NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 2012)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name National Teacher's Normal & Business College Administration Building

other names/site number Ad Building; Admin Building; Old Main Administration Building; Old Main

2. Location

street & number 158 E. Main Street NA ☐ not for publication

city or town Henderson NA ☐ vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Chester code 023 zip code 38340

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 for 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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain:) _____

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
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/college
RELIGIOUS/religious facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/college
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italian Renaissance
Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof WOOD/SHINGLE
other LIMESTONE

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 N/A
(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Religion
Architecture

Period of Significance
1907-1962

Significant Dates
1908
1933-1949
1953

Significant Person
(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
McGee, Hubert Thomas; Contractors: O'Dair, Jess; Thorogood, Walter; Roberts, Will; Trice, Pete; McCorckle, Joe; and Ledbetter, Glen; Rice, Spencer

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:
Freed Hardeman University

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 Henderson 12A NW

UTM References
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	351221	3923090	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erin Adams/University Archivist; David Newberry; and Jaime L. Destefano (Tennessee Historical Commission)
organization Freed-Hardeman University date December 2012
street & number 158 E. Main Street telephone 731-989-6789
city or town Henderson state TN zip code 38340

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

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

name Freed-Hardeman University c/o David Newberry
street & number 158 E. Main Street telephone 731-989-6000
city or town Henderson state TN zip code 38340

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Narrative Description

Completed in 1908, the National Teacher's Normal & Business College Administration Building[1] is located almost exactly in the geographical center of the town of Henderson (population of approximately 6,500) at the intersection of Main Street (State Highway 100) and Cason Street. Old Main is a prominent edifice on the present Freed-Hardeman University Campus; reflecting early-20th century Italian Renaissance Revival and Italianate-style elements. Character-defining elements include a centered, two-story portico with brick arches and Ionic columns, buff-colored brick, limestone keystones, brick quoins, corbelled brick water table, gabled dormers, domed cupola with bell, and domed piers.

The lot on which Old Main sits is a natural rise up from street level. At the top of the rise sits the building, facing north/northwest towards Main Street. A narrow sidewalk leads from the building's main entrance (northwest elevation), down a small staircase to Main Street below. The sidewalk passes under an arched metal sign on brick piers and reads "Freed-Hardeman University." An expansive lawn west of the building is terraced and planted with oak trees. A.G. Freed (FHU namesake) once described the lot as a "young forest of small oaks."[2] Old Main is one of four campus buildings facing Main Street. The contributing site of a former brick baptistery is located approximately 38 feet south of the building.

Old Main is a two-story, symmetrical, brick, L-shaped building with a hipped roof and dentils on the cornice. The building reflects early-20th century Italian Renaissance Revival and Italianate-style elements; particularly the prominent porticos on the northwest façade and west elevation. The centered, two-story, entry portico on the northwest façade features three, brick archways with scrolling limestone details, columns leading to the main entryway, and wooden Ionic columns on the second floor. The portico on the west elevation features a single brick archway. The roof of the 1908 massing is a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The domed cupola is visible from all elevations of the building. The cupola surrounds a bell tower and sits on a platform that features a blend of dentil and crown molding, with no dentils present on the south side of the cupola. Its horizontal surface is shingled. The octagonal cupola has wooden arches that support the domed roof. The foundation of the building is a series of trenches with brick piers set down into them. The soil is clay, and the bricks used in building were kilned on site.[3] All window frames are wooden and painted white. Principal windows are six over one, double-hung sash and contain limestone keystones. Dormer windows are three over one. A three-story, 1953 brick addition with flat roof is located at the east end of the principal massing. The building's interior features plaster-over-masonry walls, bead board ceilings, tongue-and-groove flooring, a dog-leg staircase, and transoms above the doors.

The construction of Old Main began in November of 1907, and was designed by Hubert Thomas McGee, a prominent architect of Jackson, Tennessee.[4] It was built as the administration building for the National Teacher's Normal & Business College, a predecessor institution to Freed-Hardeman University. Upon its completion in 1908, the building contained classrooms, offices, an assembly hall, laboratories, and a library. Coat racks and chalkboards were included in each classroom. The school continues to use the rooms within the Old Main building for these same functions.

The façade (northwest) of the original 1908 structure is nine bays (W, W, W, W, 2D, W, W, W, W). A central, 2-story, 3-bay massing extends from the façade. This massing features a two-story portico nestled between enclosed spaces on both floors. Windows of these enclosures flank either side of the portico. A flight of limestone steps passes through three brick arches and leads to a limestone portico with scrolling limestone details at the cap of the arches. Three metal railings, installed during the 1960s, are positioned at the middle and sides of the stairway. Upon entering

[1] While the historic name of the building is the National Teacher's Normal & Business College Administration Building, it is most commonly referred to as Old Main. Therefore, the nominated property is referred to as Old Main throughout the remainder of this documentation.
[2] Catalogue, National Teacher's Normal & Business College, 1908-09.
[3] "Freed-Hardeman Heir to Three Generations' of Educational Pursuits," *Jackson Sun*, November 24, 1957.
[4] Building Cornerstone, 1907.

the portico through the arches, two windows flank a wooden double entry door. The double entry door features a single, fixed light on each with two horizontal panels below. A six-light transom extends above the double doors. The portico of the second story of the central massing features wooden balusters, two Ionic pilasters, and two Ionic columns painted white. Both porticos have beaded wooden ceilings with crown molding. A light fixture was added to each portico at some point following the original construction of the building. The style of the fixtures—concentric circles around an exposed bulb—indicates 1950s to 1970s. The roofline above the central massing includes another wooden balustrade, painted white, punctuated with orb-topped pilasters and columns. Large arched domes resting on wide brick piers are located above the east and west window bays of the central massing and are topped with metal finials. Six window bays flank the central massing of the facade. They are arranged symmetrically, three to each side and at each story, including small basement windows along the ground level. The brick masonry of the facade is applied in stretcher style. The wood eaves are painted white and feature dentils. The façade features three, gabled dormers with rounded pediments. Buff-colored brick quoins accent the corners of the façade and central massing. Downspouts run along each side of the central pier.

The façade (northwest) includes the three-story, 1953 Annex at the east end of the building. Observation leads to the belief that the buff-colored original bricks from the east elevation of the 1907-08 building were removed and placed along the northwest elevation of the Annex to maintain continuity of appearance. In addition, despite the annex being a three-story addition, the northwest elevation of the annex reflects a three-story structure conforming to the original 1908 building. Three bays include glass-block windows and a small, roofed entryway. This entryway serves a private entrance to the Chancellor's suite. The door features a single-light transom. The Annex is slightly recessed behind the original building. The window bays are recessed as well, with limestone water tables. The glass-block windows feature the same brick, flat arch with limestone keystone as the original massing of the building. There are no ground-level windows. At the juncture of the 1907-08 Building and the 1953 Annex is a white downspout. An eagle-finial light fixture is positioned to the west of the original wood, transom door.[5]

The east elevation of the building is the three-story, 1953 Annex consisting of nine bays. The central bay includes the entrance and a window on the second and third stories. Four windows flank the central bay on either side and at each story. All windows on this elevation are considerably smaller than any other windows in the building, but are wooden and painted white. They also have limestone lintels and flat arches. A hallmark of the architect was to recycle building materials, and it is believed that these are lintels from the original elevation of the 1908 massing.[6] The east elevation of the building is the only side that does not include a portico-style entryway, though there is a small roofed overhang above the door. The east elevation is constructed of unpainted red brick stretcher bond. The wood door is original, as are the eagle-finial light fixtures that flank it. The overhang above the door features a bead board ceiling and asphalt shingles. A narrow sidewalk serves as a fire lane for this building and the Wallace-Gano Cafeteria just to the east of the driveway. The original brick from the 1908 east elevation is visible, wrapping around the northeast corner. White downspouts are located at each corner.

The south elevation borders a parking lot, which was completed by 1930.[7] Because the building is L-shaped, the western portion of the south elevation extends beyond the eastern half. Four window bays are positioned on the first and second stories of the ell. It is this section of the building that includes Old Chapel Hall on the second story, accounting for the shape of the building. A handicap-access ramp wraps around the ell and leads to the south elevation entrance. The eastern side of the ell is a single, window bay on the first floor and two bays (door and window) on the second. The eastern side of the ell features a second-story fire escape door with ladder. The eastern massing of the south elevation features two smaller windows positioned above the south elevation entrance and porch. Off of the porch, a door leads immediately to a stairway, leading down into a men's restroom constructed in the basement. Continuing along this elevation are four additional window bays on both stories, and a small wood and brick covered stairway that leads down into the basement. The south elevation is built of red brick, with a buff-colored paint applied.

[5] *Treasure Chest*, Freed-Hardeman College, 1954.
[6] "The Greenstone Apartments." *Memphis, An Architectural Guide*. 1991.
[7] Isaac Nelms Roland Interview, September 20, 2011.

At the juncture between the original 1908 building and the 1953 Annex, the original brick corner detailing was retained. The masonry is American bond. Windows on this elevation differ from those on the north and west elevation in that they are not capped and generally wider. An orange-brick chimney provides ventilation on the south elevation.[8] Small, white-capped ventilation pipes exit on the eastern side of the south elevation. Four downspouts are located at this elevation, painted the same color as the brick, and painted white where they run parallel to the eaves.

The south elevation of the 1953 Annex features red brick laid in stretcher-style masonry. It has not been painted to match the rest of the south elevation. Window and door openings on the south elevation of the annex do not align. Wood doors are located on the third and second stories along the building juncture, leading to a metal fire escape. Two windows are located on the ground floor. Like the 1907-08 building, the eaves are wooden, painted white; however, they lack additional detail such as dentils.

The west elevation of the building features similar stylistic elements and materials as the façade such as the buff-colored brick, limestone lintels, keystones, and water table. Like the façade, three window bays flank either side of a central entry pier. Three-light basement windows are located at each bay. The central pier projects out from the body of the building. A small flight of limestone steps leads to a single, brick archway similar to those on the façade. Through the brick archway, a partially-enclosed portico leads to a double-door identical to the principal entry door on the façade. The ceiling of the porch is bead board, unpainted but stained, with a mid-20th century hanging light fixture. A section of the porch ceiling indicates there was previously a method of access to the second story closet that is positioned directly above the entryway. A large arched dome rests on a wide brick pier atop the central massing. Two, gabled dormers with round pediments are situated in the roof above the north and south bays. A large metal fire escape staircase is affixed to the west elevation at the south end. Windows were enclosed to meet modern fire codes, and a door was installed into an existing window space. The brick masonry is applied in stretcher style. One downspout runs along each angle between the central pier and the third window bay and the edge of the fire escape.

Inside, the enclosed basement extends the full width and depth of the original building; through the majority of it is crawl space. Sections of the basement towards the center of the building are wide and deep enough for the housing of mechanical systems. A series of brick archways designed to support the basement ceiling are concentrated in the center of the space. Many of these arches have been filled in with concrete blocks over time in order to provide additional support to the arches. This in-fill was most likely done in the mid-1960s, when significant changes in the interior of the building were made, and when the original mechanical systems were removed and/or married to contemporary systems. A basement restroom was built off the south porch, and sits just to the north of a basement mechanical room. An exterior entrance to the basement is also located off the south elevation—a roofed stairway that opens into a basement room fitted up with wooden shelving units used for janitorial tasks and a ladder for accessing crawl spaces. Drains were built into the floor to accommodate overflow and other accumulations of water. The floor is concrete slab. Visible in the crawl space areas is construction rubble and an assortment of accumulated bricks, wood, pipes, etc. Overhead, there is electric lighting in the central section of the basement, and the subfloors are left exposed. There is no basement in the 1953 annex.

There are several commonalities in the first and second floors of the original 1908 building. The majority of the ceilings are dropped to accommodate electrical wiring, ductwork, and IT infrastructure. Beneath the metal and tile frame is the original bead board ceiling. The original ceilings are either painted white, or stained, and approximately 12' in height. All original floors are hardwood. They have all been covered over with plywood and then tiled and/or had carpet applied. The majority of the lighting is fluorescent. The majority of the glass in the windows is original, although it is unrecorded whether window replacements occurred.[9]

[8] The chimney is not connected to a fireplace.
[9] Unless otherwise specified, it can be assumed that these features are currently located in the spaces described below. Information regarding the timing of these changes and adaptations will be found toward the end of this narrative.

The first, or main floor of the 1907-1908 building is constructed so that the lobby (Room #104) becomes the central focus of the building. The double door of the main entrance on the north elevation leads into the lobby. Plaster-over-masonry walls are painted white. Vertical, bead board wainscoting runs along the lower portion of the walls below the window sills. The wainscoting is painted brown in some places and stained in others. All of the first level floors are carpeted, with the exception of a few closets, the women's restroom, and the Roland Historical Room (RHR), which houses the University Archives and Special Collections. The main staircase to the second story is a wood, dog-leg stair painted brown and is located opposite the main entrance at the rear of the lobby. The stair has a turned balustrade rising up from the bead board wall.

Upon entering the lobby through the main entrance, two large closets are located directly to the right. Both are built abutting each other and feature bead board siding. The first is stained brown, and the second is painted brown. The first closet contains IT infrastructure. The second closet currently serves as a broom closet, and contains duct work for the HVAC system. This closet was installed in the early 1940s as an elevator.[10] The shaft, carriage, and gate remain visible in the closet. Both closets are located next to the entrance to the RHR.

The RHR (Room #102) is composed of two rooms separated by a dividing wall installed in 1963. The double door leading to the room from the lobby retains its original decorative knobs and plates and hardware, including the chain pull that opened the second door. A transom light above the door is not operational. The support post and beam in the center of the room is visible, though painted over. The walls are plaster-over-masonry, and painted a light grey. Within this room, a smaller room has been created with dry wall to maximize the exhibition space of the Archives. The ceiling is original—white-painted bead board—with white, crown molding. The floors are tongue and groove oak, unstained. Seven original light fixtures hang here, utilizing incandescent bulbs. The room includes wainscoting. Exhibition cases were mounted to the walls in 1963. Inside the RHR is the Archivist's Office (Room #103), a small room with wainscoting, original ceiling and crown molding, hanging fluorescent light fixture, plaster walls, and asbestos tile floor. The door leading into the office retains its original decorative metal doorplates and knobs. The word "TYPEWRITING" is original to the 1908 construction, and was applied in black and gold paints. The transom light above this door is not operational. Modern HVAC units are placed in the Office, along the east wall of the RHR, and under the window along the north elevation.

The second room that makes up the RHR (Room #101) has a dropped ceiling and fluorescent lighting. Modern HVAC units are placed on the west and north elevations. During September, 2011, the asbestos tile floor was removed to restore the original hardwood floor. The southwest corner of the room has rotted boards were also replaced at this time. An original radiator remains in this room along the west elevation preserving evidence of the original heating system. An original door with transom opens south from this room directly into a small hallway that leads from the west elevation entrance to the lobby. The hallway features brown-painted wainscoting and original coat racks—three boards nailed into the walls.[11] They are no longer in use as such, and exhibition/announcement cases have been mounted to them.

Across the hall is the M.S. Mason Memorial Room (Room #117-119). The windowed door with transom, has a painted dedication against translucent glass. In black and gold enamel, the sign reads "M.S. Mason Memorial," a dedication to a faculty member who was murdered in 1930.[12] The door has a modern combination lock. Inside, the room is presently divided into four distinct parts: a lobby-like space used for storage, a faculty office, a computer lab, and a meeting room, all separated by modern dividing walls. There are modern HVAC units in each space, and the original window spaces are visible. The west elevation windows were removed and filled in to help stabilize the fire escape added in the early 1990s. The south elevation original windows remain intact. Modern drywall is used to segment this space, which was once a classroom. Doorways that once entered into the neighboring classroom are

[10] According to a 1976 Certificate of Inspection, the elevator was last inspected in 1976.
[11] Catalogue, National Teacher's Normal & Business College, 1908-09.
[12] http://therestorationmovement.com/mason.htm

boarded over, though the original frames remain visible. The neighboring classroom (Room #116) has two windows on the south elevation, one on the east, and a door with transom leading from the hallway.

The side hallway extending from the lobby to the west entrance is arched at its juncture with the lobby; however, the arch is almost obscured by the dropped ceiling. The hallway leads to a smaller rear part of the main lobby, west of the principal stairway. This rear space leads to an exit door at the south elevation. The walls here are original plaster on the south and west, and bead board wainscoting on the east. A water fountain is located beneath an exhibition case affixed to original coat racks. A modern HVAC unit stands to the right, inside the modern, automated door. The ceiling here is original, as it is the underside of the main staircase. Inside the base of the staircase is a women's restroom. The restroom is painted white on the ceiling and cream on the walls, stalls, and tiles. The ceiling and upper half of the walls are bead board. The lower half of the wall is tile. The floors are linoleum applied over hardwood. Two toilets, two sinks, and a wall fan complete the space.

A small closet (Room #105) is located east of the main entrance and lobby. The closet has hardwood floors, a modern HVAC unit, and built-in shelving. The shelving unit was added post-1960. East of this closet is a long, narrow conference room (Room #106). The original door with glass window reads "OFFICE" in black and gold enamel. Inside are two modern HVAC units, original plaster-over-masonry walls, and another windowed door leading into a smaller, narrow room (Room #107). This door is labeled "PRIVATE OFFICE" and is in use as a faculty/staff lounge (Room #107). A second transom door at the south end of the room leads from to the principal hallway of the eastern portion of the original building. A third door enters into a smaller, rear hallway to the east.

East of the main staircase is an office suite used by the School of Arts & Humanities (Room #s 110-115). The suite has a reception area (Room #115), four faculty offices, and a storage closet (Room #110). Modern drywall was installed in 2002 to divide the reception area from the offices. The wall dividing the suite from the long side hallway is original plaster-over-masonry. Two offices and the storage closet have original wainscoting and have been painted a taupe and light blue. Wood enclosures have been built around contemporary ductwork. Heavy metal doors connect interior offices. A stairwell leads from this office suite to the vault, located in the 1953 Annex. It has been walled over at both ends, and is invisible from site or use.[13] A wide frame stretches along the east walls of this office suite indicating a division of this space in its original configuration. That configuration is unknown, although it resembles an extension of the small north-south hallway already mentioned.

A door to the east end of this office suite opens into the smaller rear hallway that connects to the rear of the "PRIVATE OFFICE" previously described. At the opposite end of the hallway is a faculty office with transom door, built-in bookcases, and wainscoting. On the right wall of the hallway is a storage closet with original hardwood floors, original bead board ceiling and crown molding. It is painted green, and the plaster is so badly damaged that original laths are visible beneath. A long work table and shelving unit have been installed in this room as well as a hanging fluorescent light fixture. North of this room, at the east end of the hallway, is a shallow staircase that connects the original 1908 building with the 1953 addition.

The principal staircase, leading from the main lobby, is shallow and features wainscoting. The first stair landing is tiled with vinyl tile over asbestos, over plywood, over hardwood. There are two, large south elevation windows on this landing. The walls are plaster-over-masonry and painted a deep blue. The original ceiling of the second floor lobby (Room #203) is left uncovered, and is stained rather than painted. Hanging light fixtures use compact fluorescent lights. From this landing, a small stair case with balustrade leads through a swinging door marked "FACULTY" in black and gold enamel. It leads into the front of Old Chapel Hall (Room #201). Another wood staircase leads to the main second floor lobby. A curving balustrade surrounds the stairwell. The balustrade is stained in some parts and painted brown in others.

[13] Dr. Stephan Johnson, Interview. August 2011.

Wainscoting surrounds the second-story lobby (Room #203). Walls are plaster-over-masonry and painted deep blue. Double swinging doors with transoms are labeled "CHAPEL HALL" in black and gold enamel with decorative cartouches. The elevator shaft from the first floor continues to the second floor, and is enclosed with bead board forming a closet. A section of plaster next to the closet has been removed and given a wood frame and sliding panel to conceal an electrical panel. To the right of the elevator shaft is a door with transom also labeled "CHAPEL HALL" with decorative flourishes. At the north end of the lobby are two large windows and a door that leads onto the second-story portico. The door is missing its handle, probably as a safety measure. The portico floor is coated, sheet metal. Additional descriptive elements are similar to other rooms within the building. A small alcove created by the staircase rising to the attic houses comfortable seating areas. At the east end of the lobby, a pair of swinging doors with transom enters into a long hallway running east to west.

A steep and narrow staircase rising from the second floor lobby provides the only known access to the attic. A wood door at the top of the stair is painted with the words "KEEP DOWN." At the foot of these steps is a transom door leading to a large classroom (Room #205). This room's door bears the label "SCIENTIFIC" but is currently used for music instruction. It includes some of the original blackboards installed in the building, and they are still in use on three walls of the room. To the north end of the classroom is a small office (Room #204) with built-in shelves.

Through the doors located west of the second-floor lobby and marked "CHAPEL HALL" and "FACULTY" is the large auditorium currently referred to as Old Chapel Hall (Room #201). The south end of the Hall is a proscenium theater. It does not have a fly system (theatrical rigging system with ropes) and has only a very rudimentary lighting system that is no longer functioning. Drywall has been nailed up inside the stage and its wings to create storage space and an office for the university band. The walls have been painted an off-white color. Portraits of university administrators and American Restoration Movement leaders have been nailed to the walls, into original plaster. Original folding, theater-style seats fill the lower two-thirds of the auditorium. These seats are not upholstered, and have hymnal racks mounted to their backs. At the north end of the room, a small closet (Room #202) with a transom door has hardwood floors, built-in shelving and is used for storage.[14] On the west elevation of the Hall, a door marked "LADIES" leads into a small closet area used for storage. Its original handle and knob were removed to prevent tampering and theft. Along the same wall, two original window frames are still visible, although they have been filled in to accommodate the 1990s fire escape. A security door with alarm exits from Old Chapel Hall onto the escape. Another fire escape leads from the east side of the stage to the parking lot below. The ceiling is acoustical tile mounted over the original ceiling above. The hanging light fixtures are from the 1930s or 1940s, and utilize incandescent bulbs. Long, narrow air vents are mounted into the wall, to each side of the stage area.

The long, east-west hallway leading from the second floor lobby to the 1953 Annex has vinyl tile floors over the original hardwood. The first room to the south (Room #207) has a transom over the door that leads into a storage/office area. Movable walls are partitioning off this space from the larger room, which is a music rehearsal room. Vinyl tile floors, modern HVAC units and wainscoting are the only permanent features of this room. Across the hall is another classroom (Room #206) with a unique entrance door featuring two, vertical panes above two horizontal panel. This is the only door of its kind within the building. A strip of molding running along the north wall is the only evidence of the original chalkboards in this room.[15] At the east end of the hallway, a shallow staircase connects the original 1908 building to the 1953 Annex.

The attic of the 1908 building extends the full width and depth of the building. Entering from the long, narrow stairs at the north end of the second-story lobby, a smaller flight of stairs continues up to the attic. There are electric lights, exposed incandescent bulbs with pull chains. The attic is floored only in this central section, from the staircase up to the bell tower to the small stairs on the north side. The remainder of the attic can be traversed by walking on beams. Fiberglass insulation fills the spaces between the beams. As with all buildings, the attic has been used for

[14] This room is one of the smaller rooms within the central, protruding massing that makes up the principal entrance.
[15] Catalogue, National Teacher's Normal & Business College, 1908-09.

storage, and there is a jumble of old seats and desks, windows, and even railing from an earlier balustrade that used to run around the bell tower. Ductwork and insulation running into other parts of the building are visible from the center. The staircase that leads from the attic floor proper up into the open cupola is steep, with a high rail. At the top of the staircase, to the right, is the mechanism that operates the original bell that still hangs in the cupola. It is a series of wheels and belts connected to a timer. A large door has a handle that folds the door back, allowing a person to step out into the cupola beneath the bell. The bell is of iron alloy, and was most likely manufactured by the CS Bell Company of Hillsboro, Ohio.[16]

The 1953 Annex includes three levels and has no basement or attic. The 1953 Annex aligns at split levels with the original 1908 building, so that no level of the Annex opens directly into a floor of the 1907-08 building. From the small, north-south hallway located on the first floor of the original massing, a shallow flight of steps goes down to the first level of the Annex. The walls are plastered consistently with the wall of the 1908 building, making it difficult to identify the juncture from the interior. At the foot of those stairs, a women's restroom is immediately to the left. The floors are linoleum with dropped ceilings and fluorescent lighting. It resembles two small rooms joined together, with filled in doorways. Immediately to the left of the women's restroom is a small men's restroom. Continuing along the first floor hallway, a storage/janitorial closet is located to the right. Walls are their original industrial-green plaster. There is plain wainscoting in the hallway, with tile floors, dropped ceilings and fluorescent lighting. The hallway makes a ninety-angle to the north and stairs lead in a westerly direction to the first level of the original 1908 building.

To the south side of the hallway is the suite for the Vice President of Spiritual Development (Rooms #121-123). Through an original wood door into a small foyer/hallway area, and then around to the east is the administrative assistant's office, with windows and wainscoting, and carpeted floors (Room #121). Through this office is the office of the VP, which includes carpeted floors over the original tile, and painted wainscoting (Rooms #122-123). Through this room, the vault that houses academic records and other significant university records is built into the structure (Room #124). The vault has lighting and tile floors.

Across the hall from the Vice President of Spiritual Development is the Chancellor's office suite (Rooms #119-120). Through an original wood door with a diamond-shaped pane is the administrative assistant's office with painted wainscoting, carpeted floor, fluorescent lighting (Room #120). This office leads to the Chancellor's office, which has painted wainscoting and two doors—one leading to the women's restroom (now no longer in use) and an exterior door that exits out onto the north lawn of the building (Room #119). This suite was used as the Presidential Suite when the Annex was built in 1953. Shortly past the entrances to both of these office suites is the exit door on the east elevation. A wooden enclosure directly to the left inside this entrance hides modern ductwork.

From the first floor of the original 1908 building, a shallow staircase leads to the second level of the Annex. Off of this landing are two office suites (a north and a south) and a small closet. The south office suite includes a classroom and two offices, and one office/storage room (Rooms #212-215). This room has its original wood door and is finished in faux wood paneling and carpeted floors. The first office within the suite has one exterior door leading onto the south elevation fire escape (Room #213). The middle office/storage room has faux wood paneling, built-in shelves and no exterior windows or doors (Room #214). The third office has two large windows on the east elevation and is larger than the previous detailed offices (Room #215). The offices in this suite are all arranged along the south wall. The classroom includes a chalkboard and built-in shelves (Room #212). The sloped ceiling on the east wall might indicate the presence of a stairway, but one has not been identified. The north office suite on the second level has an outer door labeled "FACULTY OFFICES" and is black-painted (Room #211). Opening into a small foyer, three small offices are oriented along the east wall (Rooms #209-210). There are two offices identified on the floor plan as Room #209). A small office has been built within this space on the west wall (Room #208). Each office on the east wall contains two windows, wood floors and built-in shelves. The west-wall office has no exterior windows. Room #209,

[16] This assumption is based on another bell owned by the University, used in another building associated with the Southern Tennessee Normal College, once located in Essary Springs, TN (Hardeman County), and the plethora of extant examples of CS Bell's work in schools across the country.

within this suite, has the label "R.C. OLIVER / ENGLISH" painted in black on the door. A janitorial closet with sink is located at the north end of the small hallway separating the two suites.

Ascending the stairwell, the third floor of the Annex contains several small rooms built for private music rehearsal spaces. Each rehearsal room includes a piano and a music stand. The floors are wooden and appear not to have been refinished since the building was erected. Leaking in this Annex has contributed to the decline of the floors. The first room to the south is the Shane Ruiz Music Room, named for a student who was lost at sea in 2008 (Room #311). The floor is wood, with sound board and carpeted walls. Continuing to the south along the hallway are two similar rooms, each with sound board and carpeted walls (Rooms #309-310). The hallway has wainscoting. At the end of this hallway, a room with soundboard walls includes an exterior door that leads out to the south elevation fire escape (Room #309). Continuing along the south wall to the east is another practice room with a piano, finished in a way similar to the other practice rooms (Room #308). The hallway makes an ell, at the end of which is a faculty office with soundboard walls, four windows, and wood floors (Room #307). A large classroom runs the majority of the east wall of the third floor, again with soundboard walls, and carpeted floors (Room #306). Another small faculty office sits in the northeast corner, with both windows and glass bricks to provide light (Room #305). Three more rehearsal rooms finish this floor (Rooms #302-304). All rooms have chalkboards and crown molding. The ceiling is acoustic tile. A water fountain is located on the stair landing.

Located approximately 38 feet south of the building, the contributing site of the former brick baptistery is partially visible above the surface of the ground. The baptistery was installed on behalf of the Henderson Church of Christ, who met in the building between 1933 and 1949.[17] Mr. Isaac Nelms Roland was one of the first people baptized in this baptistery. His father, C.P. Roland was an administrator at the school, and recalls that Spencer Rice, the African-American janitor and laborer, was tasked by university President N.B. Hardeman to dig the baptistery, and secure its walls with brick.[18] As evidenced by the exposed remnants of its brick walls, the relative location of the baptistery can be assumed. Historic records confirm that the baptistery was constructed of brick, and reportedly had a metal lid which no longer survives. Two students and a professor performed a partial excavation in the early 1990s; however, very little record of the dig exists. A tree presently stands to the east and west of the baptistery site, which has caused damage to the structure. A small metal sign marking the approximate site of the former baptistery has been placed on the property.

Minor rearrangements and adjustments have occurred throughout the building's life. It is reported that the original brick of the east elevation was placed across the face of the north elevation of the Annex to create a continuity of appearance between the 1953 annex and the original 1908 massing.[19] The fire escape and ladder descending from the auditorium on the south elevation was likely added around the same time as the annex addition. In the early 1940s, an elevator between the first and second stories of the original building was installed and a surrounding closet built to accommodate a student who was left handicapped by polio. Between May 1962 and 1968 the ceilings of both sections of the building were dropped to accommodate contemporary ductwork, electrical systems, and to increase telephone capacity.[20] During this same period, plywood was laid over the original wood floors in large sheets and asbestos tiles applied on top of the plywood. This is consistent in classrooms, offices, lobbies and hallways of both buildings. The only exceptions were a few obscure closets and the Roland Historical Room. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the floors were gradually carpeted.

Between 1908 and 1956 the Roland Historical Room, once a single large room, served as the campus library. In 1956, Lawhorn Library was completed, and the space was turned into a classroom.[21] In 1963, with the establishment of the RHR, a dividing wall with wainscoting was placed down the center of the room to create a separate museum

[17] Isaac Nelms Roland, Interview. September 20, 2011.
[18] *ibid*
[19] *ibid*
[20] Photograph, May 1962. Located in University Archives & Special Collections.
[21] Catalogue, Freed-Hardeman College, 1956-57.

space and adjoining classroom. In September 2011, the carpet, tiles, and plywood were removed from the classroom space and returned to the original wood floors. A 3'-6" section of rotted original flooring was replaced with planks removed from other old buildings on campus.

The M.S. Mason Memorial Room and classroom have undergone several rearrangements over the years. Originally, the space was divided into two large classrooms with faculty offices between. The offices were accessed from the classrooms, not the hallway. By the 1980s, the rooms served as the suite of offices for the Financial Aid department.[22] In 2002, the space was reconfigured to create a smaller classroom, one faculty office, a storage room, and a media arts laboratory and lounge.

The office suite located east of the main staircase on the first floor presently serves the School of Arts & Humanities. From the 1980s through 2002, this office suite accommodated the Admissions Office and the interior included cubicles partitioned through movable walls and modern drywall and wallboard. These divisions were removed in 2002. No changes were made to the floor, lights, ceiling, or HVAC systems. These interior alterations can be noted on the floor plan sketches, and are marked in grey.

The second floor lobby ceiling underwent extensive renovation in 2005. Due to leaking and age, several original boards were in need of replacement or repair. The dropped ceiling and fluorescent lighting system were removed entirely and the original ceiling repaired or replaced, and refinished. Hanging light fixtures that accommodate compact fluorescent bulbs were purchased and installed. The original plaster walls were repaired and painted a deep blue. This color is not historically-based. The closet surrounding the second floor elevator shaft was also refinished at the time. During the summer of 2010, water damage prompted the removal of the 1960s tile floors. The asbestos tiles were removed, though the plywood beneath was not. Vinyl composition tile flooring was laid over the plywood in the stair landing and in the lobby.

There has never been a concentrated effort to replace or repair all the original plaster on the building's interior walls. Sections have been scraped or sanded and plastered or painted as required. All exterior doors on the original 1908 building and the 1953 annex are original with the exception of the handicap-access automated doors on the south elevation. According to a former Vice President, the automated doors were installed and the ramp extended to comply with codes on August 13, 2002.[23]

The roof has been reshingled and the felt paper replaced in 2010. Previous re-shingling has not been recorded. The shingles used are rated 25-30 years, therefore, the administration estimates this has happened at least twice.[24] The decking and framing timbers, as mentioned above are original. In September 2011, the eaves on the east elevation of the Annex were removed and replaced due to rotting. Although there has been no intentional effort to preserve historic fabric of the building during alterations, there has been an intention to preserve the historic appearance of the exterior of the building. As of September 2011, plans are being prepared for an extensive renovation and restoration. Overall, changes to the building are minimal and do not impact the character-defining features of Old Main.

[22] Doris Maness Interview, September 19, 2011
[23] Richard V. Taylor, Jr. Email. August 2011.
[24] Dr. Dwayne Wilson, Email. August 2011

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Completed in 1908, the National Teacher's Normal & Business College Administration Building (Old Main) is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A at the local level for education and religion. The National Teacher's Normal & Business College is recognized as the first college in West Tennessee to introduce co-education among sexes during the early-20th century. While not owned by a religious organization, the university is affiliated with the Churches of Christ through ties of religious fellowship. Daily devotional services were held in Chapel Hall from 1908 until 1975. In addition, the building hosted the Henderson Church of Christ from 1933 until 1949. At which time, the brick baptistery was constructed south of the building. Since 1937, Old Main has also hosted the Annual Bible Lectureship. Its classrooms have been used to train several generations of preachers. Devotional services are held every weekend for students of Freed-Hardeman University. As such, Old Main has contributed significantly to the local community's educational development and history of the local Churches of Christ.

Old Main is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. Designed by a prominent architect of Jackson, Tennessee, Hubert Thomas McGee, Old Main is a representative example of early-20th century Italian Renaissance Revival. Old Main also serves as the preeminent edifice of Freed-Hardeman University and the historic center of college education in West Tennessee. Character-defining elements of the building's exterior include a centered, two-story portico with brick arches and Ionic columns, buff-colored brick, limestone detailing, corbelled brick water table, domed cupola with bell, and domed piers. Notable interior features of the building include the prominent dog-leg staircase in the lobby, bead board ceilings, and interior paneled doors with transoms.

The period of significance begins in 1908 with the construction of Old Main and ends in 1962 at the 50-year marker. Significant dates during this period include 1933 to 1949 when Old Main hosted the Henderson Church of Christ; and 1953 with the addition of the Annex along the east elevation.

Historical Background

Since 1869, Henderson, Tennessee has been a leader of higher education in West Tennessee. The village of Dayton was founded in 1862, although its name quickly changed to Henderson's Station, followed by Henderson. Following the Civil War, the Mobile & Ohio Railroad invested in the region.[25] Like many rural communities across America during this period, Henderson was a town experiencing the booming growth of railroads across the nation. Businesses in the local community included trade in the natural resources of the area: lumber, livestock, and agriculture. Bookkeepers, accountants, and businessmen were needed to capitalize on this new wealth. In order to provide all the services required of a growing community, the Henderson Male & Female Institute was established for the education of teachers, medical professionals, lawyers, ministers, and other professionals.[26] The white frame building that hosted this Institute was constructed in 1869 on the lot presently occupied by the Old Main Administration Building.[27] With its 1869 construction, Henderson, Tennessee became a leader of higher education in West Tennessee.

The 1869 school, housed in a wood-frame building, struggled throughout the latter years of the 19th century, because of a fluctuating economy and internal discord, passing through various forms before collapsing in 1907. By the time this school decided to permanently cease operations, the Institute was known as the Georgie Robertson Christian College.

Following the collapse of the Georgie Robertson Christian College, two regionally prominent educators and ministers, A.G. Freed and N.B. Hardeman, stepped into the gap, raising funds, material, and students for a new

[25] "Chester County." The Tennessee Encyclopedia. 1998.
[26] Catalogue, Henderson Masonic Male & Female Institute, 1878.
[27] Comparison of 1907 and 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Sanborn Fire Company.

Insititution. Both men had been educated in normal schools, and Hardeman actually attended Georgie Robertson Christian College. Freed was initially from Indiana and educated there.[28] Other West Tennessee schools were slow to adapt to coeducation. Henderson's schools were already used to coeducating the sexes, so Freed and Hardeman set out to continue an environment that educated the sexes together. "That education is incomplete and dwarfed in the extreme which has been secured in a school separate and distinct from either sex," Freed wrote in the 1908-09 National Teacher's Normal & Business College catalogue. In 1907, Freed and Hardeman established the National Teacher's Normal & Business College, a coeducational normal college.

Morale about the proposed new school was low: the nation was in the grips of the Panic of 1907, the economy was in recession and the stock market was at 50% of the preceding year's value. The previous schools in Henderson had all been agonizing failures that split the community in harsh ways. Against these obstacles, President Freed and Vice President N.B. Hardeman secured $7000 cash in funding: $3000 from the Church of Christ at Henderson, $1000 from citizens of Henderson, and a little more than $3000 from other area citizens. J.D. Johnson and J.G. Hardeman directed a joint-stock company founded to secure pledges on the remaining money. Freed and Hardeman eventually assumed responsibility for the entire mortgage as a way to ensure that the school would be built with the proper facilities. Both men had confidence in the knowledge that attractive, commodious facilities (of which Old Main was to be the crown jewel) would attract students, parents and financial supporters. Freed and Hardeman broke ground on November 7, 1907 and the cornerstone was laid on November 30, 1907. The local Masonic lodge was invited to preside over the ceremony, as they had done for the school's predecessors, but declined as several of their members did not support the new school.

To make a fresh start with the most modern equipment and facilities, the Building Committee, made up of Freed and Hardeman, chose alumnus Hubert Thomas McGee (1864-1946) to design a building that would inspire the higher ideals of education and achievement. A native of Jacks Creek, TN, McGee was also a first cousin of N.B. Hardeman's wife; though it is not documented how much the family relationship may have swayed McGee's selection. More likely, Freed had had business relations with McGee, who had designed the building used by the 1897 Georgie Robertson Christian College at the same site location of Old Main. McGee received his architectural education in Jackson, Tennessee between 1885 and 1900. In 1906, he was identified as a partner at Reuben A. Heavner's studio in Jackson, though there is some indication he may have been an apprentice and master builder for Heavner.[29] McGee placed Old Main at the top of a small rise on a terraced landscape. McGee combined elements of the Italian Renaissance Revival and Italianate then in vogue with features of the Romanesque Revival. This style seems to have been highly popular in West Tennessee at the turn of the century as many of the elements associated with the two styles – particularly columns and rooflines - make repeat appearances. Examples of McGee's residential and commercial buildings in Dyersburg, Henderson, Jackson, Memphis, and Savannah, Tennessee demonstrate that this is, at least in part, due to McGee's efforts.

Like many of McGee's other extant buildings, the building involves the use of a formal architectural design executed with local craftsmen, local labor, and local resources. The building bears the stamp of the community it resides in. The bricks were kilned on Mill Street, and it is believed all timbers were processed right on site. Freed often referred to the town as situated "in a small forest of young oaks," suggesting the possibility that the building was the result of the natural abundance of the area. Henderson citizens Pete Trice, Joe McCorkle and Glen Ledbetter hauled brick from Mill Street for the project. Jess O'Dair, chief carpenter, made the window casings and doorframes. Will Roberts and Walter Thorogood laid the brick, and it is believed that Roberts also laid the arches in the entrance of the building.[30] McGee's work on the J.F. O'Neal residence—now Joy Simon McDaniel House—was one of the focal pieces of a 1913 exhibition of the Architects League of Memphis accomplishments.[31] McGee, who is perhaps best

[28] J. Ancil Jenkins. *Biography of a Gentleman*. Henderson, TN: Hester Publications, 2002.
[29] Advertisement, *Jackson Sun*. Undated, 1906. [Damaged pages prevent date identification]
[30] "Freed-Hardeman Heir to Three Generations' of Educational Pursuits," Special Section, *Jackson Sun*. Sunday, November 24, 1957.
[31] Catalogue, Architects' League of Memphis Inaugural Exhibition, December 1913 [Memphis Public Library Special Collections].

remembered for his work on Clarence Saunders' Pink Palace in Memphis (NR/1980), is buried with his wife and an infant son in the Henderson City Cemetery.

Additional attributes that continue to add to the information available about the building, its occupants, and architect are present. The original bell, manufactured in Ohio by the C.S. Bell Company, still hangs in the cupola and is rung daily and on special events. The first floor hallway of the building includes the original coat racks—three wood rails mounted parallel to each other and flush against the wall. No original hooks remain. The original hyloplate blackboards line the walls of at least two classrooms, though one is covered over. In the attic, sections of a decorative railing around the cupola were discovered recently. Pieces of original furniture—tables, chairs, and sales cases—are located in the Roland Historical Room (RHR). One original radiator remains. Several light fixtures were retained in the RHR and Old Chapel Hall. An elevator added by the family of a handicapped student in the early 1940s is still visible, though sections have been removed. A brick baptistery, dug by the school's African-American janitor Spencer Rice, is located about 38 feet to the south of the building. Perhaps most important is the presence of graffiti. Signatures, names, hometown locations, club affiliations and other historically important pieces of information are to be found on the majority of closet walls, shelving units, window sills, and door facings throughout the building. While some graffiti can be identified as post-1970, the bulk of dated graffiti indicates a period during the 1920s.

Both Freed and Hardeman were followers of the Henderson Church of Christ established in 1903. As such, the establishment of the National Teacher's Normal & Business College was seen by many as a victory for the Henderson Church of Christ. The College, with all its activities centered at Old Main, was considered a beacon of inspiration for members of the Churches of Christ. The building's erection was considered an appropriate investment for congregants of this non-denominational body to make. However, the school is neither owned nor controlled by a religious affiliation.

Old Main further cemented its role as a site of significant religious connections when it hosted the Henderson Church of Christ from 1933 until 1949.[32] In addition to its use as a normal college, worship services were conducted in Old Chapel Hall during these years, and the building's classrooms served as Sunday School rooms. During this period, the school continued all of its normal functions on weekdays, with the congregation making only those adaptations necessary for its Sunday use of the building. The school hosted the Churches of Christ Annual Bible Lectureship in Old Main as early as 1937 and continues in this building to the present day. In addition, worship services are held in the Old Chapel Hall on weekends for students of Freed-Hardeman University.

In the Churches of Christ, baptism by immersion is deemed essential for salvation, and a baptistery is a common, prominent feature of every Church of Christ building. Because the school was not equipped with a baptistery, N.B. Hardeman approved the installation of a brick, unplumbed baptistery approximately 38 feet south of the building's south elevation. A local citizen who was baptized here recalls that Spencer Rice, the school's African-American janitor, was tasked with its construction.[33] The addition of this baptistery ensured that all fundamental activities of the congregation could be accommodated at this site, with no need to utilize resources of other local congregations.

Of all the individuals associated with Old Main, perhaps no one is more prominent or representative of the building's relationships than Nicholas Brodie ("N.B.") Hardeman (1874-1965). Hardeman's family was originally from the Milledgeville area, a tiny village along the Chester/Hardin County line. Ancestors of N.B. lived to the southwest of Chester County, in the county that is their namesake, Hardeman County.[34] The family owned a large number of livestock, hardware, and dry goods concerns. Hardeman Dry Goods, Hardeman Hardware, Hardeman Music Supply, Hardeman Livery & Livestock are the names of just some of these organizations. They were bank presidents, organizational board members, and otherwise involved in the daily community life of Chester County to such a degree as to be almost inseparable from the identity of the community from its beginnings until Hardeman resigned his

[32] The congregation erected a new building for services in 1949.
[33] Isaac Nelms Roland, Interview. September 20, 2011.
[34] Mary N. Hardeman Powers, *NBH*. 1964.

presidency of the Institute in 1950. N.B. Hardeman was a championship breeder and trainer of Tennessee Walking Horses, winning trophies in national competitions for his mares; Maid of Cotton and Sun's Dark Lady.[35] For a time in the1940s he served on the board of the Tennessee Walking Horse Association in Shelbyville, Tennessee. Hardeman's enduring legacy resides not only in Old Main and in the name of the institution, but in his thundering Tabernacle Sermons, delivered at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium (NHL/2001) in 1922, 1923, and 1928. These sermons were conceived and developed in his office in Old Main, and were "practiced" on the Bible class students he taught in Old Chapel Hall daily. Delivered at the Ryman before standing-room-only crowds, William Jennings Bryan declared Hardeman was "an orator without peer in the nation."[36] One of Hardeman's pupils, A.B. Barret (1879-1951), founded Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.[37] Other alumni educated in this building who have become citizens of note are James R. Cope, founder of Florida College; Adron Doran (1909-2001), president of Morehead State University; James O. Baird (1920-1988), president of Oklahoma Christian College; John Brown, president of the Stryker Corporation; and the Honorable John J. DeBerry, Jr. (1951-), Tennessee State Representative for District 90 (Memphis/Shelby County).

Because of the success of the school, and to relieve the personal financial obligations Freed and Hardeman and other investors, a Board of Directors was formed and the school renamed in 1919. The new name, Freed and Hardeman College (FHC), acknowledged the contributions of these two men. FHC continued successfully through the Depression, accepting tuition paid in livestock, produce, fuel, and other supplies needed to maintain the school. Overtime, however, Hardeman's grip on school affairs meant both success and trouble to the University.

In 1950, N.B. Hardeman was 76 years old, and exercising inflexible control over affairs. Smaller conflicts relating to student rules and regulations, enforced discipline, combined with a post-World War II student body led to unrest. Eventually, these pressures climaxed when Hardeman publically expelled two male students incorrectly accused of lewd behavior towards a female faculty member. Instead of being allowed any defense, the students were immediately escorted off campus and their reputation excoriated in the press. While the Board stalled in handling the students' unrest, Hardeman left campus for a preaching appointment in Nashville. Students began leaving the school, transferring their attendance to other area colleges. Between February and April 1950, the size of the student body was reduced by more than half. In April, students staged a 24-hour demonstration and college President N.B. Hardeman resigned his post.[38]

Hardeman had served the school as president 25 years, and his absence brought tense and dim views for FHC's future. H.A. Dixon (1904-1969) succeeded Hardeman, and within three years, not only had the student body rebounded, but an aggressive campaign of modernization (both in administrative philosophy and curriculum) required the addition of new dormitories and new classroom spaces. The building of the 1953 Annex added to the east elevation was the beginning of this expansion.[39] New classrooms, faculty offices, and a large Presidential suite brought FHC into favorable comparison with other schools of the region, and put it on a solid path towards success. The continued growth of the school was solidified in 1990 when the college became a university and the name was changed to reflect its new status - Freed-Hardeman University.

Today, the building is the principal edifice on the campus of Freed-Hardeman University. It is not only the first building constructed on campus, it is also an excellent surviving example of public architecture designed by Hubert Thomas McGee. While some of his other works are known to survive in Dyersburg, Henderson, Jackson, Memphis, and Savannah, Old Main is the most prominent example of his work in Henderson, and one of a few surviving in West Tennessee. His designs bring a sense of identity to West Tennessee architecture that helped propel the region into the

[35] *Ibid.*
[36] *Ibid.*
[37] Tombstone, A.B. Barret. Henderson City Cemetery.
[38] Isaac Nelms Roland, Interview. September 9, 2011.
[39] "Open House was Well Attended," Freed-Hardeman College. *Sky Rocket* Vol. 32 No. 1; *Treasure Chest* 1954.

modern age of the 20th century. The building itself is an excellent example of Italian Renaissance Revival and Italianate styles. Its character-defining elements including prominent central portico, Ionic columns, archways, domed cupola, and limestone detailing retain substantial integrity in design, craftsmanship, and materials. The site of the former baptistery contributes to the overall significance of the property as not only an educational institution, but a structure deeply associated with the growth of the Churches of Christ throughout the 20th century.

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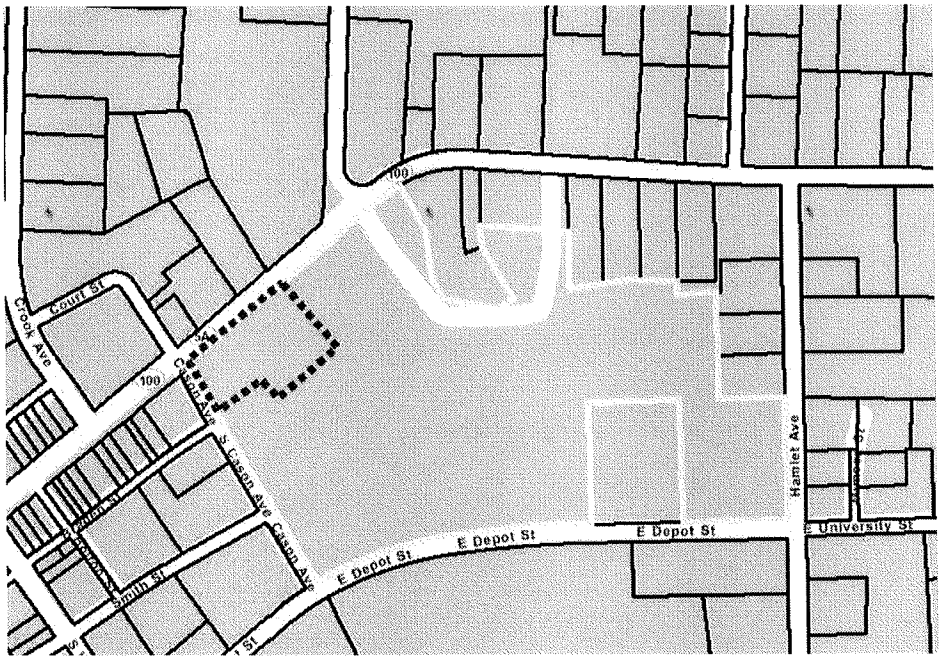
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Boundary Description and Justification

Old Main consists of approximately 1 acre and is a portion of parcel 033M J 001.00 as identified on the Chester County tax map below. The nominated boundary includes Old Main and the site of the historic baptistery as well as portions of the surviving historic setting and landscape while eliminating the many non-contributing campus-related buildings located within the parcel.

Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Cason Avenue, the boundary extends in a northeasterly direction along Main Street approximately 280 feet, then in a southeasterly direction approximately 190 feet. The boundary then extends in a southwesterly direction 180 feet, then northwesterly approximately 20 feet, followed by a southwesterly direction 130 feet until reaching Cason Street. The boundary then extends approximately 100 feet back to the point of beginning.



~300 Feet N

Photographs

Photo by: Kristi N. Montague
Date Taken: 2011
Digital Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission

1 of 31: Façade (North Elevation). Photographer facing south

2 of 31: North Portico. Photographer facing south

3 of 31: Northeast oblique. Photographer facing southwest

4 of 31: Eastern portion of south elevation. Photographer facing north

5 of 31: Western portion of south elevation. Photographer facing north

6 of 31: Southern portion of west elevation and fire escape. Photographer facing east

7 of 31: West elevation. Photographer facing east

8 of 31: Northwest oblique. Photographer facing southeast

9 of 31: North Portico. Photographer facing west

10 of 31: Main Lobby. Photographer facing southwest

11 of 31: Main stairway and lobby. Photographer facing northeast

12 of 31: West hallway of first floor. Photographer facing west

13 of 31: Main lobby (Room #104). Photographer facing northeast

14 of 31: First floor classroom (Room #116). Photographer facing southwest

15 of 31: Northwest classroom on first floor (Room #101). Photographer facing northeast

16 of 31: Office (Room #106). Photographer facing southeast

17 of 31: School of Arts & Humanities Office Suite Reception Area (Room #115). Photographer facing northwest

18 of 31: Main stairwell landing. Photographer facing south

19 of 31: Second floor lobby (Room #203). Photographer facing northeast

20 of 31: Second floor portico detailing. Photographer facing north

21 of 31: Second floor music room (Room #205). Photographer facing northeast

22 of 31: Chapel Hall (Room #201). Photographer facing southwest

23 of 31: Chapel Hall (Room #201). Photographer facing north

24 of 31: Class Room (#207). Photographer facing east

25 of 31: Unique entry door to room #206. Photographer facing northeast

26 of 31: Annex office (Room #s122 and 123). Photographer facing east

27 of 31: Annex office (Room #119). Photographer facing southwest

28 of 31: Annex classroom (Room #212). Photographer facing southeast

29 of 31: 3rd floor annex hallway. Photographer facing north

30 of 31: 3rd floor annex office. Photographer facing south

31 of 31: Baptistery site south of Old Main building

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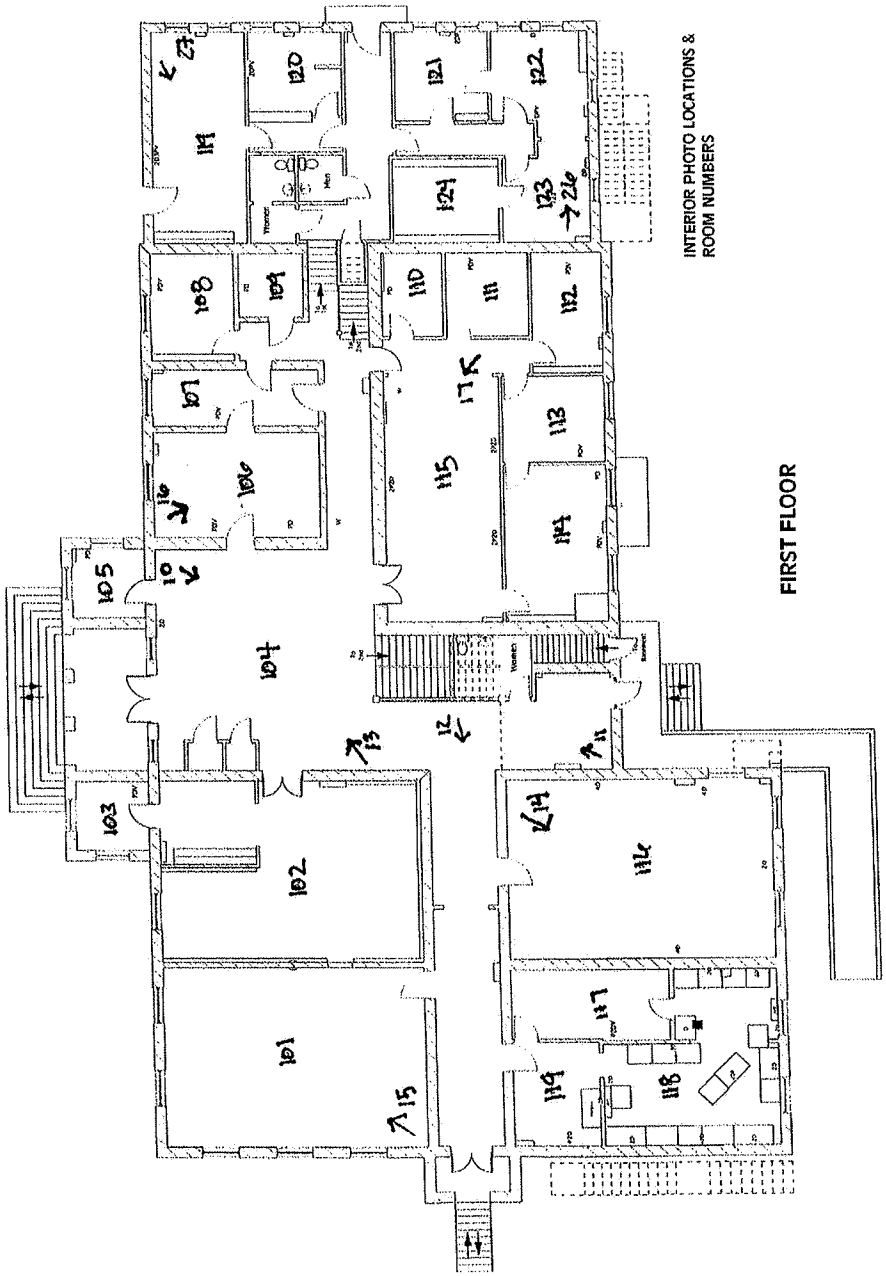

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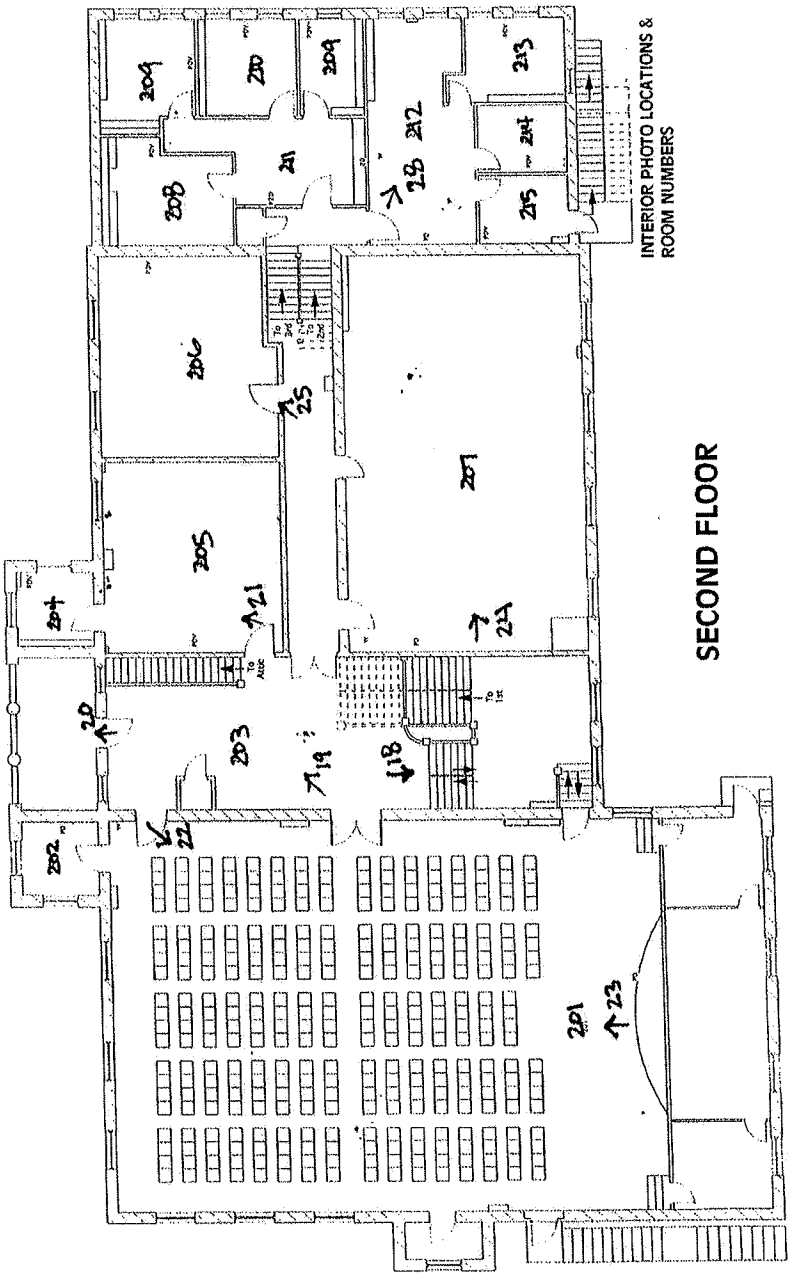
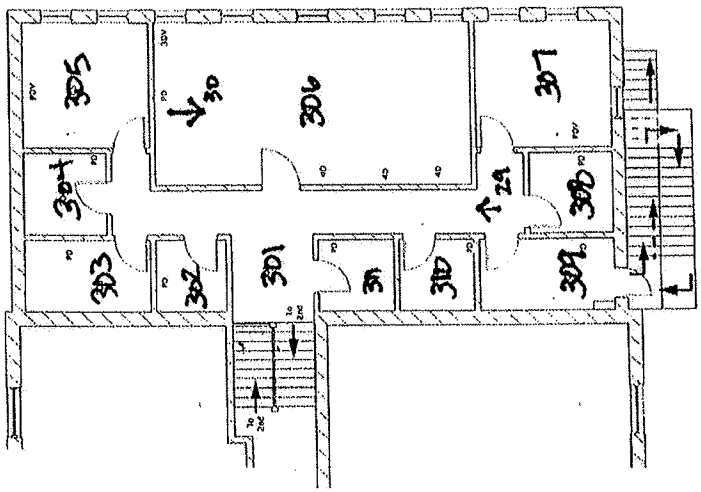


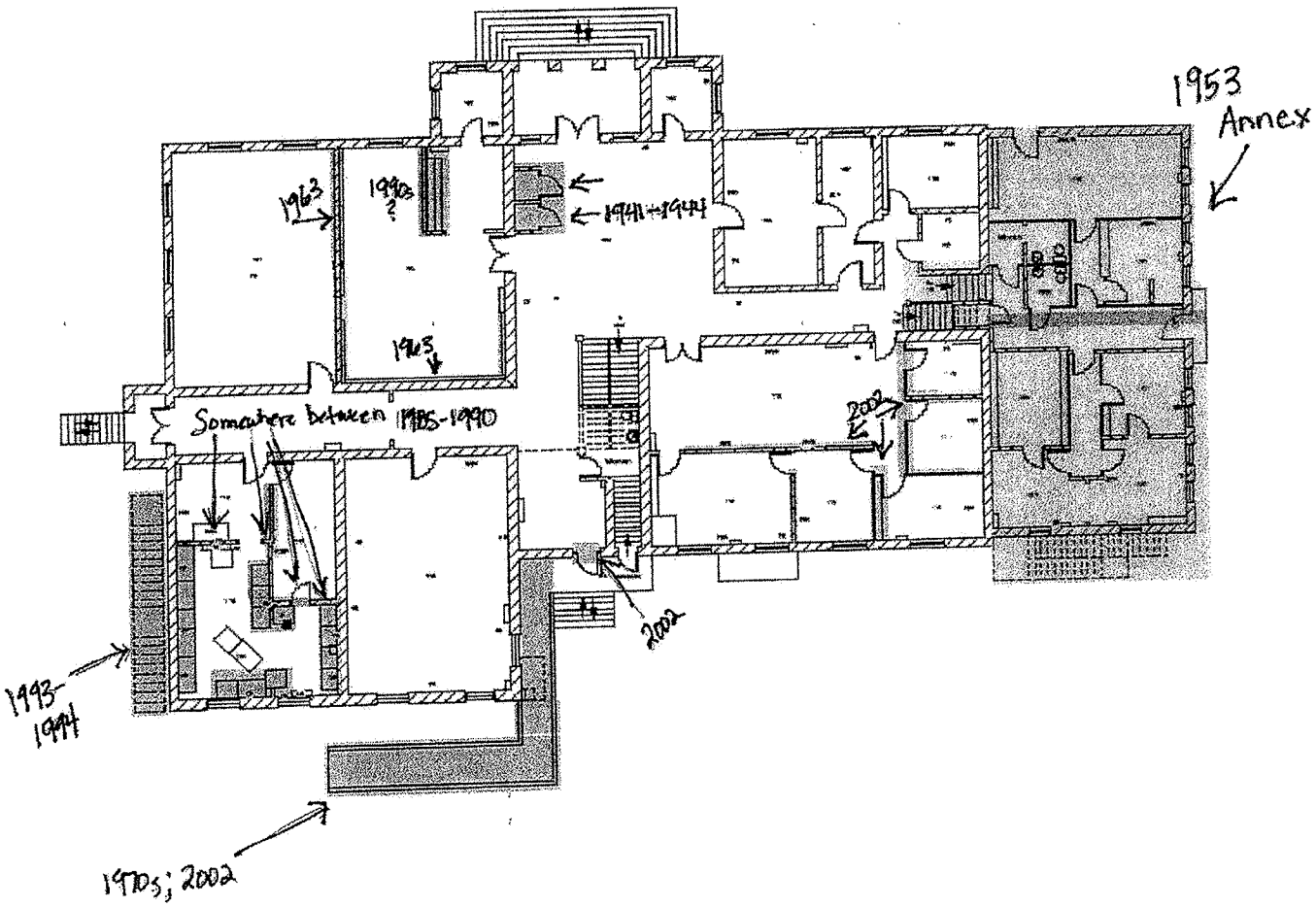


INTERIOR PHOTO LOCATIONS & ROOM NUMBERS

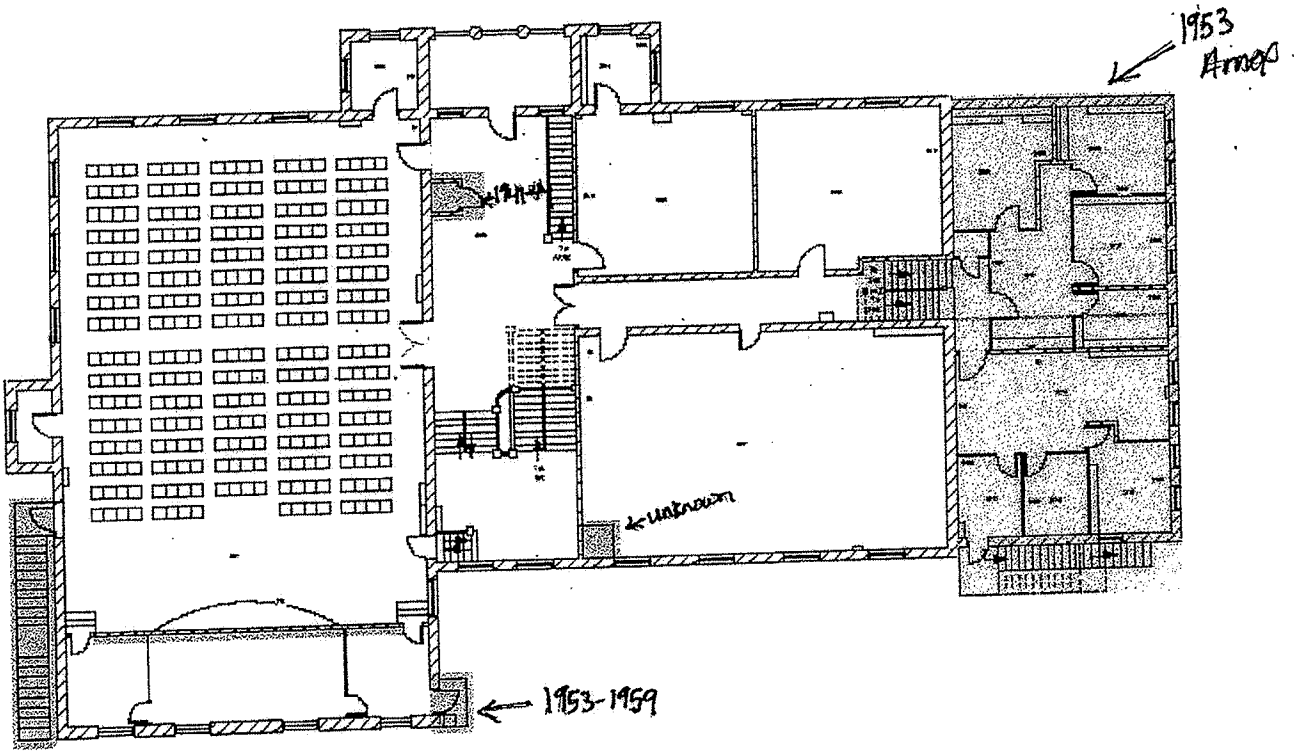
THIRD FLOOR-ANNEX

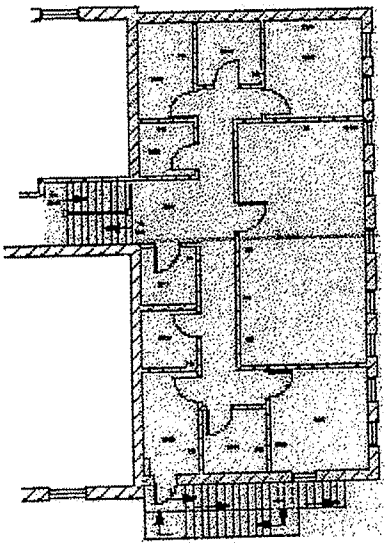
FIRST FLOOR

MODIFICATIONS



SECOND FLOOR MODIFICATIONS



1953 ANNEX
(THIRD FLOOR)

1953 Annex