around 1950, Gordon Bennett, technical director of the Playhouse from 1948 to 1952, began overseeing the construction of a stone retaining wall, terrace, outdoor fireplace, and amphitheater on the grounds of the Parkway Playhouse. The landscape features provided informal gathering places outside the auditorium and the outdoor theater was first used for a production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1952.<sup>32</sup>

*Architecture Context*

The architectural development of Yancey County reflects many of the common building patterns found in the mountainous counties of western North Carolina. The rugged terrain and rich river bottomlands generally dictated where early settlers established their farms, and over time the relative isolation of the area resulted in a landscape dotted with small subsistence farmsteads. Though the county was established early in the nineteenth century and the county seat laid out in 1834 around a public square, a lack of major transportation routes prohibited extensive growth and development in Burnsville, the only major town in Yancey County. The many communities located throughout the county were often built

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<sup>30</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 4-10.

<sup>31</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 17-19 & 24-30.

<sup>32</sup> E. Bailey 1996, 9, 12-20.

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around a school, churches, general stores, or perhaps—as in the case of Micaville—an industrial enterprise. The predominant architecture of the county, therefore, are the many rural farmhouses and farmsteads found throughout the landscape.

Charles Dudley Warner traveled through Burnsville in 1887 and his published account, *On Horseback* (1888), contained a lengthy description of the community:

The country about Burnsville is not only picturesque, but very pleasing. Burnsville, the county-seat of Yancey...is more like a New England village than any hitherto seen. Most of the houses stand about a square, which contains the shabby courthouse; around it are two small churches, a jail, an inviting tavern with a long veranda, and a couple of stores.<sup>33</sup>

The first two courthouses were located on the square, which has been an open green since 1908 when a new courthouse was erected at the southwest corner of the square. The two-story Neoclassical Revival style courthouse (NR) now serves as the town hall. The tavern Warner refers to is Ray's Inn, a rambling antebellum hotel, owned and operated by G. D. and Elizabeth Ray. The Ray's oldest daughter, Julia, married William Wray of Shelby, bought out her siblings' interest in the business, and renovated and enlarged the inn, which reopened as the Nu-Wray Inn (NR) in 1915. The Colonial Revival-style inn remains one of the principal landmarks on the square. Another prominent commercial building situated on the square is the former Citizens Bank Building (NR), a three-story, yellow-brick Neoclassical style building erected in 1925. Civic and commercial buildings continue to be concentrated on the square, including the present county courthouse built in 1965.<sup>34</sup>

The earliest schools were held in available structures constructed of log or frame in the nineteenth century. The first public schools were typically one or two-room buildings constructed of frame. The poor condition of the county's public school prompted the building campaign of the 1930s funded in part by the Works Progress Administration. The five native stone buildings originally served high school students and continue to operate as part of the county's public system. The addition of newer school buildings since the 1950s has continued to consolidate the secondary schools while the older buildings are passed to the lower grades.

The first private schools built brick buildings including the two-story Burnsville Academy building and the administration and classroom building of the Stanley McCormick School (neither

<sup>33</sup> Excerpted in L. Bailey 1997, 70.

<sup>34</sup> Bishir, Southern, and Martin, 239-40.

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building survives). Burnsville Academy was constructed in the 1850s with locally-fired, handmade brick, but no visible evidence of the school remains. The McCormick School consisted of a moderate size campus with brick, pebbledash, and frame buildings. Brick from the administration building was used in other structures around Burnsville after the building was dismantled. The foundation of a dormitory and two surviving structures associated with the McCormick School are all that remain its campus. A two-story frame house that was once the president's home has been covered with vinyl siding and the dining hall and "commons" building have been converted to a Masonic lodge.<sup>35</sup>

Aside from the public and commercial buildings on the town square, the Yancey Collegiate Institute's administration building is one of the finest, most imposing historic structures in the county. The design of the building conveys the importance of institutions of higher education during the early twentieth century and through its formal architecture and prominent site evokes a dignity befitting its function. The Brown Dormitory for Boys, the only other surviving structure associated with the YCI, is rendered in a less formal, more rustic style appropriate for its use as a residence hall. The less monumental scale and materials connect the building to other examples of domestic architecture. The five schools of native stone constructed by the WPA—including Burnsville High School—and their associated buildings still stand and most continue to operate as elementary schools—Bald Creek, Bee Log, Clearmont, and Micaville. The stone construction provides a link between the high school and numerous other schools built by the WPA throughout western North Carolina, where the mountains offer an abundant supply of natural materials. The straightforward design and rustic character of the structure adheres to the building traditions of the rural mountain areas. The secondary buildings—including the two gymnasiums—are appropriately plain and utilitarian in style and materials.

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<sup>35</sup> Mitzi Presnell, "Yancey County" (Report, NC Office of Archives and History Western Office, Asheville, n.d.).

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### Section 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Yancey Collegiate Institute Historic District is delineated on the accompanying aerial map provided by the Yancey County Mapping Department. The boundary generally follows property lines surrounding the contributing resources except to the south and east of the Burnsville High School, where the boundary follows a gravel driveway and retaining wall that separate historic school buildings from two new maintenance buildings erected in the early twenty-first century. These new maintenance buildings were built on the site of the baseball field, which appears on the accompanying map.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Yancey Collegiate Institute Historic District is delineated to contain the surviving buildings and grounds associated with the former Yancey Collegiate Institute. The boundary also includes two gymnasiums built after the campus was sold to the Yancey County Board of Education for use as a public high school, stone retaining walls, terraces, outdoor theater, and the WPA-era Burnsville High School and two supporting buildings. The boundary encompasses all of the existing education-related buildings with the exception of two school bus maintenance facilities dating from the late-twentieth century and early twenty-first century.

#### Owner List

Yancey County (Ms. Michelle Lawhern, County Manager)  
Courthouse, Rm. 11  
Burnsville, NC 28714  
(828) 682-3971

Yancey County Board of Education  
100 School Drive  
Burnsville, NC 28714  
(828) 682-6101

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### Photographs

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Clay Griffith, photographer

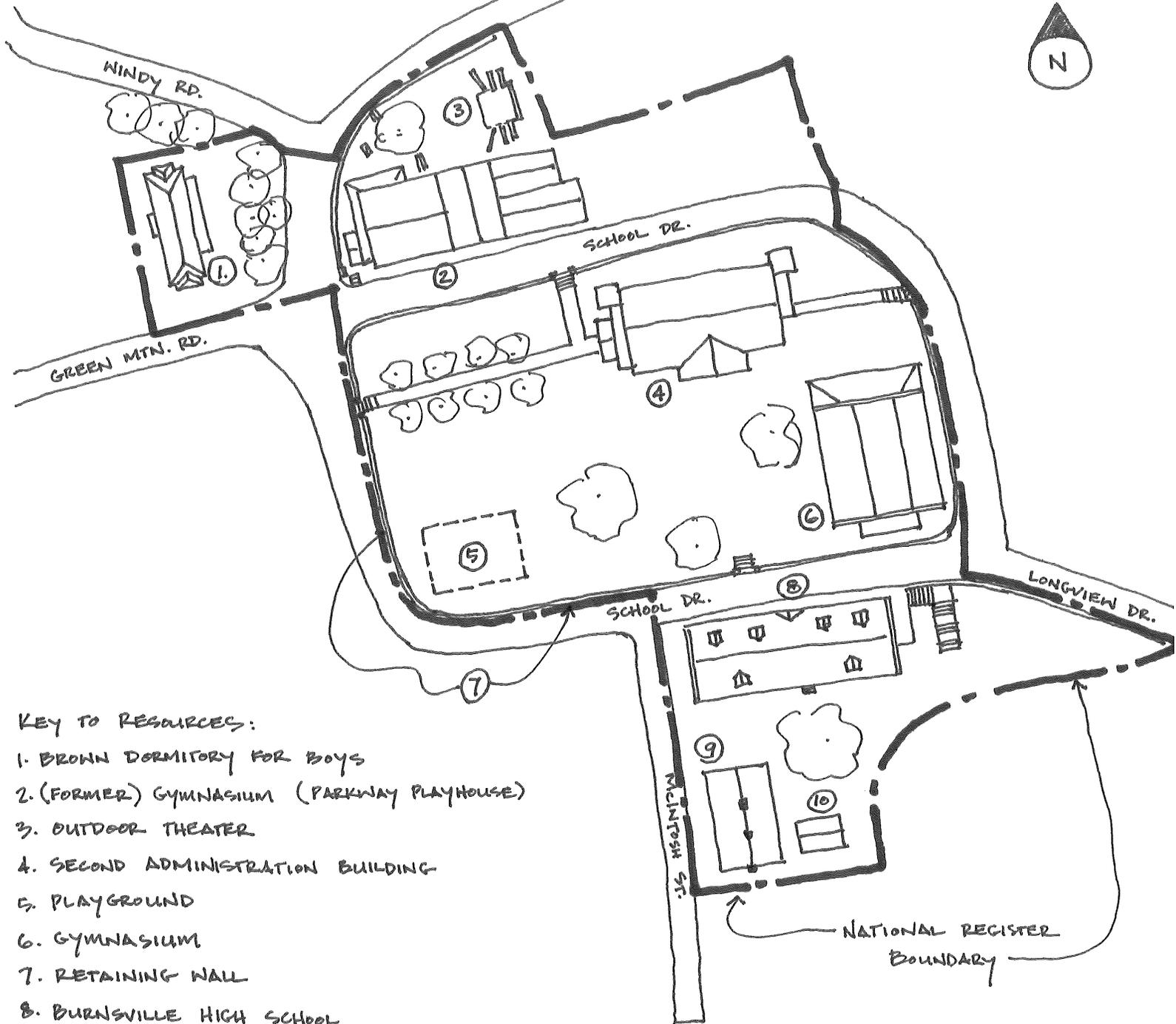
November 2002 & June 2003

Negatives are housed at the North Carolina Office of Archives and History Western Office, 1 Village Ln., Suite 3, Asheville, NC 28803

1. Second Administration Building, June 2003. Front (south) façade, view to northeast.
2. Brown Dormitory for Boys, November 2002. Oblique view to northeast.
3. (former) Gymnasium (Parkway Playhouse), November 2002. Front (west) façade, view to east.
4. Outdoor theater, November 2002. Overall view to northeast.
5. Playground, November 2002. Overall view to southwest.
6. Gymnasium, November 2002. Oblique view to northeast.
7. Burnsville High School, June 2003. Front (north) façade, view to southeast.



SCALE: 1" = 100' (APPROX.)

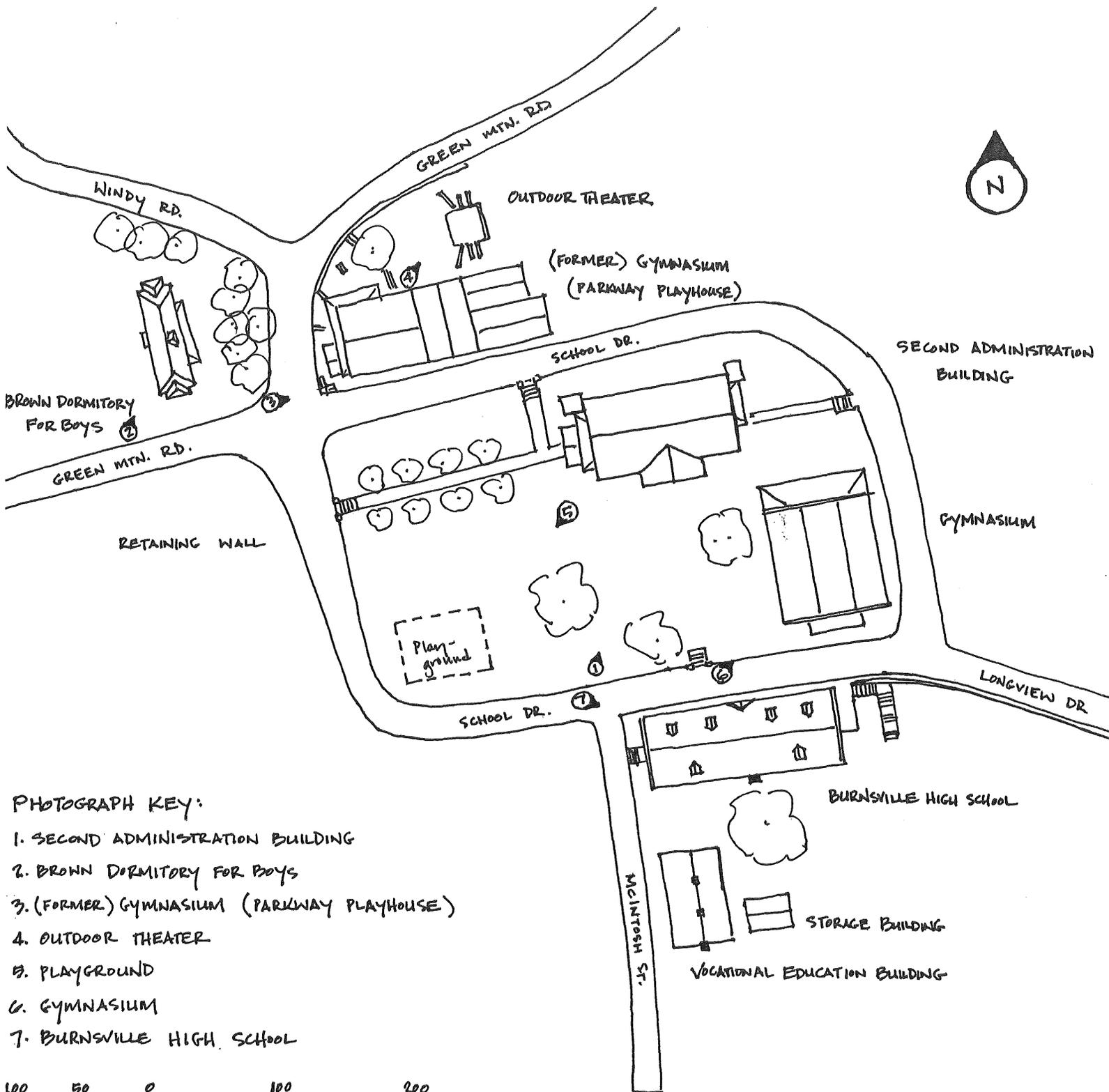


KEY TO RESOURCES:

- 1. BROWN DORMITORY FOR BOYS
- 2. (FORMER) GYMNASIUM (PARKWAY PLAYHOUSE)
- 3. OUTDOOR THEATER
- 4. SECOND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- 5. PLAYGROUND
- 6. GYMNASIUM
- 7. RETAINING WALL
- 8. BURNSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
- 9. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BUILDING
- 10. STORAGE BUILDING

YANCEY COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 BURNSVILLE, YANCEY CO., NC

SKETCH MAP



PHOTOGRAPH KEY:

- 1. SECOND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- 2. BROWN DORMITORY FOR BOYS
- 3. (FORMER) GYMNASIUM (PARKWAY PLAYHOUSE)
- 4. OUTDOOR THEATER
- 5. PLAYGROUND
- 6. GYMNASIUM
- 7. BURNSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



SCALE: 1" = 100' (APPROX.)

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 SKETCH MAP / PHOTOGRAPH KEY

