

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: Harrington's School
 Other names/site number: Carbonton Academy Girls Dormitory; LE0109
 Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of Lee County, North Carolina, ca. 1800-1942
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 6383 Carbonton Road
 City or town: Sanford State: NC County: Lee
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: x

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

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date

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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:) _____

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: education-related

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, Brick, 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

Harrington's School is located at 6383 Carbonton Road (NC Highway 42) in northwestern Lee County, North Carolina. The southwest-facing two-story frame house, built in the Greek Revival style in 1853-54, has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, white-painted weatherboard siding, six-over-six wood-sash windows, a foundation of handmade brick piers with machine-made brick infill, and an apparently original one-story kitchen and dining room ell with a modern carport extension. Evidence suggests the house originally had a full-façade one-story front porch. The current two-story front porch shelters the three middle bays of the symmetrical five-bay façade. The center-passage-plan interior is characterized by four rooms on each floor (larger at the front, smaller at the back), plaster-on-lath wall and ceiling finishes, and wood floors. Some ceilings are board-and-batten, beaverboard-and-batten, or tongue-and-groove, and some floors have modern finishes. The stair has two flights which originate at the front and back entries of the center passage and rise to a landing with a complex four-pointed star tread arrangement. The Greek Revival mantels are robustly detailed with pilasters, paneled friezes, and other treatments. The door and window surrounds are also robust. Other notable interior features include paneled wainscots in some rooms, a kitchen mantel, and mostly two-panel doors. To simplify description the rooms are designated by southeast, northeast, and so forth, though technically they occupy south, east, and so forth corners of the southwest-facing house. Next to the house stands a partly sunken brick cellar and a modern open-sided shed. A stone and brick chimney, the remnant of a former washhouse, stands beyond the end of the carport. The yard is shaded by mature deciduous trees and a large magnolia. Beyond the approximately one-acre nominated area are agricultural

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fields and the edge of woods that extend westward to the Deep River, a tributary of the Cape Fear River. The house stands at approximately 300 feet above sea level.

Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Harrington's School. 1853-54. Contributing building.
2. Cellar. 1850s? Contributing building.
3. Washhouse chimney. 1850s?; ca. 1960. Non-contributing structure.
4. Storage shed. Ca. 1990. Non-contributing structure.

House Exterior

Harrington's School (inventory no. 1) is notable for its robust Greek Revival exterior detail, including treatment of windows. The window surrounds are of two types. The four first-story front windows are flanked by paneled pilasters and surmounted by pedimented lintels. The house's other windows, including a window on the side of the ell, have heavy sills, two-part pilasters consisting of narrow boards nailed to wider backing boards, fillet-molding pilaster caps, and pediments created by boards arranged in an inverted v pattern. The first-story center front entry has a surround with sidelights, paneled trim boards, blank corner blocks, and a two-panel door. A panel across the top appears to replace glazing for a former transom. The surround panels are trimmed with moldings.

To the left and right of the entry and extending to the corners are wainscots, on which the windows rest, with plain lower registers and slightly narrower paneled upper registers. This wainscot effect provides evidence for a former full-façade one-story porch (which may have had a two-story center section). Other evidence is provided by the "floating" character of the corner pilasters at the ends of the elevation, which would have risen from the roof of the former porch. Cut into the fillet moldings at the top of the wainscots are notches for the former pilaster posts of the lower tier of a porch in existence in the late nineteenth century or ca. 1900, which had the same footprint as the current porch. The wainscot panels, the entry trim, the window surrounds, and the corner pilasters (described below) have green and white paint schemes that accentuate their forms.

The roof of the current two-story front porch dates to the end of the nineteenth century or ca. 1900 and may be a reworking of the roof of a possible second tier of the original porch. The fabric of the porch under it dates to the mid- to late twentieth century, probably the third quarter of the century. The single-tier porch has four monumental square wood columns on a brick platform with brick front steps, both constructed of machine-made bricks. The two center columns support a balcony for a second-story center entry, the balcony with a decorative metal railing and the second-story entry with a pedimented surround similar to those of the windows

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that flank it. The weatherboarded porch gable has a louvered vent of kite-like rhomboidal form, a late nineteenth century or ca. 1900 feature.

The four corners of the house have pilasters of complex form. The pilasters are essentially columnar, capped at the top by fillet moldings under the frieze, but boards have been applied to the pilaster faces giving them an outward-stepping appearance. Above the boards are inverted-v boards in the frieze that wrap around the corners and give the pilasters the appearance of having pediments like the second-story window pediments. The lower halves of the front-facing faces of the front corner pilasters have been replaced and narrowed and the applied boards omitted. Several of the applied face boards rise from wider base blocks.

Other notable exterior features of the house include the side gables, which are pedimented with rectangular louvered vents and flush board sheathing in the tympanums. The two interior chimneys of the main house are handmade brick with simple corbeled caps. The foundation retains most of its original brick piers which have traces of whitewash. Originally the spaces between the piers were slatted with wood slats for ventilation; in the twentieth century the slatting was replaced with brick infill.

The kitchen and dining room ell has an enclosed porch on one side with brick veneer up to the window-sill level, a screen porch with a weatherboard and Masonite half wall on the other side, and a gable-end carport addition with a brick or tile block storage compartment at the end. On the kitchen gable end is an exterior chimney of handmade brick with the shaft and a stepped base partly covered in parging. According to tradition of the Cole and Poe families (twentieth- and twenty-first-century owners of the property), the kitchen may originally have been separate from the house, and a fire may have affected the evolution of the ell.

House Interior

The front entry opens into the end of the center passage and stair hall. The staircase, on the east side of the hall, has two flights which rise from near the front and rear entries (the rear entry now opens to the enclosed ell side porch). Two symmetrically-placed doors lead to the two west rooms; on the east side of the hall, a door at the foot of the north flight of stairs leads to the northeast room and a door centered between the two flights leads to closets and the southeast room. Most of the baseboards in the house are tall and unmolded.

The two first-floor front rooms have the most elaborate Greek Revival mantels in the house. The southeast front room mantel, which has a natural wood finish, features a heavy projecting single-panel frieze capped by a heavy shelf and visually supported by a fireplace surround. The surround has rounded columnar pilasters and a narrow single-panel lintel. The frieze and lintel panels are molded and recessed, the frieze panel flat and the lintel panel with a double-beveled face. The pilasters and lintel meet at blank corner blocks. The mantel's fireplace, like all fireplaces in the house, is closed.

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The southwest front room mantel, which is painted, also features a heavy projecting single-panel frieze capped by a heavy shelf, but its fireplace surround is different, consisting of slender molded pilasters that taper almost to a point at the top where they join to molded corner blocks. Next to the mantel is a built-in cupboard with molded trim, large corner blocks, a flush board lower half, and modern louvered doors above. The existence of a door surround on the other side of the wall behind the bookcase suggests the bookcase is a converted doorway. The mantels in the two first-floor back rooms are nearly identical, with projecting friezes with double molded panels, heavy flat pilasters with caps and bases, and shelves with angled corners.

The two first-floor front rooms also have the most elaborate wall treatments in the house. The east front room has a low paneled wainscot above a tall unmolded baseboard. The wainscot panels are molded, and where there are windows above the wainscot the flat divisions between the panels project above the chair rail to form base blocks for the window surrounds. These base blocks are exaggerated in scale, as are the blank corner blocks at the top of the windows. The west front room has a molded picture rail in addition to the same wainscot effect and exaggerated window and doorway base blocks and corner blocks (most doorways and window surrounds in the house have similarly oversized treatments). The two first-floor rooms behind the front rooms are more plainly finished. They have identical mantels with stout pilasters, a frieze with two recessed and molded panels, and a shelf with beveled corners.

The two flights of stairs meet at a landing just below the second-floor floor level. Rising with the flights are low railings consisting of double rails. These attach at the bottom to rectangular-section newels with slanted caps. At the bottom of each flight are two winder steps, the lower one with a curved tread. The stair woodwork has a natural wood finish. The fascias at the two ends of the stairwell where the second-floor floor is interrupted are finished with canted boards and robust quarter-round moldings. The landing has a complex form that fuses four sets of winders so as to create a four-pointed star configuration. The winders create turns that allow stair users from both directions to turn via a triangular step either westward into the second-floor center passage and eastward through a doorway into the front second-floor east room. The stairwell is rimmed by a low railing which, like the railings that ascend with the stairs, has upper and lower rails, though their heavy square newels are more conventional in form. The low height of the stair railings may have been scaled for children.

The four upstairs mantels are similar in form, with heavy shelves, heavy pilasters, and friezes with molded panels. All but one of the mantels have double frieze panels (the fourth, in the west back room, has a single frieze panel), and all but one of the mantels have molded panels recessed into the pilaster base blocks (the fourth, in the east back room, has plain base blocks). Doors have either pottery doorknobs (the most common), porcelain doorknobs, or metal doorknobs. The three-panel door at the south end of the second-story passage opens onto the balcony under the roof of the front porch.

The attic is reached through a hatch in a closet in the second-floor front west room. The roof has common rafters which are butted and nailed at the ridge. Most of the roof boards that are visible from the hatch are circular-sawn though a few are vertically machine-sawn. Multiple nails

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projecting through the roof boards attest to former wood shingle roofing (confirmed by historic photos). The flush boards of the west gable are circular-sawn.

The ell has a dining room against the main house, a kitchen at the end, and an enclosed porch on the east side. The enclosed porch provides access to the dining room and kitchen from the center passage of the main house (the dining room is not accessed directly from the main house). The kitchen has a three-panel door to the screen porch on the west side and a fireplace mantel with a single-panel frieze and tapering pilasters with thick quarter-round caps. Knotty-pine kitchen cabinetry including a scalloped fringe over the fireplace was added in the mid-twentieth century.

Secondary Resources

The **cellar** (inv. no. 2) is a small, deteriorated, brick building sunk partway into the ground. The building, which appears to date to the mid-nineteenth century (perhaps at or about the same time as the house), is constructed of handmade bricks laid in 1:5 common bond and has a metal-sheathed shed roof which is partly missing. The building has an entry facing the house and an empty window opening on the south side with a wire-nailed wood frame. From the entry, steps led down to a sunken floor. There are traces of whitewash on the interior brickwork. A falling tree limb recently damaged the remaining roof.

The **washhouse chimney** (inv. no. 3), the remains of a building no longer extant, has a sandstone fieldstone base (which likely dates to the mid-nineteenth century) and a flue constructed of machine-made brick (a twentieth-century rebuilding of the original flue). The stonework extends into what would have been the interior of the washhouse and supports a large cast-iron pot that may have been used for boiling clothes. The building may have served also, or instead, as a kitchen. The brick flue, which has a stepped base above the stonework, replaces a stone flue shown in a ca. 1950 photo.

The ca. 1990 **storage shed** (inv. no. 4) is an open-sided shed-roofed frame structure with metal roofing and a rectangular plan.

Integrity Assessment

Harrington's School possesses a high degree of integrity from the period of significance with most of its original exterior and interior features and finishes intact. The house remains at its original location and possesses good exterior integrity in that it retains most of its historic design, materials, and workmanship. The most significant exterior change is the front porch, most of which was replaced in the mid- to late twentieth century, though the roof dates to the late nineteenth century or ca. 1900 and may be a reworking of an original upper-tier porch roof. Other changes are the carport and storage compartment addition to the end of the ell and the enclosure of the ell side porch. Despite these changes, the exterior continues to display numerous notable, bold vernacular Greek Revival elements, including window and door surrounds, corner pilasters, and the front wainscot effect. The house possesses high interior integrity with its original plan arrangement, decorative mantels, doors, stair, and trim intact. The surviving cellar,

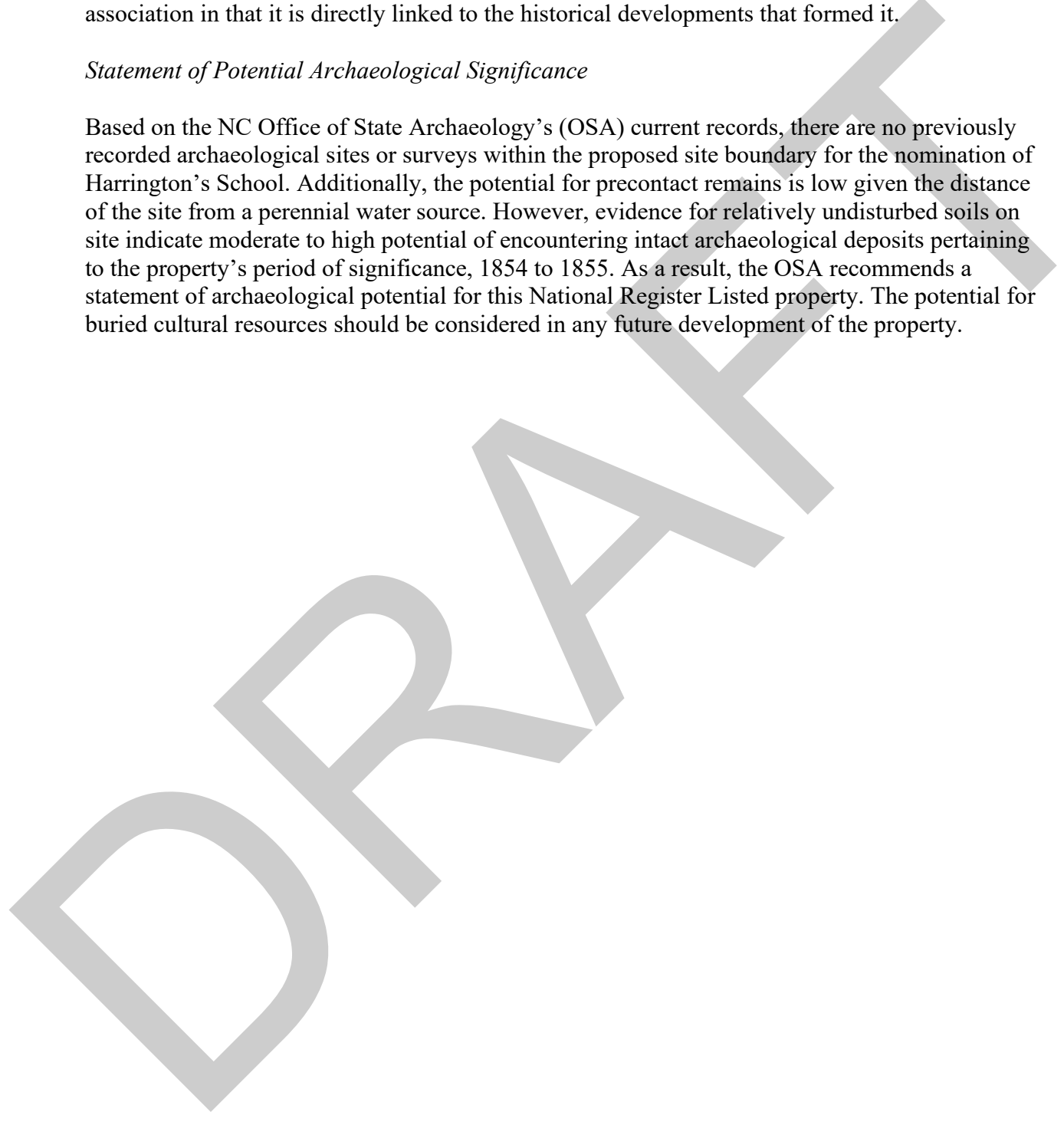
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though deteriorated, enhances the integrity of the property. The house possesses integrity of association in that it is directly linked to the historical developments that formed it.

Statement of Potential Archaeological Significance

Based on the NC Office of State Archaeology's (OSA) current records, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites or surveys within the proposed site boundary for the nomination of Harrington's School. Additionally, the potential for precontact remains is low given the distance of the site from a perennial water source. However, evidence for relatively undisturbed soils on site indicate moderate to high potential of encountering intact archaeological deposits pertaining to the property's period of significance, 1854 to 1855. As a result, the OSA recommends a statement of archaeological potential for this National Register Listed property. The potential for buried cultural resources should be considered in any future development of the property.



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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

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1854-1855

Significant Dates

1854

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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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.)

Harrington's School in Lee County, North Carolina, is unique as the only known education-related historic resource to survive in the county from the period before the Civil War. The two-story Greek Revival frame building, built in 1853-54, was operated as part of a private academy by University of North Carolina graduate Cyrus Harrington. Initially males-only when the school was established in July 1853, a female department was added in January 1854 and the name changed to Harrington's Male and Female School. The building appears to have functioned as the residence of Harrington and his wife, Lucy Ann Roberts Harrington, as well as a residence and classroom building for female students. A brick cellar appears to date to the same period. The building is a fine example of vernacular Greek Revival design, with peaked window and corner pilaster treatments, a wainscot-like effect across the front, dual stairways that rise to a shared landing with a star-like tread arrangement, and robust doorway and mantel detail. The school closed in 1855; afterward the building served as a farmhouse for the Cole and Poe families with possible brief use as the Carbonton Academy in 1860. Harrington's School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the education area of significance for its association with Lee County's pre-Civil War educational history as the only known education-related historic resource to survive from the period, and under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance as a leading example of robust Greek Revival architecture in the county. These areas of significance are supported by the Multiple Property Documentation Form discussed in greater detail below. The period of significance begins in 1854 with the completion of the building and the beginning of its school-related use, and ends in 1855 with the school's closing. Harrington's School is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

Historic Overview and Education and Architecture Significance

As a fine example of robust local Greek Revival detail, Harrington's School is discussed in the 1993 Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of Lee County, North Carolina, ca. 1800-1942" under the heading "Transportation-related Development in Lee County, 1850-1879: Architecture" (therein cited as the Carbonton Academy Girls' Dormitory). The form makes special note of the building's "boldly defined peaked window lintels and atypical mantel and stair treatments." The building's exaggerated interior detail is similar to that in the ca. 1855 farmhouse on the John D. McIver Farm (NRHP 1993) in Sanford, the ca. 1855 Wesley and Jane C. McIver House near Sanford, and the ca. 1855 McIver-Faulk House, also near Sanford. Under the heading "Transportation-related Development in Lee

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County, 1850-1879: Religion and Education,” the building is discussed as the county’s premier antebellum educational resource.¹

Harrington’s School was established by Cyrus Harrington (ca. 1833-1893), who according to an 1893 obituary was born in the Euphronia Presbyterian Church vicinity of Lee County (then Moore County) about 1833. Harrington was the son of William D. Harrington (1799-1881), one of the area’s largest farmers. Cyrus Harrington attended the University of North Carolina where he was a member of the Dialectic Society, a debate club. He graduated in early June 1853 and by the end of the month had purchased ads in Fayetteville and Raleigh papers announcing the opening of “Harrington’s School.” The announcement in the July 11, 1853, issue of the *Fayetteville Observer* describes the fledgling institution in detail:

HARRINGTON’S SCHOOL

The first session of this School will open on the 11th day of July, and continue twenty-one weeks. It will be under the supervision of the subscriber, who is a graduate of the University, and trusts, as he has had some experience in teaching, that he will be able to impart good moral and mental instruction to his pupils, and prepare them for any College in the Union.

In governing his school the subscriber will exercise a rigid discipline, and information respecting the conduct and progress of each student will be transmitted to parents and guardians twice a session.

The Academy, newly erected, is situated on the branch of the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road, running to Evans’ Mill, on an elevated and healthy position, near the place formerly known as “McMillan’s Academy.” The neighborhood, as many can testify who received their education here more than a quarter of a century ago, is moral, healthy and intelligent.

Excellent board, lights, washing, and bedding included, can be readily obtained at A. W. Jones’, Esq., and in many other first rate families near the Academy, at from five to six dollars per month.

Tuition in the Languages, \$15 per session; in English and Mathematics, varying according to advancement, from \$8 to \$15. Tuition is charged from the time of entering the school.²

In its first session, which ended in mid-December 1853, Harrington’s School appears to have accepted only male students, who are presumed to have lodged and/or received instruction in a nearby building that no longer survives. One indication of a male-only focus is the promise to prepare students for a collegiate education, which was with few exceptions open only to males

¹ Pezzoni, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Lee County,” E17-E18; Pezzoni, “John D. McIver Farm,” 10; Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 195, 196, 199.

² *Sanford Express*, November 9, 1893; *Semi-Weekly North Carolina Standard*, June 8 and July 20 and 27, 1853; *Fayetteville Observer*, July 11, 1853; *Catalogue of the Members of the Dialectic Society*, 40; Willcox, *History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 345-346. The school opening announcements in the Fayetteville and Raleigh papers are almost identically worded. One account states that Cyrus Harrington was born ca. 1827 (Pezzone, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 192).

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during the antebellum period. Instruction in foreign language (usually Latin, possibly also Greek and French), English, and mathematics was common in the preparatory schools of the era. A former student recalled that Harrington “paid special attention to the English branches, and was very particular with spelling, reading, grammar, elocution, etc.” The first session announcements stressed the healthfulness of the school’s location. This was a selling point for North Carolina schools of the era, which wished to assure parents their children would not be exposed to the fevers and other maladies associated with low-lying, swampy terrain. The point was elaborated in the announcement for the school’s second (early 1854) session, which described the location as “an elevated and healthy position, in the *long leaf pines*.” The reference to longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) reflected “the old belief that the fragrant air of sandy upland pine barrens was more healthful than the miasmatic atmosphere of low-lying areas.” The salubriousness of the vicinity was also claimed in a March 1854 newspaper article regarding the laying out of the nearby town of Carbondon, which stated, “the location is remarkable for its healthfulness, and for the abundance and purity of its water.”³

The July 1853 announcement mentioned McMillan’s Academy. This was likely the same institution as the Euphronian (or Euphronia) Academy, established in 1811 or 1812 by Presbyterian minister Murdock (or Murdoch) McMillan. According to one account, the earlier school operated into the mid-1840s, though McMillan emigrated to Tennessee in the 1830s. Euphronian Academy and Euphronia Presbyterian Church (established by 1814) initially shared the same building, underscoring the close association between church and school in traditional North Carolina, especially among Presbyterians with their emphasis on learning. Other church-supported schools may have existed in the Lee County area during the antebellum period, though McMillan Academy is the best-documented. Harrington’s School would likely have had some elements of religious instruction, though there is no indication it was church-supported. State-supported common schools appeared late in the period. Wealthy planters often hired tutors to instruct their children rather than sending them to private or public schools.⁴

Cyrus Harrington ran more announcements in January 1854 to generate enrollment for the school’s second session. An important change was the creation of a female department and the recasting of the academy as Harrington’s Male and Female School. “Pressed by the solicitation of numerous friends,” Harrington wrote, “the subscriber has resolved to establish a Female School of high character. He is desirous of obtaining some 12 or 15 young ladies as boarders, for whom he is preparing and will soon have completed ample accommodations.” The surviving Greek Revival residence is generally believed to have housed the female department. Harrington’s announcement was purchased in November 1853, which would mean the building was under construction in late 1853 and may have been ready for use by the opening of the second session on January 9, 1854. The advert referred to the “Academies, newly erected,” pluralizing the July 1853 formulation. Harrington also assured parents that washing, “*plenty of good wholesome food*” and “large and well ventilated rooms” would be provided for female

³ Pezzoni, “Euphronia Presbyterian Church,” 3-4; Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 10; *Greensborough Patriot*, March 25, 1854; *Carthage Blade*, April 19, 1905.

⁴ Pezzoni, “Euphronia Presbyterian Church,” 3-4; Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 10, 25, 230; Willcox, *History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 498.

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students. The washing and food may indicate the presence of a kitchen and/or washhouse on the premises, perhaps the building formerly associated with the surviving (mostly later) chimney, and would undoubtedly have involved the labor of an enslaved cook and/or washerwoman. The December 1853 announcement suggests washing was provided by the local families with whom students boarded, but with apparent completion of the Greek Revival building by January 1854 and the boarding of female students on the premises, that arrangement would likely have been superseded, at least for the female students. The brick cellar may also date to this period as it would have aided the preservation of milk and other perishable foods, the “good wholesome food” mentioned in the announcement. The “large and well ventilated rooms” may be a direct reference to the Greek Revival building, which has what would have been regarded as large rooms, each room with multiple windows.⁵

Announcement for the third session, which was to run from July 17 to December 1, 1854, provide additional detail on the operation of the school. The curriculum now included a “course of Religious Lectures” and extra instruction in “Music on Piano Forte, with use of instrument \$20” and “Drawing, Painting, Embroidery and French, \$5 each.” Harrington provided board from \$6.00 to \$7.50 per month and added that he had “ample accommodations and desires to take all the Female Boarders into his own family.” His family at the time included his wife, Lucy Ann (Roberts) Harrington, whom Cyrus married on August 2, 1853. The newspaper announcements and other sources do not describe Lucy’s role in the school but it is likely to have involved care of the female students beginning in 1854 and possibly also teaching.⁶

The third session announcements urged parents to contact “the Principal or either of the Teachers” for further particulars on the program. This was in reference to Miss Ann Margaret McEachin, from Robeson County, who taught the female department, and William M. Brooks, a graduate of the school who assisted Harrington in the male department. Brooks’s position was described as early as December 1853 when Harrington noted, “From the highly flattering patronage which [the school] has received, the subscriber has been induced to employ an Assistant in the Male department.” Also in December 1853, Harrington advertised “The subscriber will pay a liberal salary to a *first rate* and highly accomplished Female Instructor.” A 1905 reminiscence by a male former student of the academy noted that the student body “was composed mostly of Moore and Chatham county girls and boys, with some from Randolph and Robeson,” and included such future luminaries as Dr. R. H. Marsh, a president of North Carolina’s Baptist state convention. A number of the male students went into the Confederate army and died of wounds or disease during the Civil War.⁷

The newspaper announcements suggested a rosy outlook for Harrington’s School, and Harrington voiced optimism for the prospects of the community of which it was a part. The *Fayetteville Observer* ran a short promotional piece by Harrington in its January 9, 1854, issue.

⁵ *Fayetteville Weekly Observer*, December 5, 1853, and January 16, 1854.

⁶ *Fayetteville Observer*, June 26, 1854.

⁷ *Fayetteville Observer*, December 5, 1853, and February 13, and June 26, 1854; *Spirit of the Age*, December 14 and 21, 1853; *Carthage Blade*, April 19, 1905. McEachin’s name is also spelled McEachen or McEachern in historic accounts.

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“You perceive that I call the place at which I am teaching ‘Carbonton.’ Gov. Morehead suggested the name, and this I hope will prove to be Dr. Emmons’s ‘Lowell South of Mason & Dixon’s line . . . The place now contains four stores, and a fifth will soon be erected. This looks something like a town.” An 1890 biographical summary of Harrington’s life and career, which appears to have drawn on his own reminiscences, states that he closed the school in 1855 and moved to Okolona, Mississippi, where he opened another academy. On October 18, 1856, W. P. Wilcox (or Willcox) advertised that he would sell “By virtue of a Deed of Trust executed to me by Cyrus Harrington . . . a House and Lot [known as the] Male and Female Academy, and a large assortment of School Books.” The reasons for Harrington closing the school and moving out of state are not known.⁸

In 1860 a “Carbonton School” was operated by principal John C. Campbell at Carbonton, possibly in the Harrington building. Newspaper adverts described the school as a feeder institution for the University of North Carolina, which suggests it was males-only. The building may be the subject of an 1864 sale advertisement by Rev. W. L. Miller, which reads in part:

I will sell my place in Carbonton, on Deep River, consisting of a residence of ten rooms, with Kitchen, Negro House, &c., &c. There is also a Framed House, about 30 X 20 on the place. The place was fitted up a few years before the war for a school, and will furnish ample accommodations for a large family. There are about 40 acres of land attached with an excellent Young Orchard of the choicest Apple and Peach Trees. The house is situated in a beautiful grove of White Oaks.

The ten-room size of the house and its former use as a school suggest it may be the same building as Harrington’s School, which originally and currently has eight rooms in the main section and two rooms in the ell. The no-longer-extant “Framed House” may refer to the male department of the school, which was presumably housed in a building on the premises before the completion of the 1853-54 building, and the kitchen, with the implication it was a separate building, may relate to the former washhouse or kitchen. The absence of deeds for the period complicates a positive identification of the Miller house as the Harrington building.⁹

The building passed into the ownership of Alexander (Alex) McIver in the 1870s, possibly the late 1870s after the death of McIver’s wife, Mary Ann Willcox McIver, in 1878. In 1884 McIver lived in Carbonton, presumably in the former school building. That year McIver sold 140 acres “near Carbonton” to George Cole for \$1,500. McIver was a professor of mathematics at Davidson College and the University of North Carolina in the 1850s and 1860s and from 1871 to 1874 he served as North Carolina’s first superintendent of public instruction. He was later involved in the agricultural reform movement. Deeds describing the various transfers before 1884 have not been located, but a strong indication that the house acquired by McIver and later Cole was one and the same as Harrington’s School is provided by a reminiscence published in the April 19, 1905, issue of the *Carthage Blade*. The account, one of a series of historical

⁸ *North-Carolinian*, October 18, 1856; *Catalogue of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity*, 419.

⁹ *Fayetteville Observer*, January 2 and July 23, 1860; *Daily Conservative*, September 23, 1864.

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features on Moore County schools, was contributed semi-anonymously by "W," whom the editor of the *Blade* surmised was Captain George Wilcox of Carbondon. The account begins:

In the fall of 1852, I think it was, [or] afterwards, Rev. Cyrus Harrington, built an academy about one mile from the 'old academy,' where Mr. George Cole now lives. He bought there two acres or more. It was a co-educational institution, the boys and girls being taught in separate buildings after the first session.

W noted that Cyrus Harrington and Alex McIver were classmates at the University of North Carolina.¹⁰

According to historian George W. Willcox, the school building "was converted to a residence and became the home of Professor Alexander McIver in the 1870s and later the home of George Cole." Willcox believes John C. Campbell taught in the building, which would confirm that the Carbondon Academy used the building after Harrington's School. George Cole, who was a large landowner, purchased a quarter interest in the Carbondon Mills (merchant mill, sawmill, and cotton gin) in 1886 and remained in the milling business until 1915. George Cole and his wife, Flora Ann McIver Cole, had a daughter, Cornelia, who married Thomas (Tom) Wesley Poe Sr. At the end of the twentieth century the property was owned by Cornelia and Tom's son, agribusinessman Thomas (Tom) Wesley Poe Jr. (d. 1997). During the late twentieth century the building was known to local historians as the Carbondon Academy Girls Dormitory or simply Carbondon Academy. The property remains in the Poe family.¹¹

¹⁰ *Fayetteville Observer*, December 19, 1859; Moore County Deed Book 6, p. 450; Willcox, *History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 346, 503, 553; *Carthage Blade*, April 5 and 19 and May 3, 1905; *North Carolina Farmer* 2:2 (August 1884), 79; Boughman, "McIver, Alexander." Moore County deeds before 1889 were destroyed when the Moore County Courthouse burned that year (*Carthage Blade*, September 12, 1889).

¹¹ Willcox, *History of the House in the Horseshoe*, 500; Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 192-193; Cole and Poe family genealogy from Katie Pepper.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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1993.

Sanford Express (Sanford, NC).

Semi-Weekly North Carolina Standard (Raleigh, NC).

Semi-Weekly Standard (Raleigh, NC).

Spirit of the Age (Raleigh, NC).

Weekly Observer (Fayetteville, NC).

Willcox, George W. *A History of the House in the Horseshoe*. Carbondon, NC: Historical Research Services, 1999.

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): LE0109

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 1 acre

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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: 35.511729 Longitude: -79.326957

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

The boundary is depicted on the approximately 1:54 scale map that accompanies the report. The boundary is a rectangle projected from the outermost points of Harrington's School (inv. no. 1). The boundary delineates a portion of the approximately 226-acre tax parcel no. 960431143800 and includes much of the yard area around the house.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is tightly defined to encompass the principal surviving historic resource, Harrington's School (inv. no. 1); a contributing secondary resource, the contemporaneous cellar (inv. no. 2); and much of the yard area around the house. The boundary excludes cultivated surrounding acreage and clusters of noncontributing resources at various distances from the historic core.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston Street
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: May 17, 2026

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.

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- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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: Harrington's School

City or Vicinity: Sanford County: Lee State: North Carolina

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: February 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera. All information same except description of photo:

1 of 12.

West and south (front) elevations, view looking north.

2 of 12.

South (front) and east elevations, view looking west.

3 of 12.

North and west elevations, view looking southeast.

4 of 12.

East and northern elevations, view looking south.

5 of 12.

Front paneled wainscot-like effect, view looking northwest.

6 of 12.

First-floor stair.

7 of 12.

Landing at top of stair (second floor).

8 of 12.

First-floor southwest room mantel.

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First-floor southwest room door.

10 of 12.

Second-floor southeast room mantel.

11 of 12.

Cellar with storage structure behind, view looking northwest.

12 of 12.

Washhouse chimney, view looking northeast.

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.