

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Roberts Hall

High Point, Guilford County, GF9179, Listed 08/11/2025

Nomination by Samantha Stewart and Rebecca Barefoot, Gate City Preservation L.L.C.

Photographs by Samantha Stewart, April 2024



Setting of Roberts Hall and ceremonial lawn facing west.



Roberts Hall main lobby facing southeast.

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Roberts Hall

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 933 Roberts Hall Lane

City or town: High Point State: North Carolina County: Guilford

Not For Publication: ☐ N/A

Vicinity: ☐ N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D



Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☒

District ☐

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/college

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/college

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Georgian Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: **BRICK, WOOD, STUCCO, ASPHALT, METAL**

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Roberts Hall, the flagship building of High Point College (now University), is a two-story, Georgian Revival, Flemish bond brick building with a raised basement and attic. The building's predominant features are a pedimented portico centered on the main, seventeen-bay wide façade and a massive clock tower. Constructed from 1922 to 1924, Roberts Hall displays elements of its Georgian Revival design in its portico with Corinthian columns and a pediment with modillions and decorative tympanum. The multi-tiered clock tower with belfry and spire contribute to the building's imposing stature. Located on a slight rise, Roberts Hall is fronted by a ceremonial lawn. In the early years of High Point College, Roberts Hall housed all operations, other than dormitories, including the library, auditorium, bookstore, kitchen, classrooms, laboratories, and offices. Presently, the building's primary uses are for offices and administration, for which extensive alterations to the interior were made.

Narrative Description

Standing tall at the center of the core, historic campus, Roberts Hall is distinguished from other buildings due to its location and monumental massing. To the north is McEwen Hall, originally Women's Hall, which now connects via a rear hyphen to Yadkin Hall (1964), and to the east is Wrenn Memorial Library (1937). Newer campus buildings, also constructed in the Georgian Revival style to mimic historic buildings on campus, stand to the south and west. Behind Roberts Hall is a large brick patio with seating, bronze statues, and a reflection pool (2014). The expansive ceremonial lawn fronting Roberts Hall, a feature of the campus landscape and location of commencement each year, enhances the building's grandeur and is important to the setting of Roberts Hall. It is separated from Roberts Hall by a portion of the main entrance drive, Roberts Hall Lane, and is now largely defined by a brick walkway in the shape of an oval.

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Roberts Hall is a two-story on raised basement, concrete-block masonry building veneered in Flemish bond brickwork.¹ The main, southeast façade is seventeen bays wide with the center five bays fronted by a monumental, pedimented portico accentuated by a clock tower that rises from the gabled roof behind the portico. A flight of brick steps rises to the portico featuring six Corinthian columns, a Corinthian pilaster at each end, and a pediment embellished with modillions. A multi-paned circular window centered in the stuccoed tympanum is surrounded by painted ornament consisting of a shield above and to each side a larger shield pierced by a sword, battle axe, and torch flanked by a winding ribbon. The main entrance is an elaborate composition at the center three bays comprising double doors topped by a fanlight and flanked by large eight-over-twelve double-hung sash windows, all of which is framed by Corinthian pilasters at the windows and Corinthian half-columns at the doors. Above the windows there is plain entablature bearing the name *Roberts* in applied bronze letters and topped by urns, while a tall broken pediment tops the entablature above the doors.

Centered above the portico, the multi-story clock tower rises in five stages as the building's dominant feature. Perhaps inspired by Independence Hall, the tower is massive in both scale and weightiness, with the bottom three stages constructed in solid brick. The base is four-sided with a frame cornice. The second stage is the most elaborate, featuring digital clock faces on all sides. Installed by the university in 2005, these digital clock faces were placed inside the circular window openings of the original design.² The clock faces are surrounded by Doric columns and inset pilasters and topped by a highly dimensional molded cornice. The third stage is octagonal, plain brick with a molded cornice. The fourth stage is the frame of the eight-sided belfry with a tall, round-arched opening on each side. Above the belfry's modillioned cornice, an eight-sided steeple topped by a weathervane featuring the "lamp of learning" comprises the fifth stage. In 1991, the steeple was rebuilt to match the original (Exhibit A).

On all sides of the building, the two primary stories feature large double-hung wood windows, twelve-over-twelve at the first story and eight-over-twelve at the second story, except at the portico where the second-story windows are six-over six with a single twelve-pane sash above the doors. All are framed by molded surrounds and sills, which were replaced in kind in 1991, except for those sheltered by the portico. Also in 1991, certain windows were replaced with double-glazed sash retaining the historic muntin pattern.³ The window surrounds on the main façade include a simple keystone. A stone water table runs above the raised basement, which features eight-over-eight double-hung windows.

The asphalt shingle roof is highlighted by rounded attic dormers and a modillioned cornice that runs around the entire building. The rounded attic dormers contribute to the symmetry of the

¹ Architectural drawings describe the raised basement as the first story, but for the purposes of this nomination the first story is the level containing the main entrance.

² Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point, North Carolina* (South Carolina: History Press, 2008), 227.

³ Architectural drawings from 1991 note that the window sash in the south gable was replaced to match in kind. Elsewhere, some window sashes and jambs throughout were replaced, but matched historic materials, sizes, and profiles. Two rounded window sashes on the attic's rear elevation were removed and replaced with new wood louver detail.

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building, with four on each side of the front entrance portico and four symmetrically positioned on the rear of the building.

The north and south elevations of the building are identical, each three bays topped by the modillioned pediment with a fanlight centered in the brick-faced tympanum. A flight of stone steps leads to a landing at the water table and an entrance framed in wood by a pedimented Tuscan portico. Both the entrance entablature, bearing the name *Roberts* in applied brass letters, and the pediment are denticulated. The entrance consists of a single door of nine lights above a raised panel that is flanked on one side by three lights above a raised panel. The door and sidelights are topped by a rectangular transom with a decorative muntin pattern.

The rear (west) elevation of Roberts Hall is almost as stately as its façade. Also seventeen bays wide and highly symmetrical, it features two slightly projecting pavilions near each end that are pedimented in the same manner as the narrow end elevations. At the center of the rear elevation, in line with the base of the clock tower, three bays consist of a double window flanking a single window at the first and second stories. Flanking the central windows are two windows to each side that are at staggered heights, with the windows closer to the center at a lower height that pierces the water table, marking interior staircases. Beyond these are the pedimented pavilions. As noted above, on this side of the building there are only four attic dormers, one on each side of each pavilion. The only element that breaks the symmetry is a narrow brick flue that rises south of the central windows as a pilaster that penetrates the modillioned cornice.

As designed, Roberts Hall originally accommodated classrooms, offices, and meeting spaces (Exhibits B-D). Stairwells and restrooms flanking the building's central area and the central reception area remain in their original configurations. Renovations, particularly in 1991, made significant changes to floor plans and finishes as the building became devoted exclusively to administrative services. Areas retaining the highest degree of integrity are the main entrance lobby, the second floor, and the clock tower access. The main entrance has retained its large, central, rectangular lobby with three archways at the rear opening into a central corridor running north-south (Exhibit E).

The basement and first floor originally had the same general plan of rooms on a double-loaded corridor. In the basement, there were classrooms of various sizes on both sides of the central corridor as well as storage and mechanical rooms (Exhibit F and G). In 1991, these spaces were subdivided to create reception areas and offices. On the first floor, offices and waiting, reception, and conference rooms, as well as a vault and storage rooms, lined the corridor extending in both directions behind the lobby. The 1991 renovation altered the lobby on the first floor by adding a second set of arches, pilasters, and entablature framing a large, fixed reception desk; installing elevators; and converting rectilinear openings for each corridor into archways.

On the second floor, the general plan was the same with a central corridor and large rectangular central room for a board room, foyer, and lounge above the first-floor lobby. Like the other floors, the two stairwells with bathrooms on either side flanked this central zone. Along the

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corridor, smaller offices, reception areas, conference rooms, large print room, and file storage areas were aligned along the west and east sides of the corridors stretching from south to north. This plan has been altered to create a suite of offices for the High Point University School of Law Administrative Department, although the central corridor remains. As seen in a photograph labeled "Art Class" (Exhibit H) the spire access located in the center of the attic was used as a classroom. The stairs pictured behind the students lead to the bell tower.

In addition to changes to floor plans, the 1991 renovations altered finishes throughout the building. Drop ceilings with acoustical tiles and fluorescent lighting were installed along all corridors and office spaces in the basement and first floor. Original ceiling heights with decorative wood paneling have been retained in the main entrance lobby on the first floor and throughout the second floor, along with doors, moldings, baseboards, and window surrounds. New tile and carpet replaced any existing flooring. In each corridor, transom windows above office and stairwell doors were enclosed with wood. In the basement, large windows with frosted glass open to each reception area, in contrast to the clear glass used in the reception and offices areas of the first and second floors. Although these are modern additions designed to break up the large classroom spaces, they were done in a way that was compatible with the existing reception/office configuration on the first and second floors, which are similar in design but utilize clear glass panes. Office doors are wood as are the windows and window surrounds. The stairwells have been retained as have their railings, but their flooring has been replaced or covered with modern carpet and rubber stair treads. The interior spaces that possess the highest integrity of materials and finishes of the original design are the main entrance lobby, the second floor, and the attic spire access.

Integrity Assessment

Roberts Hall remains in its original location. The monumental feeling of the building as an important place of learning has been retained by the building's central location, the expansive front lawn, and the construction of newer buildings surrounding Roberts Hall in the Georgian Revival style, which enhance the integrity of feeling. The collegiate setting has changed since the building's initial construction as High Point College grew into High Point University and additional buildings were constructed on campus. However, the buildings directly surrounding the Georgian Revival-style Roberts Hall were designed in the Georgian Revival style and are harmonious. The ceremonial lawn in front of the building has also been retained and contributes to the setting's integrity.

The exterior of Roberts Hall, with its wood windows and louvers, grand bell tower, and monumental pedimented portico, retains historically appropriate materials and possesses a good degree of integrity despite a significant refurbishment in 1991; however, the interior of the building has been significantly altered in both the floor plan and material finishes throughout all three floors, resulting in a low degree of integrity on most interior spaces. Interior areas retaining the most integrity in design include the double-loaded corridors, attic, and clock tower. Areas

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retaining the most integrity in materials include the main entrance lobby, second floor, and attic spire access.

Although there have been substantial alterations over time, the strength of the setting and integrity of the building's exterior features and finishes still convey its historic association as a place of higher learning and education. Interior integrity issues are mediated by Roberts Hall's symbolic standing as the university's premier, landmark building. The building remains a focus of High Point University's campus and is home to the President's office and other administrative offices. Although its current use is no longer primarily classrooms, its relationship to pedagogy is retained as it houses multiple programs which are involved in curriculum development and institutional goals.

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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.)

- ☒ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1924 - 1974

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Hunter, Herbert Bernard, architect

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Following the completion of Roberts Hall at the end of 1923, High Point College opened in September 1924. Roberts Hall is locally significant under Criterion A for Education because it represents High Point's participation in the statewide trend extending from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century to bring institutions of higher learning for cultural as well as economic enhancement of their communities. In the case of High Point, the collaboration was between the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference and the City of High Point, the first known example in North Carolina of a municipality contributing funding and land to successfully establish a private collegiate institution. Roberts Hall originally housed all campus operations and functional uses, other than dormitories, including the auditorium, library, dining room, classrooms, laboratories, and all administrative offices. Constructed during a period of significant municipal development in High Point, the college has had a substantial, long-range economic impact on the city as a whole. Roberts Hall also meets Criteria Consideration A because it derives its primary significance from historical importance despite having been built by the Methodist Protestant Church, today the United Methodist Church with which the university remains affiliated. The period of significance is 1924 to 1974. Roberts Hall continued to serve multiple purposes, including classrooms and administrative offices until the 1990s, but its educational significance is not exceptional after 1974. High Point University still uses Roberts Hall as an administrative building and holds commencement on the ceremonial lawn that fronts the building.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Methodist Protestant Church's Desire to Establish a College

The historical background of Roberts Hall begins in 1830 with the establishment of the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference, a reformed sect of American Episcopal Methodism. The division in Methodism occurred over split views of enslavement and the bishops' influence and jurisdiction over local preachers that they excluded from the conferences.⁴ The North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference sought to establish its own four-year college in the state beginning in 1848 with the following resolution, "Whereas a literary institution is very much needed by this conference to afford to parents and this and other districts a place to educate their children and to afford young men who are candidates for the ministry a place of instruction."⁵ There were other Methodist colleges and universities in the state during this time,

⁴ Paul Strayer Kennett, *The Methodist Protestant Church in North Carolina* (New Jersey: Drew University Methodist Library, 1927), 1 – 14, accessed February 20, 2023, <https://archive.org/details/methodistprotest00paul/page/n55/mode/1up>.

⁵ Kennett, *The Methodist Protestant Church in North Carolina*, p. 24.

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however, the following were founded and or managed by the Methodist Episcopal sect, not the Methodist Protestant sect: Davidson College founded in 1837, Trinity College (now Duke University) in 1838 in Trinity, Greensboro College in 1838, Bennett College in 1873 in Greensboro, and Oberlin Home and School (now Pfeiffer University) in Misenheimer in 1903. High Point College is the only successful higher learning institution established by the Methodist Protestant sect in the state of North Carolina. In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church united as the Methodist Church.

The Methodist Protestant Conference tried to establish the Yadkin Institute and the Jamestown Female Seminary before their success with High Point College. By November 1854, the President of the Conference and traveling preachers began asking for donations to build the Yadkin Institute in Davidson County. In November 1856 construction on Yadkin Institute was completed and George W. Hege led instruction. In 1861, the Conference incorporated the Yadkin Institute school as a college. The Civil War drained the campus of its student body to the Confederate Army and the school closed during the war.⁶ The College reopened in 1872 under Rev. Shadrack Simpson, and in 1881 constructed a new three-story brick building. However, Simpson resigned his position in 1883 to teach at Western Maryland College; and Yadkin reverted to a high school.⁷ The school closed in the 1920s as the State of North Carolina began constructing new high schools.⁸

In 1857, the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference selected Jamestown, North Carolina, for a Female Academy due to availability of land and a \$2,000 donation from George C. Mendenhall.⁹ The Conference was mindful of competing nearby women's colleges such as Salem College, Guilford College, Blandwood College in Greensboro, and the Methodist Episcopal Church's Greensboro College.¹⁰ Jamestown Female College opened in 1859 with one building "eighty-four by fifty feet and four stories high," and provisions to establish a library. The school was short-lived when a lit candle sparked into a building fire in 1861.¹¹

The Conference had a record of donating scholarship funds to students at out-of-state Methodist Protestant colleges, such as Madison College in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. The Civil War brought a brief pause in educational funding discussions.¹² By 1920, the faith sponsored Adrian College in Michigan, Kansas City University, Western Maryland College, Westminster Seminary in Maryland, and the two-year Westminster College in Texas. Church leaders at the national level "believed that the addition of yet another

⁶ Kennett, p. 27.

⁷ Virginia G. Fick, *Country College on the Yadkin: A Historical Narrative* (Winston-Salem, NC: History Division Hunter Publishing Company, 1984), 22.

⁸ Kennett, 39.

⁹ Kennett, 29.

¹⁰ Kennett, 28.

¹¹ "Jamestown Female College," The Historical Marker Database, last revised June 19, 2021, accessed March 26, 2024, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=175464>.

¹² Kennett, 31-32.

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institution of higher education would strengthen all of their programs.”¹³ Financial support did not come easy; instead, there was a multi-decade struggle to fundraise and establish a college in the Piedmont of North Carolina.

Church elder Reverend Joseph Flavius McCulloch used publications to garner and fundraise for a new college. McCulloch was a native of Guilford County and a graduate and later the president of Adrian College, a Methodist Protestant institution in Michigan. McCulloch left in order to build a new Methodist Protestant college.¹⁴ His first attempts in North Carolina included addressing the Annual Conference in LaGrange in 1893.¹⁵ He then presented three sites in Greensboro, and the conference authorized a committee to consider the locations. However, McCulloch’s absence for the year he served in West Virginia as a pastor allowed the committee to abandon the effort. McCulloch proposed creating a newspaper for the sole purpose of raising awareness and funding for the college. The Conference accepted his proposal, and he started *Our Church Record* in November 1894, then renamed it the *Methodist Protestant Herald* in 1910.¹⁶ The newspaper was key to keeping awareness of the school project within the congregation and asking for donations.

John Calvin Roberts posthumously granted the first major contribution to the future college fund. Roberts was one of the original founders of the Yadkin Institute and the namesake of future Roberts Hall. When he died in August 1909, he left a bequest of \$10,000 on the condition that the college should be ready for operation by 1920.¹⁷ Although the prospective \$10,000 encouraged the Board of Education’s fundraising campaign, they were unable to raise enough funds to begin construction of the college by 1920 and the money turned into a trust for student ministerial education at High Point College.

Municipal Investment in a Private College

Before High Point secured the location of the new college, the cities of Greensboro, Burlington, Graham, and Henderson competed to attract the school. The *Greensboro Patriot* reported on December 17, 1902, that a denominational college was attractive to Greensboro’s development as an educational center and Mayor Osborn was hosting a public meeting to attract donations and interest from his citizens.¹⁸ McCulloch claimed the establishment of a college “will be of material advantage in swelling the volume of every kind of business, in advancing and holding up the price of real estate, and in saving to those who choose to patronize it the cost of sending away to college.”¹⁹ By February 1903, the city of Greensboro promised \$10,000, but this was not

¹³ Richard B. McCaslin, *Remembered Be Thy Blessings: High Point University — The College Years, 1924 – 1991* (High Point, NC: High Point University, 1995), 11.

¹⁴ McCaslin, 9.

¹⁵ Locke, 16.

¹⁶ McCaslin, 9-10.

¹⁷ Kennett, 47.

¹⁸ “Another College Available,” *The Greensboro Patriot*, December 17, 1902, accessed February 19, 2024, *North Carolina Newspapers*, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn84026473/1902-12-17/ed-1/seq-1/>.

¹⁹ J.F. McCulloch “McCulloch’s letters,” *The Greensboro Patriot*, December 24, 1902, accessed February 19, 2024, *North Carolina Newspapers*, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn84026473/1902-12-24/ed-1/seq-8/>.

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sufficient, and the people of Henderson were attempting to pledge up to \$15,000. McCulloch argued the college would create an economic boost for local farmers who would have an increased demand for their products.²⁰ By February 28, 1921, we see in the *High Point Enterprise* the competition between cities continued, and in High Point, “every fraternal order, every civic and commercial organization” were gathered for a meeting to fundraise.²¹ That meeting also did not reach the funding target. In the April 7, 1921, edition of *The High Point Enterprise* reported that Burlington was proposing to fundraise \$200,000 and had two sites as options for the campus.

The turning point came when Methodist philanthropist J. Norman Wills offered to donate \$100,000 on the condition that other donors raise an added \$300,000. In response to this challenge, the City of High Point offered to contribute 60 acres of land and \$100,000 towards construction if the Conference choose their city. Since 1884, the Methodist Protestant Church was a part of High Point’s religious landscape, and it was clear that the church member citizens wanted a Methodist Protestant college in their city by the investment and fundraising that followed the City’s offer of land and funds.²²

On May 20, 1921, High Point citizens made a final plea to the visiting Methodist Protestant committee surveying the donated land. The “several hundred citizens and the Elks band” paraded through the city “driving by nearly 4,000 school children who stood on the side of the street, waving flags and showing the educators that High Point ‘wants and must have the college.’”²³ In the same *High Point Enterprise* article there is mention of a recent school bonds election to support the construction of a college. The pleas and speeches were finally successful as seen in the next day’s publication “Vote of Board is Unanimously for Furniture City.” The article stated the Conference would launch another fundraiser on June 5th and then construction would begin. Reverend George R. Brown of the First Methodist Protestant Church in High Point claimed it was not the church that led to this success, rather, “The chamber of commerce, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs learned that a movement had been launched to have the college established here and these organization came in and expressed a desire to help.”²⁴

Designing Roberts Hall

The Methodist Protestant Conference’s Committee on Ways and Means suggested the starting construction cost for the buildings would be \$75,000.²⁵ In March 1922, the High Point Board of

²⁰ J.F. McCulloch, “To the People of Guilford County,” *The Greensboro Patriot*, February 11, 1903, accessed February 19, 2024, *North Carolina Newspapers*, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn84026473/1903-02-11/ed-1/seq-6/>.

²¹ J. Worth Bacon, “Here and There,” *The High Point Enterprise*, February 28, 1921, accessed February 19, 2024, *North Carolina Newspapers*, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn92073212/1921-02-28/ed-1/seq-4/>.

²² High Point Chamber of Commerce, *The Building and the Builders of a City*, (High Point, NC: Hall Printing Company, 1947), 318.

²³ “College Board Here Today,” *The High Point Enterprise*, May 20, 1921, accessed March 26, 2024, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn92073212/1921-05-20/ed-1/seq-1/#words=Methodist+Protestant+college>.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Kennett, 46.

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Education instituted a Buildings and Grounds Committee to begin designing High Point College's campus.²⁶ The committee collaborated with architect Herbert Bernard Hunter of High Point to design a Georgian Revival central building. Hunter is also known for his collegiate architectural designs for Elon University, which are also in the Georgian Revival style.²⁷ The architecture of Roberts Hall is representative of other early twentieth-century Georgian Revival collegiate architecture in the Piedmont of North Carolina. The *High Point Enterprise* on December 1, 1921, reported that the Board and Hunter traveled to "some of the finest universities in the country" to find inspiration for Roberts Hall. The newspaper noted that many American colleges were not made with architectural beauty or uniformity in mind, but that was the goal for High Point College:

Plans of the trustees of the new Methodist Protestant college indicate that the local institution will architecturally be a thing of beauty. This foresight on the part the institution heads give us reason to believe that High Point is to have one of the most attractive schools in the south. In sending the architect to and members of the building committee on a tour of inspection to some of the oldest colleges and universities, with a view of gaining ideas, the trustees made an excellent start... Too many American colleges and schools have been erected in slapstick manner without any regard to architectural beauty or uniformity. A few of the larger schools in the east have established boards to pass upon the architectural design of additional buildings and improvements but these schools are exception to the rule... The physical equipment of a college has a lot to do with the appeal it makes to young people. The High Point institution is endowed with a beautiful natural lay-out of land and it only remains to carry out a far-seeing building plan to make it the most attractive institution in the state. Skilled architects and authorities of the Methodist school have visited some of the finest universities in the country. It is not too much to expect that they will choose the best ideas in planning the High Point institution.²⁸

The cornerstone for Roberts Hall was laid on June 29, 1922, with much pomp and circumstance. The *High Point Enterprise* newspaper predicted approximately 10,000 visitors at the event, along with the Elks concert band, and speakers Rev. J.F. McCulloch and Dr. T.H. Lewis of Washington, who was the president of the general conference of the Methodist Protestant church.²⁹ Placed within the cornerstone were a Bible, copies of the church publications, the names of the trustees

²⁶ The committee consisted of Dr. F.R. Harris, Dr. J.F. McCulloch, Dr. R.M. Andrews, R.F. Williams, J. Norman Wills, R.H. Brooks, and J.S. Pickett. *The Zenith 1927* (High Point: High Point College, 1927), 11, accessed March 26, 2024, https://library.highpoint.edu/archives/Zenith/The_zenith_1927.pdf.

²⁷ Angie Clifton, "Hunter, Herbert B. (1890-1976)," North Carolina Architects & Builders, A Biographical Dictionary, last modified 2009, accessed February 3, 2023, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000284>.

²⁸ "A Good Start," *The High Point Enterprise*, December 1, 1921, accessed February 17, 2024, *North Carolina Newspapers*, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn92073212/1921-12-01/ed-1/seq-4/>.

²⁹ "Methodist Protestants To Lay Corner Stone for New College in City Tomorrow," *The High Point Enterprise*, June 28, 1922, accessed February 17, 2024, *North Carolina Newspapers*, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn92073212/1922-06-28/ed-1/seq-1/>.

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of the college, names of the officers of the missionary societies, and copies of the leading daily newspapers of North Carolina.³⁰

A shortfall in funding led to modification of the original plans for Roberts Hall by abandoning the addition of a wing on either side and a larger auditorium on the rear. The building cost more than \$120,000 and construction concluded in December 1923 with offices, classrooms accommodating 400 students, laboratories, bookstore, library, kitchen, dining room, and a small auditorium for chapel services.³¹

The Early Years of High Point College

On September 16, 1924, High Point College opened its doors. The 1924-25 Prospectus declared the Bachelor of Arts was the only academic degree and the requirements would give students training that “is essential for educated citizens.” There were ten majors: Biology or Chemistry; English; History or Political Science; Home Economics; Latin or Greek; Mathematics or Physics; French, German, or Spanish; Religious Workers’ Group; Teachers’ Group; and Pre-Medical Group.³² Basic requirements for graduation were twelve hours of English, six hours of History, twelve hours of a Foreign Language, six hours of Science, six hours of Bible, and four hours of Speech. The prospectus lists the professors’ fields of study: Education and School Management, Romance Languages, Social Science, English, Chemistry, Mathematics, Home Economics, English Bible, Greek and Latin, Preparatory training, and music in voice or piano.

The first group of students were children of donors who contributed money to the college building funds.³³ The college enrolled ninety-nine Freshmen, fifteen Sophomores, and twenty in the preparatory department.³⁴ Initially the college offered courses to high school students in tenth and eleventh grades. By the college’s second year, the administration added a junior class and discontinued the tenth grade, and by the third year cut all high school courses, which transitioned the school officially into a college.³⁵ The first class graduated in 1927 with thirteen students.³⁶

As John Calvin Roberts’ \$10,000 bequest could no longer go towards the construction of the college, the college used the money as an endowment in increments of \$50-\$100 to pay for training young men for the ministry.³⁷ At the time of the school’s opening, that amount would

³⁰ “Methodist Protestants Lay Corner Stone of Roberts Hall, Unit of the New College,” *Greensboro Daily News*, June 30, 1922, accessed February 17, 2024, *North Carolina Newspapers*, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn83008209/1922-06-30/ed-1/seq-1/>.

³¹ McCaslin, 21-22.

³² *1924-1925 Prospectus High Point College* (North Carolina: High Point College, 1924), 15 – 19, accessed March 26, 2024, <https://library.highpoint.edu/archives/catalogs/prospectus-of-high-point-college-1924-25.pdf>.

³³ William R. Locke, *No Easy Task, the first fifty years of High Point College* (North Carolina: High Point College, 1975), 1.

³⁴ *The Zenith 1927*, 11.

³⁵ Dr. J.E. Pritchard, *A Brief History of the First Twenty-Five Years of High Point College* (North Carolina: High Point College, 1953), 11.

³⁶ “Images of Graduation at HPU,” High Point University Archives Blog, last modified May 3, 2019, accessed March 26, 2024, <https://www.highpoint.edu/library/2019/05/03/the-history-of-hpu/>.

³⁷ Kennett, 47.

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cover a full semester's tuition or dormitory costs.³⁸ Due to Roberts's generosity, the trustees moved forward with naming their flagship building after the deceased benefactor.³⁹

The High Point College faculty and students were not all Methodist Protestant. The 1925-26 High Point College Catalogue stated "While High Point College is a denominational College, it is not a sectarian school. There are members of several other denominations on the faculty, and quite a number of Protestant denominations . . . in the student body besides some Hebrews." Chapel was a daily requirement and the administration's policy was to "have visiting ministers of various denominations to conduct these services."⁴⁰

Multiple deans and professors molded early student life and education. Dean Reverend N.M. Harrison Jr. directed the male students, and he also instructed courses in the Bible. Dean Mary Young directed the female students, and she also served as registrar, librarian, nurse, and then associate professor in the Department of Education, teaching Child Psychology, Methods of Teaching in Grammar Grades, and Methods of Teaching in High School History. She also organized the literary societies.⁴¹ Faculty members were graduates of Vanderbilt University, the University of North Carolina, Westminster Theological Seminary, Guilford College, Salem College, Cornell University, Boston University, Columbia University, and Western Maryland College.⁴²

Historic Uses of Roberts Hall

Due to the trustees' inability to raise the last \$300,000 required to finish their grand plans for campus, modifications had to be made when High Point College opened. They decided to open the school with only the academic building, Roberts Hall, and two unfinished dormitories, McCulloch Hall, named in honor of Rev. McCulloch, and Women's Hall.⁴³ Roberts Hall was completed in the fall of 1922, but the dormitories remained unfinished when the school opened on September 16, 1924.⁴⁴ Women's Hall (later renamed McEwan Hall) had no screens on the windows, no locks on the doors, no heat, and no electricity. McCulloch Hall, the men's dormitory, was in worse shape, as it also lacked a roof and running water.⁴⁵ While the male

³⁸ Laura Silva, "Founders Day: September 14, 1924," last modified September 13, 2019, accessed March 2, 2023, <https://www.highpoint.edu/library/2019/09/13/founders-day-september-14-1924/>.

³⁹ Ibid: On September 18, 1924, in recognition of the college dedicating Roberts Hall, the Roberts family donated a nineteenth-century Bible in remembrance of John Calvin Roberts and his wife, Caroline Donnell Roberts. To this day, the university hails Roberts as a critical founder on Founders Day, which is commemorated annually on September 14th.

⁴⁰ 1925-26 *High Point College Catalogue*, (North Carolina: High Point College, 1925), 11, accessed March 26, 2024, High Point University Library, <https://library.highpoint.edu/archives/catalogs/high-point-college-catalog-1925-26.pdf>.

⁴¹ Locke, *No Easy Task*, 24.

⁴² *Prospectus of High Point College*, (North Carolina: High Point College, 1924), 7, <https://library.highpoint.edu/archives/catalogs/prospectus-of-high-point-college-1924-25.pdf>.

⁴³ "College Opens at High Point," *The Charlotte Observer*, September 17, 1924.

⁴⁴ *The Zenith* 1927, 11.

⁴⁵ McEwan Residence Hall continues as a women's dormitory. It was extensively renovated in the modern day, though the date is unknown, to include "carpeting, ceiling fans, new cabinetry, new sinks, walk-in showers." Finch Hall replaced McCullough Hall.

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students waited for their dormitory to be completed, they stayed with local families.⁴⁶ Roberts Hall's auditorium, located in the east end of the building, hosted required daily chapel services for all students, while on Sunday, students could attend other churches in the city.⁴⁷

The 1925-26 Annual Report for High Point College, reveals Roberts Hall's major functions in the daily operations of the college:

In it are the offices of the president and registrar, the recitation rooms, the laboratory rooms which are equipped with tables and apparatus for teaching chemistry, biology, physics, geology, etc. There is also a suite of three rooms for teaching sewing, an auditorium seated with four hundred and seventeen opera chairs, a suite of three rooms for a library in which there are more than three thousand bound volumes, besides magazines charts and pamphlets. In the basement there is a dining room with tables accommodating two hundred and twenty, with a thoroughly equipped kitchen, a store room for groceries, a store room for chemicals, and an office for the supervisor of the dining room.

The college originally planned to enlarge Roberts Hall for a growing student body by expanding the building by one hundred feet at each end. The Science Department would be in the west end, and the east end would house a new auditorium, dining room, and Music Department. However, the College abandoned the plans to pursue constructing a separate library, two more dormitories, gymnasium, and a chapel. By 1933, the library in Roberts Hall contained over ten thousand volumes, short pamphlets, magazines, and periodicals. In 1936-37, the College constructed the M.J. Wren Memorial Library, and thus Roberts Hall lost its library function on campus, while the new library could house the 11,247 volumes with room for expansion. Women's Hall dormitory expanded with more rooms on the third floor in 1937.

Roberts Hall continued to lose classroom functionality when the Home Economics House was built in 1939 and a Student Center building was constructed in 1941-42.⁴⁸ In 1949, the school completed the Dr. Percy E. Lindley Chapel, named for the head of the Department of Religion, on the second floor of Roberts Hall, fitted with pews, an altar rail, and pulpit furniture.⁴⁹ Five years later, in 1954, a separate building on campus, Memorial Auditorium, was completed, which became the location of chapel assemblies and various other religious events. Other campus expansions were Harrison Gymnasium in 1932, Albion Mills Stadium between 1936 to 1938, and the baseball field between 1938 to 1939.⁵⁰ In 1962, a poll in the *Hi-Po* showed 80% of students felt the Roberts Hall classroom facilities were inadequate and needed improvement.⁵¹ That same year, student use of Roberts Hall dwindled further when the Tower Players, the choir

⁴⁶ Locke, 1.

⁴⁷ *Prospectus of High Point College*, 10.

⁴⁸ *High Point College Bulletin*, 1944-1945, 13.

⁴⁹ "Charles E. Hayworth Memorial Chapel," High Point University Archives and Library website, accessed February 15, 2025. <https://www.highpoint.edu/religiouslife/charles-e-hayworth-memorial-chapel>.

⁵⁰ *High Point College Bulletin*, 1944-1945, 13.

⁵¹ "Poll," *The Hi-Po* (High Point College, NC), September 23, 1960, vol. 35, no. 1 page 3, accessed November 20, 2024, <https://cdm16929.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16929coll6/id/57/rec/3>.

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group named after their club location in Roberts Hall, moved out of the building and administration placed an IBM computer in Room 26 of Roberts Hall for registration and administration work.⁵² *The Hi-Po* articles of the 1970s indicate that administration took over the building in the 1970s as other buildings were used for academic purposes, with the auditorium occasionally used for lectures.

Roberts Hall's Uses and Renovations as the Campus Expands

Over the course of its history, Roberts Hall experienced small to large repairs, refreshing of paint, and interior and exterior renovations. Unfortunately, High Point University disposed of many historic records, leaving mostly newspapers that make vague references to changes. The only known surviving documents that show substantial change are the blueprints for the 1991 renovations discussed in Section 7.⁵³ For example, campus newspaper articles referred to remediations of steeple roof leaks and woodwork repainting in 1931.⁵⁴ In 1953, a set of chimes donated by trustee Elliot S. Wood in remembrance of his parents, replaced the bell in Roberts Hall tower.⁵⁵

More substantial work occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1962, Charles Nesbit in the college newspaper, *The Hi-Po*, stated the “laying of new walks as well as the Remodeling in Robert’s [sic] Hall has added much to the general appearance and has surely added to the atmosphere for constructive work.”⁵⁶ In 1973, the college paper mentioned a partial update on another renovation, but it is not known if it was on the interior or exterior as the newspaper was more concerned with discussing the addition of new buildings including the Chapel, the Campus Center, the Infirmary, the Science Hall, and the Coed Dormitory.⁵⁷

Campus expansion was slow, and despite the use of new buildings for classrooms, Roberts Hall was still used for some classroom spaces through the renovation in 1991. Beyond the architectural drawings from this renovation, some detail is captured in *The Hi-Po* by Robert Combs II. New restrooms were the first change to the interior, predating 1991. He states the renovations that began in fall semester 1990 were much more extensive, covering both interior and exterior jobs. The interior renovations focused on use for administrative offices and classrooms on the first floor (basement). Former President Jacob C. Martinson, Jr. of High Point

⁵² “IBM Comes to HPC,” *The Hi-Po* (High Point College, NC) March 6, 1970, vol. 43, no. 12, page 5, accessed November 20, 2024, <https://cdm16929.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16929coll6/id/76/rec/3>.

⁵³ University Librarian David Bryden, email message to author, November 8, 2022. Bryden stated the architects who made changes in the 1990s created field measurements of Roberts Hall but did not create new blueprints from the old ones. The University disposed of blueprints and historical documents before the University instituted its modern-day archives.

⁵⁴ “Building Receives New Coat of Paint,” *The Hi-Po* (High Point College, NC), April 1, 1931, page 4, accessed March 12, 2024, http://library.highpoint.edu/archives/hi-po/1920_30/1931-hi-po-SpringSemester.pdf.

⁵⁵ McCaslin, 65.

⁵⁶ Charles Nesbitt, “Campus Comment,” *The Hi-Po* (High Point College, NC), December 8, 1962, page 2, accessed March 13, 2024, http://library.highpoint.edu/archives/hi-po/1960_70/1962-hi-po-FallSemester.pdf.

⁵⁷ Karen G. Amick, “Golden Decade Program, Final Phase,” *The Hi-Po*, November 8, 1973, vol. 47, no. 4, page 1 and 4, accessed March 13, 2024, http://library.highpoint.edu/archives/hi-po/1960_70/1973-hi-po-FallSemester.pdf.

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University wrote in McCaslin's *Remembered Be Thy Blessings*, that Roberts Hall underwent a \$2 million renovation during his tenure of 1985 to 2005 (clearly the 1991 renovation).⁵⁸

The most noticeable was the replacement of the steeple of the building. Other exterior jobs included work on all the woodwork, the windows, the tower, and the roof. It is also planned to make the building more accessible to the handicapped. There are also major renovations being performed on the interior of the building. The third floor which is almost finished, now houses the administrative offices that were on the second floor. After renovations are completed, those offices will return to the second floor and the third floor will simply be office space for the faculty of the building. The first floor will be classroom space. Also, an elevator will be installed ... it is the hope of the administration that classes which normally meet in Roberts Hall will resume for the spring semester.⁵⁹

The College Facilities Loan Program of the United States Department of Education granted \$1.8 million towards the renovation (Exhibit I). The Alumni Newsletter stated the College pursued this restoration "in hopes of having the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places," but no other articles mention why the College did not proceed with designation in the 1990s.⁶⁰

On July 13, 2005, Jim Belton of the Verdin Company, the largest manufacturer of tower clocks in the US, inset four giant clocks in the tower of Roberts Hall. Architect Herbert Hunter originally designed the tower for clocks but lacked funds for their installation. Roberts Hall is the campus centerpiece, and the lighted clocks are visible from all directions.⁶¹ The University renamed the tower "Martinson Clock Tower."⁶²

Over the course of the last twenty years, High Point University has experienced rapid expansion both in campus enrollment and in building construction, growing to a 520-acre university campus with an enrollment of over 6,000 students in 2025. Roberts Hall continues to serve as the university's administration building and the historic hallmark edifice of the campus.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

High Point College is unique as a private college because the Methodist Conference was able to start the school with municipal monetary support assistance. The other Methodist institutions

⁵⁸ McCaslin, *Remembered Be Thy Blessings*, p.vi.

⁵⁹ Rick Ferrell, "Roberts Hall Renovations to Begin This Fall; Completion Expected in 1992," *The Hi-Po*, November 28, 1990, vol. 67, no. 3, page 1, accessed March 18, 2024, <https://cdm16929.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16929coll6/id/118/rec/14>.

⁶⁰ "The Renovation of Roberts Hall," *Alumni Newsletter* 1992, page 10, accessed March 18, 2024, <https://cdm16929.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16929coll4/id/1621/rec/1>.

⁶¹ Bob Burchette, "Four tower clocks honor former president of HPU," *The News & Record*, published January 26, 2015, accessed March 1, 2023, https://greensboro.com/four-tower-clocks-honor-former-president-of-hpu/article_63c2ec83-a5d8-573a-8ffd-bbea2ae181d0.html.

⁶² High Point University Undergraduate Bulletin, 2005-2006 (North Carolina: High Point University, 2005), 5, <https://library.highpoint.edu/archives/catalogs/high-point-university-bulletin-2005-06.pdf>.

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were privately funded, without aid from a municipality. For example, Trinity College was funded entirely by the Duke Endowment, created by James Buchanan Duke.⁶³ Bennett College was given funds by Lyman Bennett of Troy, New York and later the Freedman's Aid Society.⁶⁴ Many of the North Carolina colleges founded for African Americans were supported by the Freedman's Aid Society.⁶⁵ Pfeiffer College was privately funded by Henry and Annie Pfeiffer who funded four facilities and the Presidents House in 1935, and in 1954 the Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Foundation accumulated more than \$1,500,000 in endowment.⁶⁶ Other religious based colleges were supported by religious state conventions such as Chowan University, Catawba College, and Guilford College. In contrast, High Point College was the first North Carolina private college to receive municipal funding, followed by Methodist University in Fayetteville in 1956.⁶⁷

The backdrop of success for High Point's selection by the Methodist Protestant Church is the city's decade of substantial growth and prosperity. High Point was home to twenty-six textile plants and coined "The Hosiery Capital of the South." By 1923, High Point surpassed Greensboro's population by 3,000, and became the sixth largest municipality in North Carolina.⁶⁸ As High Point's population boomed, more municipal and civic facilities were demanded for economic growth. Between 1920 and 1930, the City of High Point approved over \$20,000,000 in building permits. There were vast infrastructure improvements to support its growth including new roads, parks, and the construction of "the Y.M.C.A, the Southern Furniture Exposition Building, the Sheraton Hotel, many churches," plus the "purchase and development of the High Point, Thomasville and Denton Railroad and many other civic and service projects."⁶⁹

In May 1921, High Point citizens made their final pleas to the Methodist Protestant committee that was surveying the donated land for the college campus. The boom of infrastructure such as the Exposition Building for the furniture market would potentially attract out of town buyers to send their children to the college and visit them twice a year.⁷⁰ Dr. J.T. Burris claimed the presence of a college would raise the percentage of high school graduates continuing their education. The *Greensboro Daily News* lauded the new college as an important tenth addition to

⁶³ "Duke University: A Brief Narrative History," Duke University Libraries, last modified September 21, 2020, accessed April 11, 2024, <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/uarchives/history/articles/narrative-history>.

⁶⁴ "Bennett College Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992), Section 8, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, accessed April 11, 2024, <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/GF1131.pdf>.

⁶⁵ "Colleges and Universities," North Carolina History Project, accessed April 11, 2024, <https://northeastcarolinahistory.org/subject/colleges-and-universities/>.

⁶⁶ Shane Williams, "Pfeiffer University," accessed April 11, 2024, North Carolina History Project, <https://northeastcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/pfeiffer-university>.

⁶⁷ "The Founding of Methodist College: 1956-1960," Methodist University, accessed April 11, 2024, <https://www.methodist.edu/about-mu/history/>.

⁶⁸ Robert Marks, *High Point, Reflections of the Past* (North Carolina: High Point Historical Society, Inc., 1996),

⁶⁹ High Point Chamber of Commerce, *The Building and the Builders of a City* (High Point, NC: Hall Printing Company, 1947), 78-79.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

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the Guilford County educational system that offered a great variety of collegiate opportunity.⁷¹
Greensboro and Burlington challenged High Point to host the campus, clearly the economic
boost created by a university was the driving factor for the challenge.⁷²

⁷¹ “With Ten State, Church and Private Institutions of Learning Guilford is the Educational Leader of State,” *The Greensboro Daily News*, August 4, 1922, accessed February 19, 2024, North Carolina Newspapers, North Carolina Digital Heritage Center: <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn83008209/1922-08-06/ed-1/seq-74/>.

⁷² “Progressive Spirit makes High Point a leading city,” *High Point Enterprise*, September 11, 1922, accessed February 19, 2024, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/74622095/?match=1>.

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Roberts Hall
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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: High Point University Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GF9179

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.05 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: -79.993457

Longitude: 35.971922

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):



Roberts Hall
Name of Property

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NAD 1927 or NAD 1983
1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundary encompasses a 2.05-acre area, which includes both the minimal landscaping between the foundation of Roberts Hall and the close edge of the brick walkways at the north, west, and south sides of the building, and the ceremonial front lawn, as shown on the associated National Register boundary map (1:2,257).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary is drawn to include Roberts Hall and the ceremonial lawn, which contributes to the building's grandeur and has been an important landscape feature of the College for decades as the location for their commencement ceremonies. The boundary excludes later, non-historic development surrounding the nominated building and lawn. Although the historic campus acreage was once 60 acres, new development, substantial landscape changes, and new construction on campus have altered the historical association of that acreage with the historic core of Robert's Hall and the ceremonial lawn, thereby resulting in a boundary encompassing only 2.05 acres.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Samantha Stewart and Rebecca Barefoot
organization: Gate City Preservation L.L.C
street & number: 211 Tate St.
city or town: Greensboro state: NC zip code: 27403
e-mail: samantha@gatecitypreservation.com
telephone: (919) 389-0564
date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Roberts Hall

City or Vicinity: High Point

County: Guilford

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Samantha Stewart

Date Photographed: April 11, 2024

Description of Photograph: Setting of Roberts Hall and ceremonial lawn facing west.

1 of 9.

Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall façade and side elevation (facing southwest).

2 of 9.

Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall rear (west) elevation.

3 of 9.

Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall side (south) elevation

4 of 9.

Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall pedimented portico facing northwest.

5 of 9.

Roberts Hall
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Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall main lobby facing southeast.

6 of 9.

Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall main lobby facing northwest.

7 of 9.

Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall corridor third floor.

8 of 9.

Description of Photograph: Roberts Hall tower interior.

9 of 9.

Roberts Hall
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Appendix

Exhibit A: "Roberts Hall to Be Completed By January," *The Hi-Po*, October 31, 1991. (Final sentence of the article is not true.)

October 31, 1991 The Hi-Po Page 3

Roberts Hall To Be Completed By January

By Robert Combs II
OF THE HI-PO STAFF

Roberts Hall is one of the original buildings on the High Point University campus, which was built in 1924. But, over the 68 years of its existence, the building has begun to show its wear. Because of this, the administration decided to undertake some major renovations to the building.

The renovations began a few years ago with the addition of new restrooms, but the renovations which were started in the fall semester of 1990 were much more extensive, covering both interior and exterior jobs. The most noticeable was the replacement of the steeple of the building. Other exterior jobs included work on all the woodwork, the windows, the tower, and the roof. It is also planned to make the building more accessible to the handicapped.

There are also major renovations being performed on the interior of the building. The third floor which is almost finished, now houses the administrative offices that were on the second floor. After renovations are completed, those offices will return to the second floor and the third floor will simply be office space for the faculty of the building. The first floor will be classroom space. Also, an elevator will be installed.

The work on the first and third floors are very close to being finished, and work is progressing well on the second floor. The whole job is set for a completion date of the end of December, and it is the hope of the administration that classes which normally meet in Roberts Hall will resume for the spring semester.

Roberts Hall is listed on the Historical Register of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.



The spire again finds its home on the tower of Roberts Hall.



High Point University



GOLDEN DRAGON
CHINESE RESTAURANT

2872 North Main Street
High Point, NC 27286 919-883-8333
BRING THIS AD IN AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT

Roberts Hall
Name of Property

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Exhibit E: Main entrance lobby arches (1927).⁷⁶



Exhibit F: Home Economics class taught in Roberts Hall (1927).



HOME ECONOMICS CLASS

⁷⁶ Exhibit E-H courtesy of High Point University archives.

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Exhibit G: Common Area in Roberts Hall (1927)



Exhibit H: Art Class in Roberts Hall attic (1927)



ART CLASS

Roberts Hall
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Exhibit I: High Point University Alumni Newsletter, Winter 1992.

Expand



**Roberts Hall Renovation
Project Continues**

Beginning in November of 1990, a complete renovation of historic Roberts Hall was launched on the High Point University campus. Roberts Hall, which was opened in 1924, is the oldest building on campus, housing administrative offices as well as classrooms and faculty offices.

Renovation plans center on returning the exterior of the building as nearly as possible to the way it originally appeared, focusing on the woodwork, tower, steeple and roof. The allocation of interior space will be redesigned as well.

The project is expected to take 16 to 18 months to complete. The university received a \$1.8 million allocation from the College Facilities Loan Program of the United States Department of Education for the project in hopes of having the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



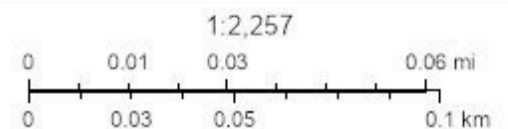
Roberts Hall

933 Roberts Hall Lane
High Point, Guilford County
North Carolina

Boundary Map

Source: NC SHPO, HPOWEB

Created by Samantha Stewart 11-22-2024



State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS



Roberts Hall

933 Roberts Hall Lane
High Point, Guilford County
North Carolina

Coordinates Map

Source: NC SHPO, HPOWEB
Created by Samantha Stewart 2-15-2025



**ROBERTS HALL AT HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY | 933 Roberts Hall Lane,
High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina 27268**

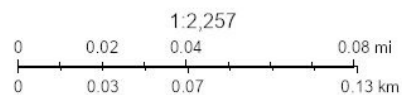


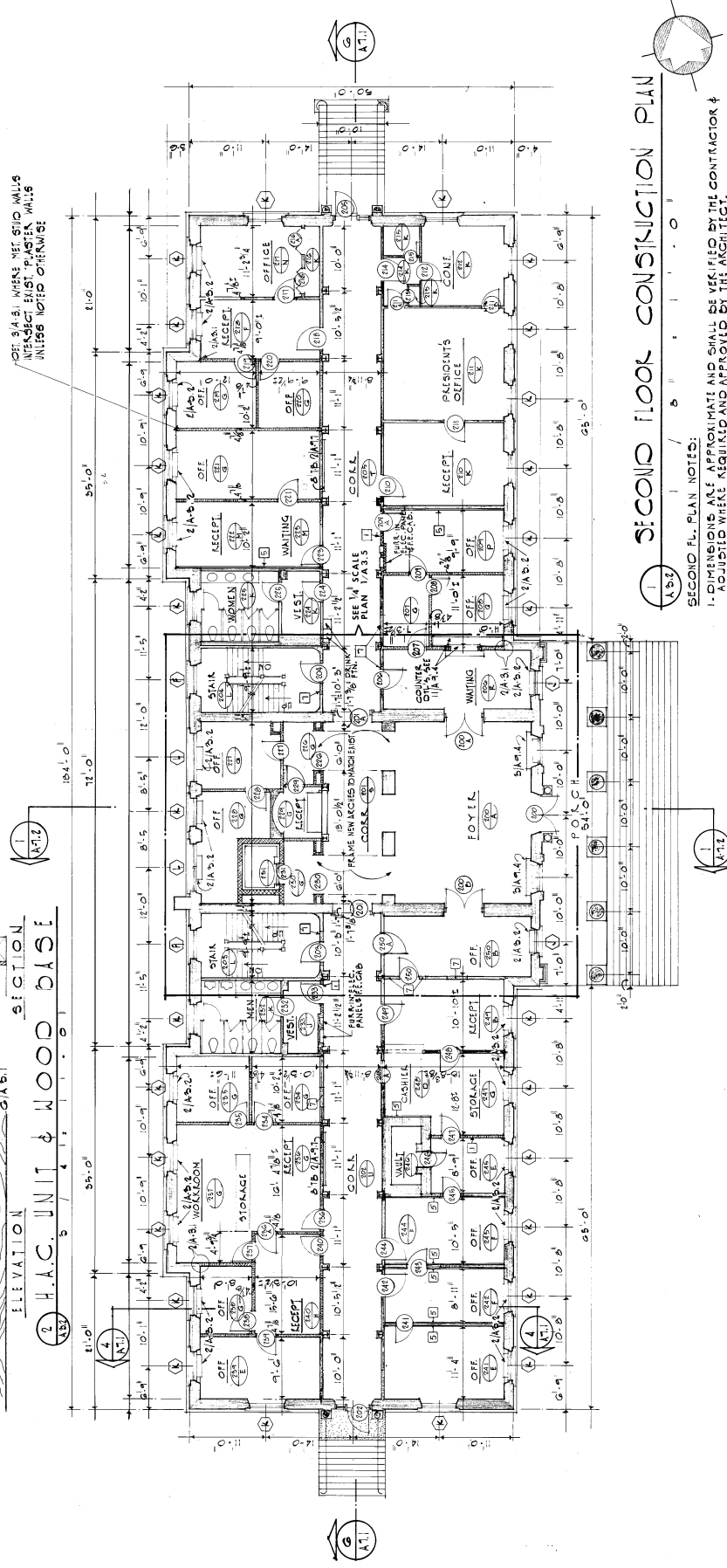
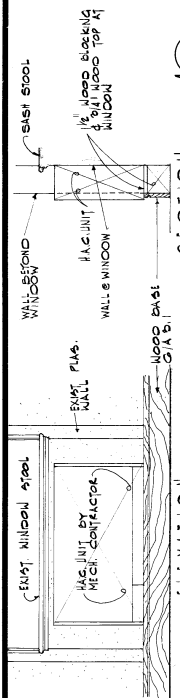
Resources

A) Roberts Hall, 1924, contributing building



Photographic Key





SECOND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION PLAN

SECOND FL. PLAN NOTES:

1. DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE AND SHALL BE VERIFIED BY THE CONTRACTOR & ADJUSTED WHERE REQUIRED AND APPROVED BY THE ARCHITECT.
2. SEE PARTITION NOTES AND DETAILS ON SHEET A3.3.

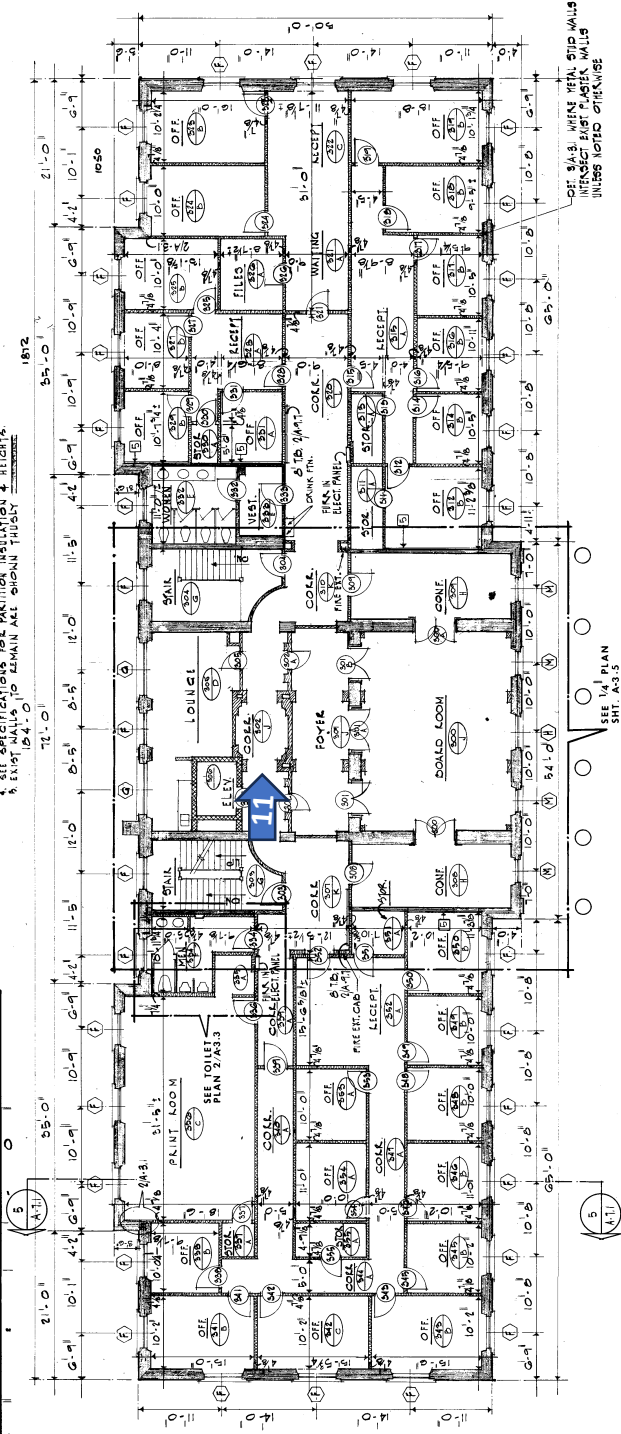
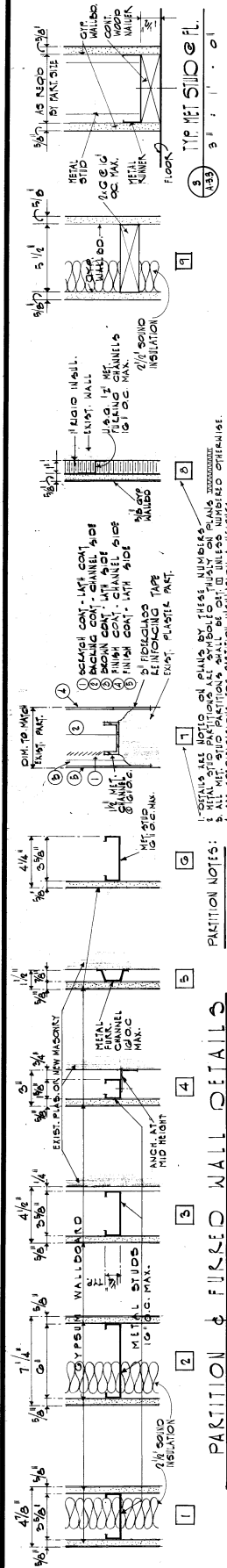
SECOND FLOOR FINISH SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----|---|
| A. | Exist. marble floor 5 base; existing plaster walls and ceiling. |
| B. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing plaster walls |
| C. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing plaster walls and ceiling. |
| D. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch exist. plaster west and south walls; new gypsum wallboard on north wall; patch existing plaster on exterior walls; new gypsum wallboard on north wall; ceiling. |
| E. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; new gyp. wallboard on north wall; patch exist. defective plaster on other walls; and new acoustical tile ceiling. |
| F. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; new gyp. wallboard on north and south walls; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch defective plaster on walls and ceiling; new acoustical ceiling prior to other walls; and new acoustical tile ceiling. |
| G. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch defective plaster on walls and ceiling; new wood base 6/A3.1; new gyp. wallboard on north wall; patch existing plaster on other walls; SEE 147-62-620 Ceiling Plan for Ceiling 3017-A3.2. |
| H. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; new gyp. wallboard; ceiling. |
| I. | New ceramic tile wainscot and new gyp. wallboard, on east wall; new acoustical tile ceiling. |
| J. | New ceramic tile wainscot and new gyp. wallboard, on west wall; new acoustical tile ceiling. |
| K. | No work required. |
| L. | Exist. ceramic tile floor at stair intermediate landing; new resilient tile floor at stair intermediate landing; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing defective plaster at stair intermediate landing; existing solid stair plaster walls with solid plaster partition where noted on plan and patch existing defective plaster on other walls; new gyp. wallboard on north and south walls; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing plaster walls and ceiling. |
| M. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; new gypsum wallboard on north and south walls; patch defective exist. plaster on west wall of 222 and east wall of 223; new wood base 6/A3.1; new gyp. wallboard on east and south walls; patch existing defective plaster on north and west walls; patch existing plaster on exterior walls; new gypsum wallboard on north wall; patch existing defective plaster on exterior walls; new gyp. wallboard on other walls; and new acoustical tile ceiling. |
| N. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing north and south plaster walls; new gyp. wallboard on north and south walls; patch existing defective plaster other walls; and existing plaster walls and ceiling. |
| O. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing north and south plaster walls; new gyp. wallboard south and east walls; and existing plaster walls and ceiling. |
| P. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing north and south plaster walls; new gyp. wallboard south and east walls; and existing plaster walls and ceiling. |
| Q. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing north and south plaster walls; new gyp. wallboard south and east walls; and existing plaster walls and ceiling. |
| R. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; new gyp. wallboard on north wall; patch existing defective plaster other walls; and ceiling. Existing molded plaster walls and ceiling. |
| S. | Existing marble floor and base; patch existing plaster walls; new gyp. wallboard on new walls and new gyp. wallboard, ceiling; patch defective plaster on north wall; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing plaster walls; and ceiling. |
| T. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing plaster walls; patch existing plaster walls; see reflected ceiling plan for ceilings required. |
| U. | New carpet floor; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing plaster walls; patch existing plaster walls with solid plaster partition where noted on plan and patch existing defective plaster on other walls; new gyp. wallboard on north and south walls; new wood base 6/A3.1; patch existing plaster walls and ceiling. |

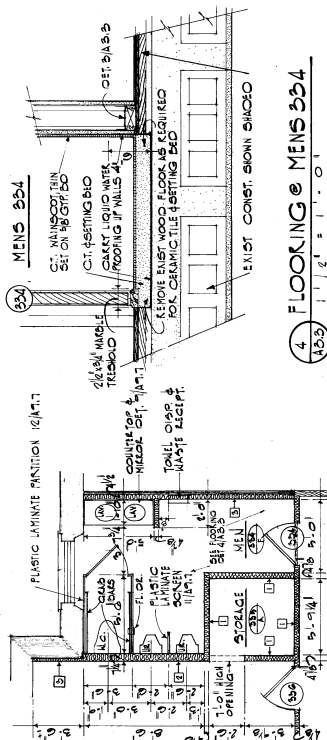
other existing defective plaster walls; and new gyp. walls.

NOTE: ALL CARPET & INSTALLATION ELIMINATED BY OWNER.

PARTITION & FURRED WALL DETAILS



THIRD FLOOR COLLECTION PLAN



THIRD FL. PLAN NOTES:

THIRD FLOOR FINISH SCHEDULE

- A. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- B. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- C. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- D. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on exterior wall and new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- E. No work required.
- F. New ceramic tile floor; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on exterior wall and new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- G. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- H. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- I. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- J. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- K. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.
- L. New carpet; new wood base (A/3.1); patch defective existing plaster on ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling; new gyp. wall/d ceiling.

7. Gypsum wallboard ceiling.