

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Gladstone Academy**

Misenheimer, Stanly County, ST0911, Listed 04/10/2025  
Nomination by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Hanbury Preservation Consulting  
Photographs by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, October 2022



Exterior View to NE



Exterior View to NNW

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: Gladstone Academy  
Other names/site number: Gladstone Training School, Gladstone Methodist Church  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

### 2. Location

Street & number: 48210 Wesley Chapel Road  
City or town: Misenheimer State: NC County: Stanly  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A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,

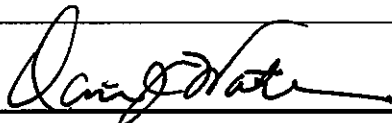
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

  
July 24, 2025  
Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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**6. Function or Use**  
**Historic Functions**

EDUCATION: school

**Current Functions**

WORK IN PROGRESS

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

NO STYLE

#### Materials:

FOUNDATION: BRICK

WALLS: WOOD

ROOF: METAL

### Narrative Description

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#### Summary Paragraph

Located on a parcel on the outskirts of the core developed area of the Village of Misenheimer, the Gladstone Academy building is a one-story, frame building with a cross-gabled metal roof, L-shaped in footprint, that sits on masonry piers. The building lacks applied ornament and could arguably be described as vernacular, with stylish kite-shaped attic louvers and raking cornice trim. The building had suffered vacancy and neglect for an undetermined period of time prior to its purchase by local government in 2011. Rot and water damage necessitated new flooring and roof cladding and minimal window replacement as well as new primary doors. In all cases of replacement, the existing material was irreparable and replacement features were milled and constructed to match that which they replaced.

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#### Narrative Description

Located in the Village of Misenheimer, Gladstone Academy is situated near the road, on the east side of Wesley Chapel Road in a sparsely populated residential area. It sits on a parcel that includes the acreage historically associated with it. It was purchased by the Village of Misenheimer in 2011. The parcel is generally cleared but has a large tree to the west of the building.

The Gladstone Academy is a one-story, frame building that sits on masonry piers. L-shaped in footprint, it has a cross-gabled metal roof. Windows throughout are four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash windows with flat board side casings, a simple sill, and a modest molded cap above the top casing. The building has broad eaves. In areas where there is a gable end, the raking flat board cornice in the gable extends beyond the corner boards to meet the level of the underside of the eaves. The building is almost entirely sheathed with what appears to be edge and center bead

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paneling, which is generally used in ceilings. There are scattered small areas of weatherboard that may have been areas where rotted siding had been repaired.

The west elevation has at its north a front-gabled wing with a central, projecting, hipped-roof entrance vestibule housing a double-leaf, five-panel door that serves as the primary entrance. Though the door has been recently replaced, it was milled to match the original. Above the door is a rectangular, two-light transom. Above the vestibule there are two vertical framing members applied over the siding that are evidence of a belfry, added when the school was converted for use as a church, that has since been removed. The vestibule has on its north and south elevations single sash windows. The corner boards on the north- and southeast corners of the vestibule have a simple decorative treatment at their juncture with the flat board cornice of the vestibule roof. Flanking the vestibule on the front gable are sash windows. On the south side of the west elevation, set back, is a cross-gabled wing. At the north side of the wing is a single-leaf, four-panel, wooden entrance door, accessed by exterior wooden steps. South of this entrance is a single window.

The south elevation has two windows on the core of the building, and two additional windows on the south gable end of the wing. The wing, or ell, is thought to have been added between 1910 and 1945 when the building was used as a church.<sup>1</sup> Centered in the attic above the wing windows is a kite-shaped, louvered vent. The west elevation has two windows in the cross-gabled wing at the south. In its gable end there is a single-leaf, four-panel door toward the south and a window at its north. The building's north elevation has four windows.

Upon entering the vestibule there is a double-leaf, five-panel door with hinges but no knobs that leads into the main space. The interior of the vestibule and of the core of the building at the north is clad in bead board. The interior of the cross-gabled southern wing is clad in shiplap siding. Replacement wooden flooring runs east to west in the core of the building, and north to south in the south wing. A broad, flat baseboard with a molded cap and quarter round at the base encircles the room, interrupted only by doors and vertical framing members at the juncture of the wing and the core portion of the building.

The ceiling is covered in beadboard that is a recent replacement for the original, which had rotted due to the roof failure. Replacement material was carefully selected to match the original. A scuttle entrance to the attic is framed in the ceiling of the south wing. Interior pendant light fixtures are recent additions, as are the gooseneck fixtures on the exterior at the doors.

Since the Village's purchase of the building in 2011, the following alterations and improvements have been made: rotted vestibule windows and transoms were replaced; rotten sills and flooring were replaced; metal roof cladding replaced; new floor joists (2x10 southern yellow pine) were added as needed; new 5/4 x 5 1/2 tongue-and-groove southern yellow pine flooring installed ; foundation piers were repaired and replaced as needed ; existing windows rehabilitated ; electricity added and exterior and interior painted.

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<sup>1</sup> Donna Dodenhoff, *Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy of a Rural North Carolina County* Albemarle: Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission, 1992 p, 327.

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Gladstone Academy has not been moved, thus retains its integrity of location. The original design intent is evident despite a later wing added when the building served as a church. The building continues to be located in a sparsely populated residential area in the Village of Misenheimer and the integrity of setting is high. Some materials that had deteriorated to a point beyond repair have been replaced in kind, thus the building retains integrity of materials. The thoughtful construction of any replacement material combined with the historic material provides for a good level of integrity of workmanship. The design, setting, and other aspects of the building combine for strong integrity of feeling and association. The building continues to read as an important local landmark for small, community events as a school would.

### **Statement of Archaeological Potential**

The Gladstone Academy is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Archaeological deposits, such as debris that accumulated during operation of the school, infrastructural remains, remnant landscape features such as planting beds and paths, and structural remains of former outbuildings which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the school. Information concerning the culture and identity of rural school students and teachers, as well as the spatial organization of outdoor activities and the character of daily life at the school through time, can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the school. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- 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

### Areas of Significance

EDUCATION



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**Period of Significance**

ca. 1894-1910

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Gladstone Academy is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of education. The school was the only school in the Village of Misenheimer filling a critical educational need for local children and boarders, until the Ebenezer C. Mitchell Home and School relocated to Misenheimer in 1910, absorbed Gladstone Academy, and grew to become Pfeiffer University. Gladstone Academy was sponsored by agencies of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a denomination that had considerable educational outreach in the post-Civil War South, augmenting the meager educational offerings by local governments prior to the era of rural school consolidation in the 1920s. The building's period of significance begins with its construction and initial operation ca. 1894 and ends in 1910, when the building was converted for use as a church. Owned and supported by Methodist organizations the building housed a church for a time after the period of significance, Gladstone Academy can be considered a religious property under National Register Criteria Consideration A. It is still eligible for listing as it being nominated for its original role as a school, significant for its role in education.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Education Context and Background History**

The Village of Misenheimer, formerly known as Gladstone, is located in Ridenhour Township in the northwest corner of Stanly County, North Carolina. Traditionally and currently sparsely populated, growth and development here in the nineteenth century were spurred by the discovery and subsequent mining of gold in the Barringer mine in 1839 approximately one quarter mile southeast of the nominated property, and the promotion of the local mineral spring waters as a

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healing retreat.<sup>2</sup> A resort grew around the Misenheimer Springs in the 1880s and 1890s. The town was incorporated in 1903 as Gladstone. After the charter was repealed in 1909, the town was renamed Misenheimer.<sup>3</sup>

The early history of the building known as the Gladstone Academy is not entirely clear, but it intersects with the mission and outreach organs of the Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>4</sup> It is thought by some that the small frame building that became Gladstone Academy had previously been used for religious services.<sup>5</sup> Though some sources suggest the school and building were started as early as 1880, the building housed Gladstone Academy from at least 1894.<sup>6</sup> This date corresponds with the purchase of the property from G.W. Peeler and wife by J.D. Redwine, H.D. Plyler, M.A. Troutman, G.W. Peeler, and Daniel Culp, Trustees of the Church, School & Parsonage, Methodist Episcopal Church of County of Stanly, Gladstone.<sup>7</sup> The deed states that the purchasers have the property “In trust for the use and benefit of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America,” and if sold, the proceeds would be used according to the discipline of the Methodist Church.<sup>8</sup>

The Rev. T. W. Brown, presiding elder of the Gladstone District of the Blue Ridge Methodist Episcopal Conference, worked hard to create a school associated with the Methodist church in Misenheimer.<sup>9</sup> Though no official school records remain, information gleaned from various sources provide some insight as to the school and its operation. In August 1895 William Parsons, a recent graduate of Grant University, was offered the job as principal of the school.<sup>10</sup> It appears to have originally been a free school, but later required tuition.<sup>11</sup> Parsons arranged for the construction of pine desks. He had a solid enrollment, but the lack of anticipated funding from Methodist-affiliated charities spurred him to seek employment elsewhere and he left after one year.<sup>12</sup> A Mrs. Saunders, who had taught at the school beginning in 1894, remained at the school for a few additional years with funding from the Blue Ridge Methodist Episcopal Conference.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Early twentieth century statistics do not enumerate Misenheimer specifically, but the census data indicate that the entire township’s population in 1910 was 1,159. United States Department of Commerce *Statistics for North Carolina* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1914.

<sup>3</sup> William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazeteer*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968, p.329

<sup>4</sup> This is the northern branch of the denomination resulting from a schism in 1845 when the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was created. The two branches were reunited in 1939.

<sup>5</sup> F. W. Dowd Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College A Study of Missionary Education” (Master’s thesis, Yale University, 1941), 34.

<sup>6</sup> F. W. Dowd Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College A Study of Missionary Education” (Master’s thesis, Yale University, 1941), 34.

<sup>7</sup> *Stanly County Deed Book 21*, 87.

<sup>8</sup> *Stanly County Deed Book 21*, 87.

<sup>9</sup> The Gladstone District was established as early as 1894; Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College,” 34.

<sup>10</sup> Grant University is now Tennessee Wesleyan University; Anonymous, “Gladstone News,” *The Concord Times* August 15, 1895; Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College,” 34.

<sup>11</sup> Anonymous, “Gladstone News,” *The Concord Times*, September 10, 1895.

<sup>12</sup> Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College,” 35.

<sup>13</sup> Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College,” 35.

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In March 1897 the North Carolina General Assembly ratified private law chapter 197, an act to charter Gladstone Academy. The law enumerated the incorporators: G. W. Peeler, H.D. Plyler, E. C. Smith, J. D. Redwine, D.T. F. Hall, M. A. Troutman, and H. M. Isenhour, many of whom were the trustees named in the deed. The school was described as “a school of high grade . . . for the mental and moral training of the children of the white race of both sexes, under the name and style of ‘Gladstone Academy.’”<sup>14</sup>

Miss Mary Pauline Abbott, who had taught at Oberlin School at Lick Mountain in Caldwell County, taught at the Gladstone School in 1905, having been told about it by Methodist clergy from the Misenheimer.<sup>15</sup> During her tenure in Misenheimer there were twelve day students and five boarders, who paid \$5 per month for room, board, and tuition, presumably living with local families.<sup>16</sup>

Gladstone Academy was in operation until 1910 when the building was converted into a church. The relocation of the relatively well-funded Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School from the Lenoir area to Misenheimer in 1910 made the Gladstone Academy redundant. *The Enterprise* noted, “There will be an entertainment and ice cream support given in the old academy building at Gladstone . . . The proceeds will be applied to the refitting of the building to be used for a church by the people of the Mitchell House of this place.”<sup>17</sup> Conversion of the academy building to a church was bolstered by the attendance and participation of students at the relocated Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School. In its conversion to a church, a belfry that has since been removed was added over the door, and the projecting wing was added.<sup>18</sup>

In 1945 the trustees of the Misenheimer Methodist Episcopal Church (successor to the trustees of the Gladstone Methodist Episcopal Church) sold the property to private owners. In 1942 the congregation had merged with Wesley Chapel, a nearby Methodist church that was established in 1858.<sup>19</sup> The Gladstone Academy building passed through several owners and was underutilized until purchased by the town in 2011.<sup>20</sup>

### *Education In North Carolina and Stanly County through the 1920s*

North Carolina’s first public school system was authorized by the Education Act, passed in 1839. Prior to this, most students were tutored or attended private schools. Public school funding was limited, and initially there were no consistent educational standards. Often students of all ages

<sup>14</sup> *North Carolina General Assembly Private Law Chapter 197*, 1897.

<sup>15</sup> Oberlin School established in 1895 was renamed the Ebenezer Mitchell School and Home in 1901. It moved briefly to the Lenoir area after a 1908 fire; Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College,” 16, 24, 31; Anonymous, “Gladstone,” *The Stanley Enterprise*, November 16, 1905.

<sup>16</sup> Bangle, “Pfeiffer Junior College,” 24.

<sup>17</sup> Anonymous, “Gladstone,” *The Enterprise*, June 23, 1910.

<sup>18</sup> Donna Dodenhoff, *Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy of a Rural North Carolina County* (Albemarle: Albemarle-Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission, 1992), 327.

<sup>19</sup> “The Wesley Chapel Story,” <https://www.wesleychapelumc.net/history>.

<sup>20</sup> *Stanly County Deed Book 139*, 229; *Stanly County Deed Book 281*, 825; *Stanly County Deed Book 358*, 580; *Stanly County Deed Book 975*, 295; *Stanly County Deed Book 1363*, 471.

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and abilities were taught in a single room. Public schools or common schools improved in the mid-nineteenth century under the leadership of Calvin Wiley in the newly established position of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Wiley instituted reforms such as teacher training and school reporting. Legislation after the Civil War called for free public education funded by taxes, though revenue often fell critically short of what was needed to fund a comprehensive uniform system of public education across the state. In the early twentieth century, public education became a chief policy objective of Governor Charles Aycock, who advocated among other things for improved facilities, consolidated county systems, and increased teacher pay. Rural school districts were consolidated as part of the 1907 Rural High School Act.<sup>21</sup> Further school consolidation in the 1920s bolstered rural schools by pooling resources into fewer schools. Improved roads throughout the state reinforced consolidation by making school transport easier and more reliable. With fewer but larger and improved public schools, the need for private schools declined.

A comprehensive history of education in Stanly County does not exist. Small public schools were scattered across the county and by 1830 the county had a reported thirty-three public schools which had an annual term of up to two months.<sup>22</sup> After the Civil War, the number of public schools increased to sixty-seven in 1885.<sup>23</sup> Numerous private schools or academies were also established that provided additional infrastructure and teachers, and often longer terms. Many of these schools were sponsored by various Christian denominations, and all apparently were segregated. One county history records eleven such private schools: Canton School (1850), Brattain School (1870), Albemarle Academy (1875), Yadkin Mineral Springs Academy (1877), Bilesville Academy (later New London Academy, 1878), Gladstone Academy (Methodist, 1880), Big Lick Academy (Presbyterian, 1880), Rocky River Springs Academy (1880), Furr School (later Bloomington, 1883) Stanly Hall (Presbyterian, 1890), and Albemarle Normal and Industrial School (Presbyterian, 1894).<sup>24</sup> Branson's Almanac, which may not be comprehensive, lists additional private schools including Norwood, Bethel/Copal Grove, Fork, and Prospect.<sup>25</sup> Additionally it is reported that both Efird and Wiscasset Mills operated schools.<sup>26</sup> Most of these schools were short-lived, as both institutions and buildings. The school consolidation movement of the 1920s, combined with increased funding for newer, larger schools, contributed to the decline of private education in the county.

### *The Methodist Episcopal Church's Support of Education in Western North Carolina*<sup>27</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Benjamin R. Justesen and Scott Matthews, "Public Education," from *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, ed. William S. Powell. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).

<sup>22</sup> Dodenhoff, *Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy*, 16.

<sup>23</sup> Dodenhoff, *Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy*, 30.

<sup>24</sup> Ivey Lawrence Sharpe and Edgar Fletcher Pepper, III, *Stanly County USA*. Greensboro: Media Press, Inc, 1990, p. 78-83

<sup>25</sup> Gladstone Academy is not included; *Branson's North Carolina Agricultural Almanac* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1890).

<sup>26</sup> Ivey Lawrence Sharpe and Edgar Fletcher Pepper, III, *Stanly County USA* (Greensboro: Media Press, Inc., 1990).

<sup>27</sup> Other branches of Methodism also supported education in the region. The Methodist Protestant Church was associated with Yadkin College, Fallston School, Denton High School, Liberty School, and Logan Female Seminary. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South supported Bascombe College, Asheville Female College,

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In the mid-nineteenth century, a schism in greater Methodism created the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. While there was an understanding that the two branches would operate in separate geographical spheres, after the Civil War the Methodist Episcopal Church (the northern branch) quickly began to expand below the Mason-Dixon Line. Areas in east Tennessee and western North Carolina were especially receptive, containing significant numbers of people with unionist sympathies. The denomination at the district and larger conference levels coordinated efforts with national outreach arms of the church, specifically the Woman's Home Missionary Society, to support higher education in the area. The General Conference of the church formed the Blue Ridge Conference in 1880, which included most of the state of North Carolina. In 1895 the state was subdivided into two conferences, with the Blue Ridge Conference in the west.

Annual meetings of the church in the various conferences and districts that included Misenheimer recorded a strong interest in education and a calling to serve in that capacity. The education committee of the 1881 Blue Ridge Conference published a statement to that effect in its minutes:

The state is under obligation to itself and to society to provide that all be taught to read and write, and also to furnish schools in which any may acquire A thorough training in the common English branches of study. The church should supply its people with these privileges, wherever the state fails to do so, and also provide opportunities for higher education to those who desire its benefits . . . We will heartily cooperate with the efforts put forth by the state for the education of the masses, and we will urge the adoption of a compulsory free school system in the state of North Carolina.<sup>28</sup>

In 1897 the Blue Ridge Conference education committee reiterated the pressing needs and the church's role:

The great need of education is clearly seen, and we trust keenly felt by all our preachers. North Carolina has a greater percentage of illiteracy among its white population than that of any other state or territory in the union except New Mexico. The state has made recent attempts to correct and improve this condition, but the effort was not acceptable to the people. It therefore becomes the duty of our church to take more aggressive measures looking to the education of our people.<sup>29</sup>

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Holsten Methodist Female College, Hayesville College, Tuscola Institute, Jefferson School, Lewisville School, Carolina Female College, Weddington Institute, Trinity Park School, and Brevard Institute; there were additional efforts for African American education, which was segregated by local custom and funded through different channels; Elmer T. Clark, *Methodism in Western North Carolina* (Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1966) 84.

<sup>28</sup> *Minutes of the Second Session of the Blue Ridge Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church* (Atlanta: Methodist Book Concern, 1881), 15.

<sup>29</sup> *Official Journal of the 19th session of the Blue Ridge annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church* (Johnson City, TN: JW Cass, 1897), 20.

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The conference provided support both financial and organizational to many Methodist-based schools. The school in Gladstone is first mentioned in the minutes in 1899 as a preparatory school called the Gladstone Institute, though it is later referred to as Gladstone Academy: “Gladstone Academy, under the presidency of W. C. Halton, is doing quite an amount of local work, and we recommend it to the patronage of that section.”<sup>30</sup>

The Methodist Episcopal Church supported other educational institutions in the Piedmont and western North Carolina, most of which are no longer extant, including Brown Seminary near Leicester, Aaron Seminary in Montezuma, Columbus Industrial Institute in Polk County, Fairview College in Wilkes County, Etowah Institute near Brevard, Eagle Mills School in Iredell County, Roseland School in Moore County, and the Oberlin Home and School (which became the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School, which became Pfeiffer University); as well as Bennett College in Greensboro and Allen High School in Asheville, both for African Americans.<sup>31</sup>

Working in concert with the Blue Ridge Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was the Woman’s Home Missionary Society, a national Methodist organization established in 1884. A large part of its mission was education. By 1897 the society boasted over 75,000 members and had established throughout the country, thirteen schools, twenty-one industrial homes, and three orphanages, among other things.<sup>32</sup>

In 1901, the Society noted a new relationship with the Blue Ridge Conference, which by then had three local schools supported by the denomination with a combined attendance of 100 students.<sup>33</sup> The following year the Society’s annual report noted that “the community-schools of the Blue Ridge Conference, North Carolina, are proving a great success.”<sup>34</sup> The report continues in a dramatic fashion, perhaps in order to solicit funds, to describe the service area of the schools:

This territory includes the Blue Ridge range of mountains in North Carolina, scattered among which are multitudes of people living on unproductive land, having no markets, never having seen a railroad, seldom or never seeing a newspaper, entirely aside from the great currents of life, having no part in the movements of the world, a large proportion of them not able to read and living the narrowest lives conceivable . . . Has the Church any right to permit such a thicket of darkness and ignorance in the very heart of our civilization?<sup>35</sup>

<sup>30</sup> *Official Journal of the 22nd session of the Blue Ridge annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church* (New Bern: The Advocate Publishing Company, 1900), 22.

<sup>31</sup> Of these, only Pfeiffer University and Bennett College remain in operation.

<sup>32</sup> *Sixteenth Annual Report of the General Board of Managers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society* (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern Press, 1897), 73.

<sup>33</sup> *Twentieth Annual Report of the General Board of Managers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society* (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern Press, 1901).

<sup>34</sup> *Twenty-first Annual Report of the General Board of Managers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society* (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern Press, 1901), 75.

<sup>35</sup> *Twenty-first Annual Report of the General Board of Managers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society* (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern Press, 1901), 76.

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By 1903 the Society's support of Gladstone Academy specifically as a community school is explicit, and the report noted that the school operated for eight months with local financial support as well. Gladstone was one of six schools throughout the Blue Ridge conference operating with partial support from the society. Each school was to operate for a total of eight months, the first three months funded by local government.<sup>36</sup> The Society did not own the school buildings, and sometimes the schools moved to new buildings as needed. It was also in 1903 that the Society took ownership of an industrial school in western North Carolina, near Lenoir, which came to be known as the Ebenezer C. Mitchell Home and School.

By 1905 the Society further characterized their work with the community schools of the Blue Ridge District, noting that the schools were likely temporary. "These schools are probably not permanent in their character but will help to arouse the communities in which they are located to the value of an education, and to quicken such a desire for it that a good system of public schools will eventually be demanded and developed by the people of the country places."<sup>37</sup>

The Society's characterization of the schools as temporary was prescient. Gladstone Academy's closure came with the relocation of another Methodist school to the Village of Misenheimer, but others were closed as funding was curtailed and as public schools became better, viable options. While no survey of the Methodist Episcopal Church-funded schools in western North Carolina exists, preliminary research suggests the Gladstone Academy may be the only extant nineteenth-century, Methodist-supported secondary school building in the western portion of North Carolina.

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<sup>36</sup> *Twenty-second Annual Report of the General Board of Managers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society* (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern Press, 1903), 71.

<sup>37</sup> *Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the General Board of Managers of the Woman's Home Missionary Society* (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern Press, 1905), 101.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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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

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- Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** ST0911

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** .735 acres

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Latitude: 35.482161° Longitude: -80.288172°

### Verbal Boundary Description

Lying and being in the Village of Misenheimer, Ridenhour Township, Stanly County, North Carolina, and being bounded on the West by Wesley Chapel Road (S.R. 1455), on the north by the parsonage property of Mattons Grove United Methodist Church (Record Book 530, Page 715, Plat Book 9, Page 30, Stanly County Registry), on the east by Lane E. Peeler (Record Book 925, Page 955, Stanly County Registry) and on the south by Kent E. Newport (Record Book 791, Page 724, Stanly County Registry) and Beginning at a found disturbed leaning granite monument located within the eastern boundary line (but not on said boundary line) of the right of way of Wesley Chapel Road (S.R. 1455), said found disturbed leaning granite monument also being located south 12-33-00 west 826.18 feet from a set magnetic nail in the intersection of the centerline of Wesley Chapel Road (S.R. 1455) with the centerline of the Carolina & Northwestern Railroad; thence from said Beginning point a common line with Mattons Grove United Methodist Church (Deed Book 530, Page 715) south 76-30-00 east 202.08 feet to a found 4 inch by 6 inch granite stone; thence continuing a common line with Mattons Grove United Methodist Church (Record Book 530, Page 715) south 76-30-00 east 112.47 feet to a found disturbed iron pipe; thence a common line with Lane E. Peeler (Record Book 925, Page 955) south 25-31-15 west 97.70 feet to a found 2 inch iron pipe 2 inches above ground; thence a common line with Kent E. Newport (Record Book 791, Page 724) north 83-09-19 west 91.91 feet to a found leaning stone 12 inches above ground; thence continuing a common line with Kent E. Newport (Record Book 791, Page 724) north 76-46-39 west 207.04 feet to a found 4 inch by 6 inch granite stone 6 inches above ground located within (but not on) the eastern boundary line of the right of way of Wesley Chapel Road (S.R. 1455); thence running within (but not on) the eastern boundary line of the right of way of Wesley Chapel Road north 15-42-13 east 107.29 feet to a found disturbed leaning granite monument, the point of Beginning, and containing 0.735 acre (32,054 square feet) by coordinate method and being subject to the right of way of Wesley

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Chapel Road (S.R. 1455) and being that 0.735 acre tract as shown on that Boundary Survey for the Village of Misenheimer dated March 17, 2011, as prepared by Rogell E. Hunsucker, P.L.S. with a file number of 11017.

It is indicated with a bold black line on the map entitled National Register Boundary Map Gladstone Academy.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of that lot historically associated with Gladstone Academy, containing all known resources associated with Gladstone Academy, and purchased by the Village of Misenheimer in 2011. In 2013 the Village bought an adjacent lot and had the two lots combined into a single parcel.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury  
organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting  
street & number: P O Box 6049  
city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628  
e-mail: maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com  
telephone: 919.828.1905  
date: 4.24.2024

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**Photo Log**

For all photos:  
Gladstone Academy  
Misenheimer, Stanly, North Carolina  
Photographer: Mary Ruffin Hanbury  
October 27, 2022

Exterior View to NE  
1 of 8.

Exterior View to NE  
2 of 8.

Exterior View to NNW  
3 of 8.

Exterior View to W  
4 of 8.

Interior View to SSE  
5 of 8.

Interior View to SW  
6 of 8.

Interior View to W  
7 of 8.

Interior View to NW  
8 of 8.

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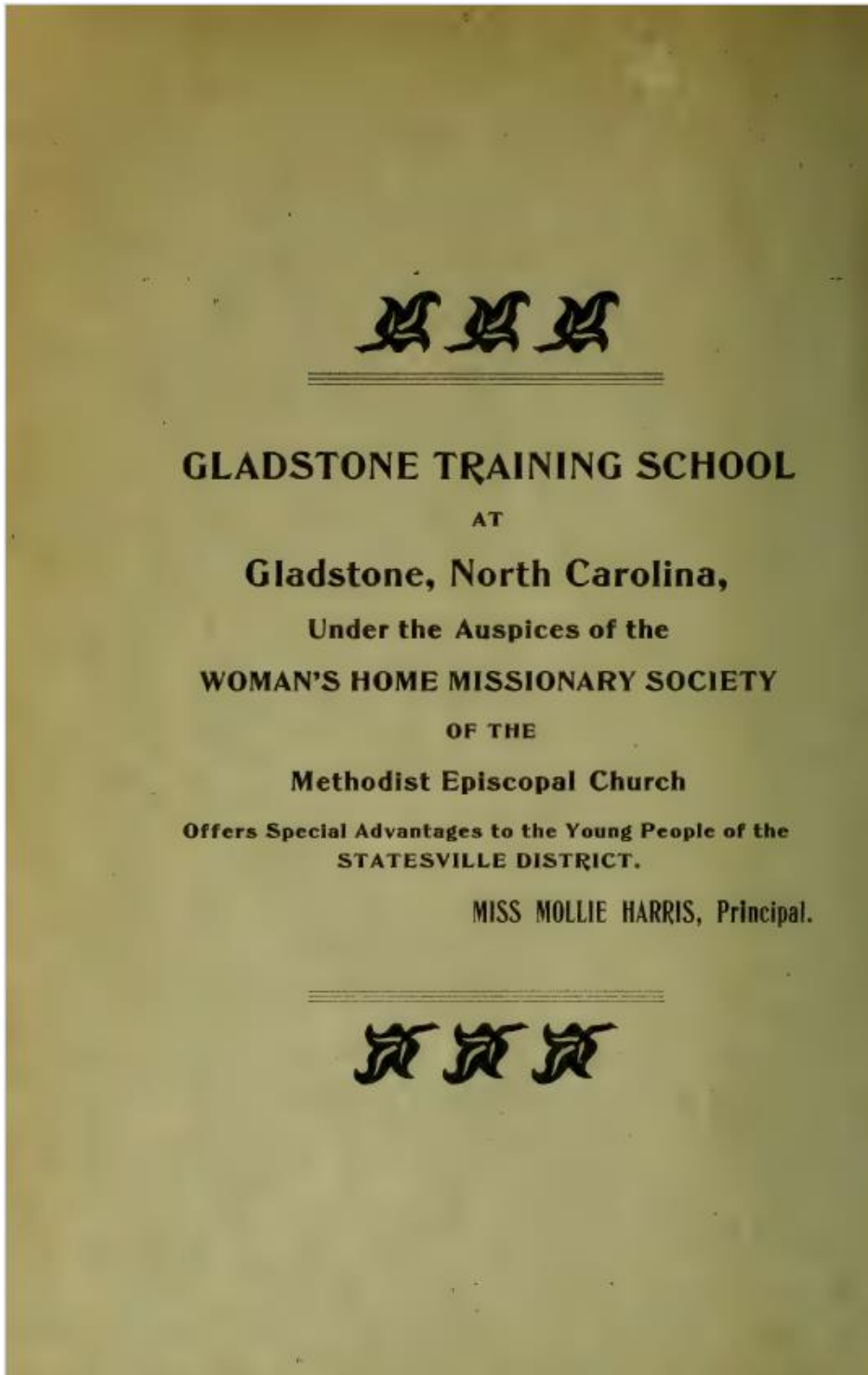


Figure 1: Advertisement from inside cover of *Official Journal of the 25th session of the Blue Ridge annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church 1903* Duke University Divinity School Library <https://divinityarchive.com/handle/11258/10459>

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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

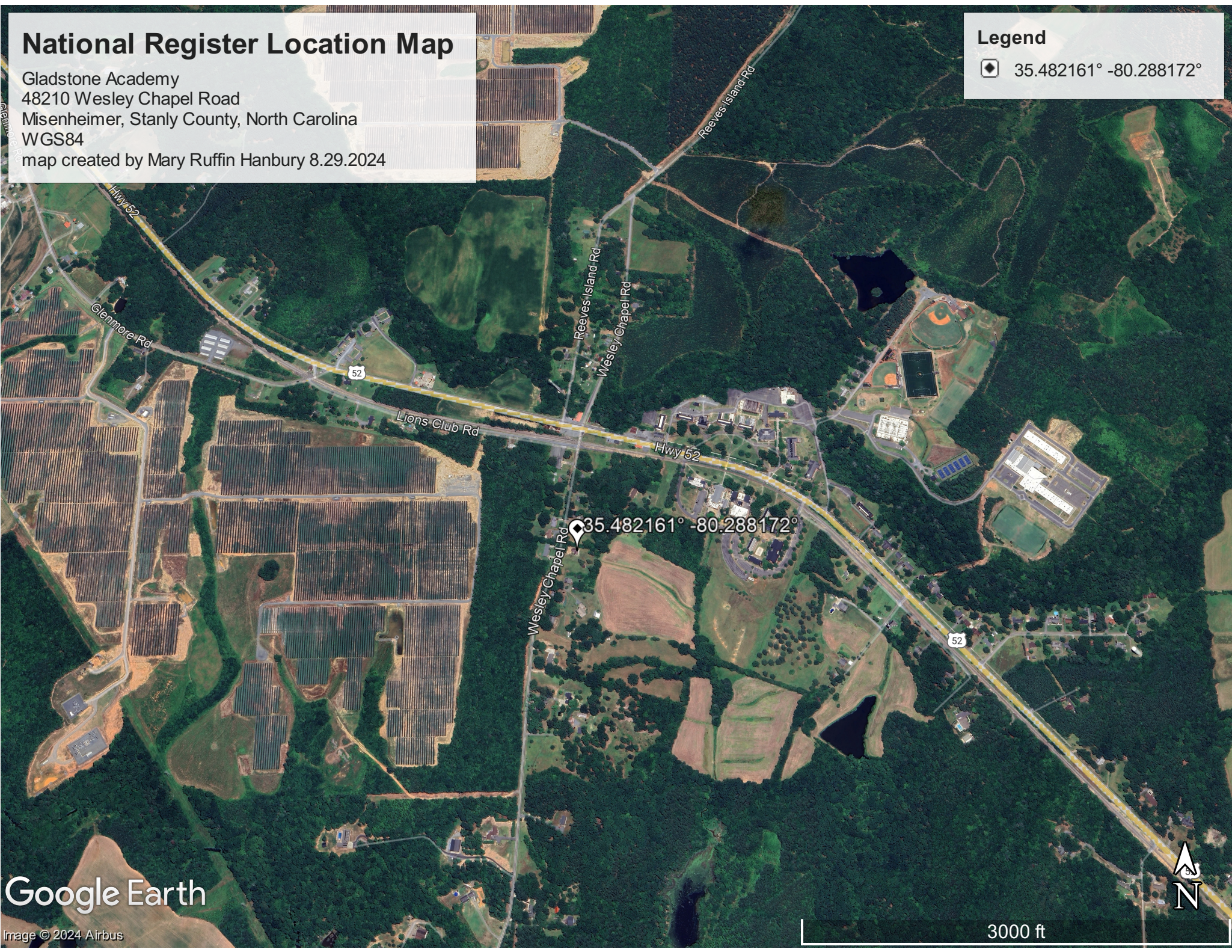
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201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

# National Register Location Map

Gladstone Academy  
48210 Wesley Chapel Road  
Misenheimer, Stanly County, North Carolina  
WGS84  
map created by Mary Ruffin Hanbury 8.29.2024

**Legend**

📍 35.482161° -80.288172°



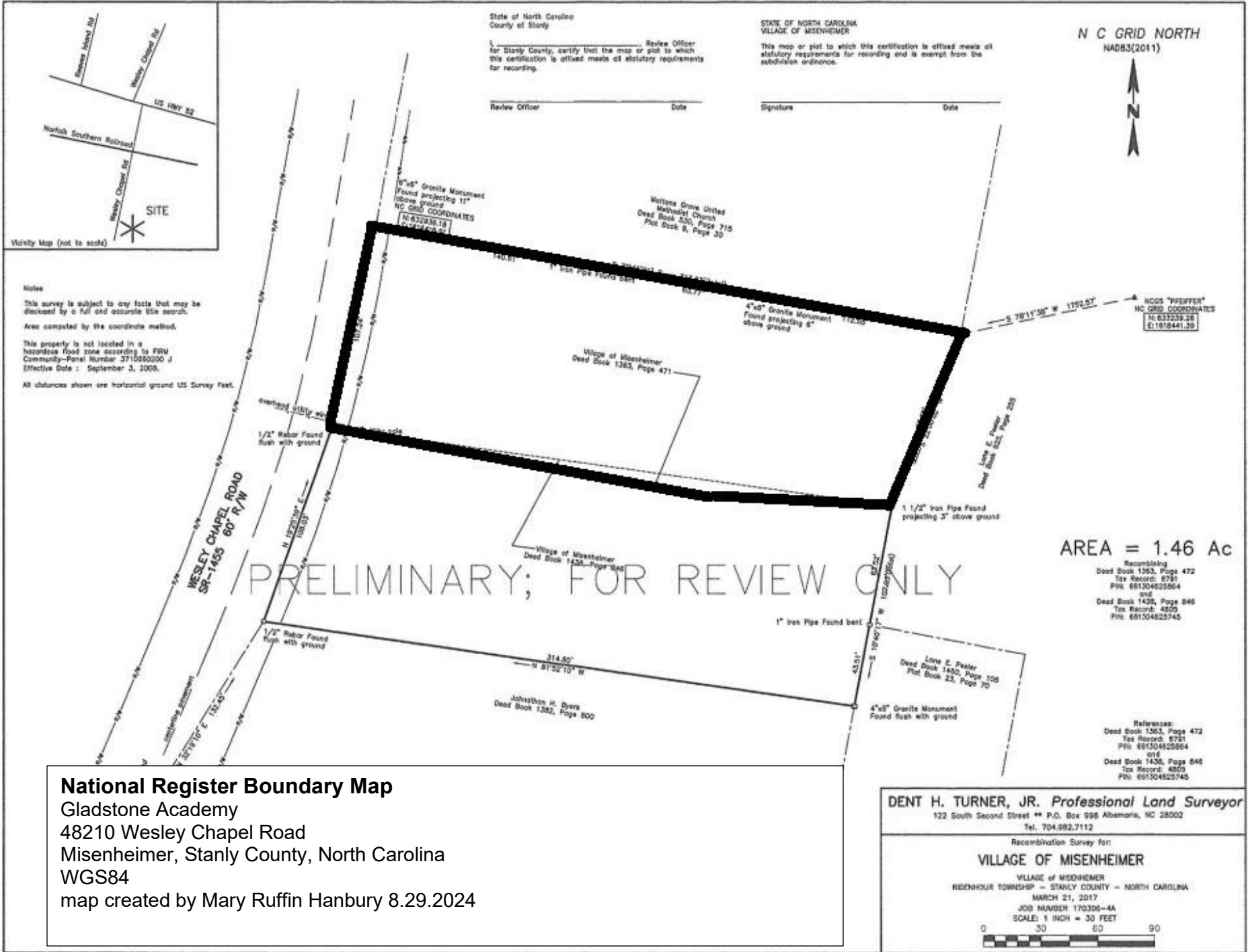
Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus



3000 ft



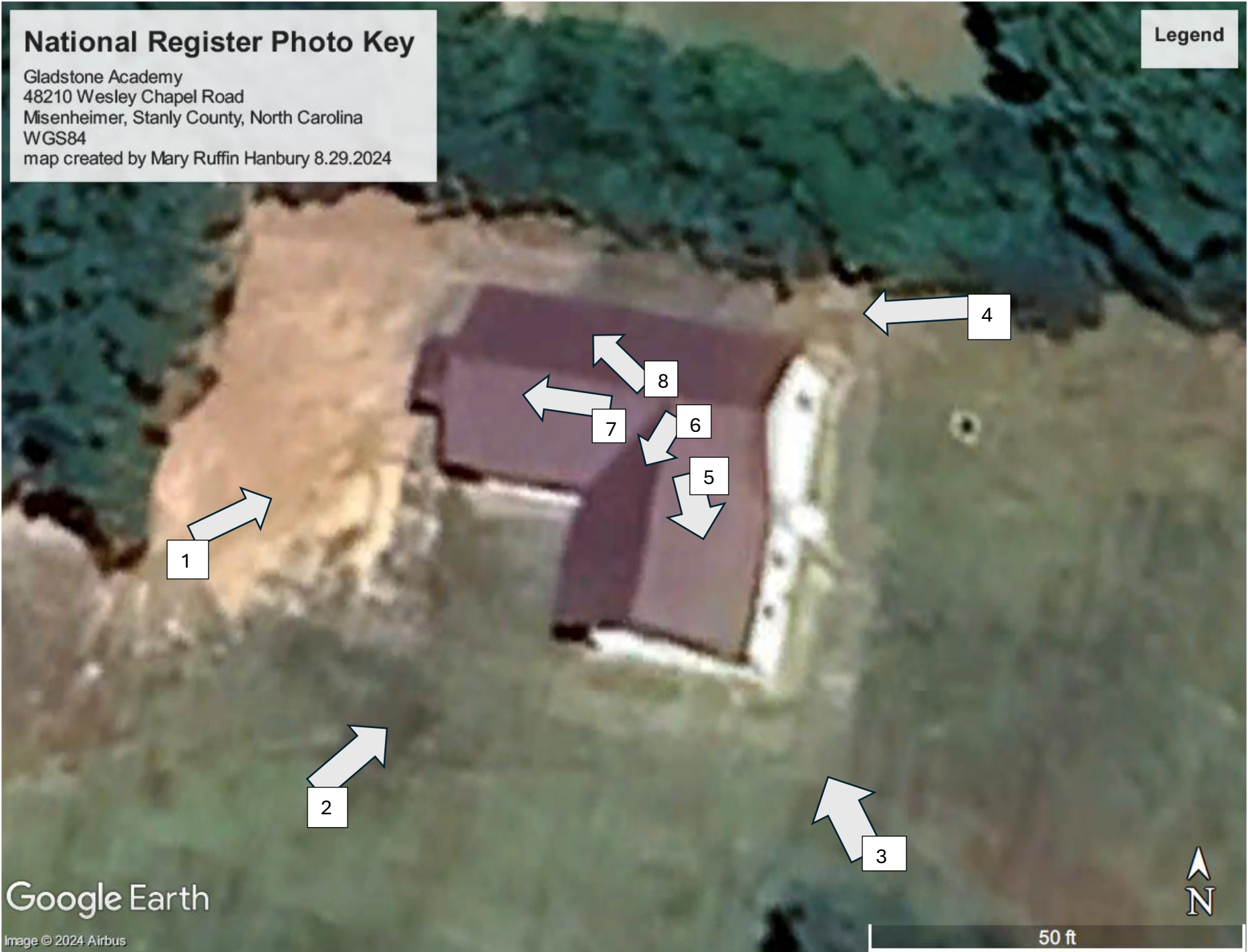


**National Register Boundary Map**  
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48210 Wesley Chapel Road  
Misenheimer, Stanly County, North Carolina  
WGS84  
map created by Mary Ruffin Hanbury 8.29.2024

# National Register Photo Key

Gladstone Academy  
48210 Wesley Chapel Road  
Misenheimer, Stanly County, North Carolina  
WGS84  
map created by Mary Ruffin Hanbury 8.29.2024

Legend



Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

50 ft