NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Benedict College Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number roughly bounded by Laurel, Oak, Taylor, & Harden Sts. [NA] not for publication

city, town Columbia [NA] vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county Richland code 079 zip code 29204

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] private	[ ] building(s)	5	0 buildings
[ ] public-local	[X] district		sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site		structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure		objects
	[ ] object	5	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date

Charles E. Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Charles E. Lee — 3/6/87

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[X] 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:)

Amy Schlagel — 4/20/87

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Education/College	Education/College

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Late Victorian	foundation Brick
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals	walls Brick
	roof Asphalt
	other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Benedict College Historic District is located near the center of the Benedict College campus in Columbia. Including five buildings constructed between 1895 and 1937, the district is a central visual feature of the campus. There have been significant changes in the appearance of the Benedict campus over the years, most notably when the original eighty-acre tract was reduced to twenty acres and more recently in the 1960s when several historic buildings were demolished to build modern facilities. The Benedict College Historic District encompasses all the extant buildings associated with the early development and expansion of the college from the late nineteenth century to the 1940s and possesses integrity of location, design, materials, setting, feeling, and association.

The following properties contribute to the district:

1. Morgan Hall (1895) The first separate building on the campus intended for the president's residence, and the oldest building remaining at Benedict; now used for storage and to house campus security; three-stories-with-basement; brick; combination gable and hip roof; projecting bays on left front and right side rear; windows are one-over-one or two-over-two; interior end corbeled brick chimneys; first story porch on right front and side; decorative elements include rockfaced granite lintels and sills with margins, and turned posts and balustrades with sawn brackets on porch.

2. Pratt Hall (1902) Built as a hospital and training school for nurses, which was housed here from 1902 to 1927, when the building was converted into a girls' dormitory; now administrative offices; two-and-one-half stories with raised basement; brick; front end pavilions; hipped roof; interior corbeled brick chimneys with recessed panels; three dormers on facade; central dormer is pedimented while others are flat; rear street elevation has central pavilion with large gabled-with-returns dormer, flanked by flat dormers; windows are generally one-over-one or two-over-two; decorative elements include flat arches and arched lintels, concrete stringcourses, and recessed panels in chimneys; memorial tablet over entrance inscribed "Pratt Nurse Training School Erected by Mr and Mrs John Pratt of Carlton NY in Memory of their Daughter Sarah Pratt English. 1902."

[X] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Ethnic Heritage/Black	1895-1937	1929
Education		1937
Architecture		

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Urquhart, James B. (Duckett Hall)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Benedict College Historic District includes five historic resources located near the center of the Benedict College campus. The district is significant under Criterion A for its association with Benedict College, which has played a major role in the education of blacks in South Carolina since its founding in 1870. In addition, the district is significant under Criterion C as a concentration of vernacular educational buildings reflecting a range of architectural characteristics of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Ethnic Heritage/Black
Education

Benedict College is significant as one of the earliest black colleges in the South and as an institution which has continued to play a prominent role in black education in South Carolina and in the South. It was established as Benedict Institute in 1870 through efforts by the American Baptist Home Mission Society to provide education for freedmen and their descendants. Benedict was one of several black colleges and academies planned during Reconstruction and was particularly intended to educate and train ministers and teachers.(1)

Stephen Benedict, a Rhode Island businessman, Baptist deacon, and abolitionist, left a bequest to the Society at his death in 1868. His widow, Bethsheba Benedict, added $13,000 to that bequest to buy land in Columbia, South Carolina, on which to locate the new school. The Benedict Institute offered courses ranging from primary to college level study, as did most black colleges of the era.(2)

As Benedict grew in its first twenty years, more emphasis was placed on courses designed to help blacks find work, particularly courses in agriculture, horticulture, and industrial and vocational training. By the time Benedict Institute was chartered as Benedict College in 1894 it had an enrollment of some 200 students and several new buildings.(3)

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet

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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: National Register Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.9 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	498180	3763380	B	17	498140	3763360
C	17	498140	3763340	D	17	498120	3763340

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Richland County Tax Map, Number 11407, Section 5, Parcel 1, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the five buildings in the district and their immediate settings. These five buildings are the only extant buildings associated with the early development and expansion of Benedict College; surrounding buildings on the campus were built from 1953 to the present (see map of Benedict College Historic District).

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Tracy Power, National Register Historian

organization S.C. Dept. of Archives and History date 20 February 1987

street & number 1430 Senate St., PO Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8608

city or town Columbia state South Carolina zip code 29211

3. Duckett Hall (1925) Built as a science building; designed by Columbia architect James B. Urquhart; now houses business administration classrooms; three stories; brick; hip roof; facade has central pavilion topped by a parapet; decorative elements include cornice with modillions and plain frieze, row-lock arch and recessed panel brick door surround and central pavilion bays separated by brick pilasters with Ionic capitals, resting upon a wide belt course which separates the first and second stories; windows have twelve-over-twelve lights, and are capped by flat arches.

4. Antisdel Chapel (1932) Built in honor of Reverend C.B. Antisdel, Benedict College's last white president (1921-30); one-story; brick; gable roof; three-tiered octagonal steeple with open belfry rests on a large square brick base which rises from roof; central pedimented portico with four Doric columns, responding pilasters and entablature; side elevations contains four large multi-light windows with fanlight windowheads; decorative elements include cornice with modillions and triglyphs on entablature of portico, decorative urns surrounding base of steeple and oculus in pediments of portico and rear and side gables, and on sides of square roof projections at facade; small gabled entrances extend on either side of facade; flush metal exterior doors and metal windows.

5. Starks Center (1937) Built as a joint library for Benedict College and adjoining Allen University; now houses student center; one story with basement; T-shape; brick; gable-end roof with central gabled pavilion, interior brick chimneys; semi-circular bays project from end gables; decorative elements include large central pavilion with large arched entrance which includes an archivolt and traceried fanlight, radiating voussoirs over windows, and circular medallion in central pavilion gable, inscribed "Benedict College AD 1937."

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One of Benedict's best-known early graduates was Richard Carroll, who had been born a slave in Barnwell County during the Civil War. He worked his way through Benedict Institute and entered the Baptist ministry after further education in North Carolina. He served as the American Baptist Publication Society's Sunday school missionary to black South Carolinians and was considered one of the most eloquent preachers in the state. Carroll spoke and wrote often, and candidly, about relations between blacks and whites in the South, and was viewed as one of the most prominent black spokesmen of his day.(4)

The college's first seven presidents were white Baptist ministers from the North whose primary purpose was to serve as missionaries as well as administrators; not until 1929, when Dr. J.J. Starks succeeded to the presidency, did Benedict have a black administration.(5) At that time Benedict served as an elementary school, a preparatory school, and a liberal arts college, as well as offering courses of study in theology, nursing, and teaching.

In the mid 1930s the curriculum was restructured and the degree programs were confined to the bachelor of arts and the bachelor of divinity in theology. One indication of Benedict's growth at the college level is that it had 278 students in the 1933-34 school year, second only to South Carolina State College among black colleges in South Carolina.(6) The next year Benedict began construction of a new library which was shared with Allen University; the administration and expenses of the library were also shared by the two schools.

Benedict College served as one of the most significant centers of black activities in Columbia in the years before desegregation. Meetings, lectures, concerts, and other social functions important to Columbia's black community utilized the college campus; for example, the annual state meetings of South Carolina's black librarians were hosted by Benedict and adjoining Allen University for many years.(7)

A branch of the NAACP was founded at Benedict in 1937 as part of the nationwide NAACP campaign for passage of an anti-lynching bill in Congress. Students took part in a nationwide youth demonstration against lynching in February 1937. This student involvement was significant as one of the first civil rights campaigns in South Carolina before World War II. Though the bill did not pass, the campaign was instrumental in establishing the political importance of the NAACP.(8)

The college of liberal arts created divisions of social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities in 1948 in an attempt to provide more college-level instruction. The degree program in theology, which had produced many of the South's noted black ministers, was finally discontinued in 1966.(9)

Architecture

The Benedict College Historic District includes a significant collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular educational buildings. They display a variety of architectural characteristics ranging from Morgan Hall, which was constructed in 1895 and features irregular massing, a wrap-around porch, turned posts, sawn porch brackets, and corbeled chimneys typical of the late nineteenth century, to Antisdel Chapel, which was constructed in 1932 and features the symmetry and classical detailing typical of the neoclassical revival style. Especially noteworthy is Duckett Hall, designed by prominent Columbia architect James B. Urquhart and built in 1925. Notable features include the central pavilion, which is defined by Ionic pilasters and rests on a belt course dividing the first and second stories, the cornice with modillions, and the parapet that tops the central pavilion.

NOTES

1) Fredrick Richardson, "A Power for Good in Society: The History of Benedict College," Ph.D. dissertation, Florida State University, 1973, pp. 1, 13.

2) Richardson, p. 40.

3) Richardson, pp. 59, 72, 86; Richland County Corporation Charters, Book A, p. 47, Richland County Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

4) I.A. Newby, Black Carolinians: A History of Blacks in South Carolina from 1895 to 1968 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1973), pp. 169-75; George Brown Tindall, South Carolina Negroes 1877-1900 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1952, 2nd printing, 1970), p. 205.

5) Richardson, pp. 121, 126-27.

6) The Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes2:2 (April 1934), 131; published by Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina.

7) Interview with Dr. Barbara Jenkins, South Carolina State College, and Dr. Grace Jordan McFadden, University of South Carolina; Columbia, S.C., 29 April 1986.

8) Erwin D. Hoffman, "The Genesis of the Modern Movement for Equal Rights in South Carolina, 1930-1939," in Bernard Sternsher, Editor, The Negro in Depression and War: Prelude to Revolution 1930-1945 (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1969), pp. 208-09; originally published in Journal of Negro History XLIV (October 1959), 346-369.

9) Richardson, pp. 129-30, 160, Nancy C. Fox, Benedict College Survey Report, South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places files, State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

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Unpublished Material

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Interview with Dr. Barbara Jenkins, South Carolina State College, Columbia, S.C., 29 April 1986.

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Hoffman, Erwin D. "The Genesis of the Modern Movement for Equal Rights in South Carolina, 1930-1939," in Bernard Sternsher, Editor, The Negro in Depression and War: Prelude to Revolution 1930-1945 Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1969; originally published in Journal of Negro History XLIV (October 1959), 346-369.

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The Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes 2:2 (April 1934). Published by Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Tindall, George Brown. South Carolina Negroes 1877-1900. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1952. Second printing, 1970.

UTM References (Continued):

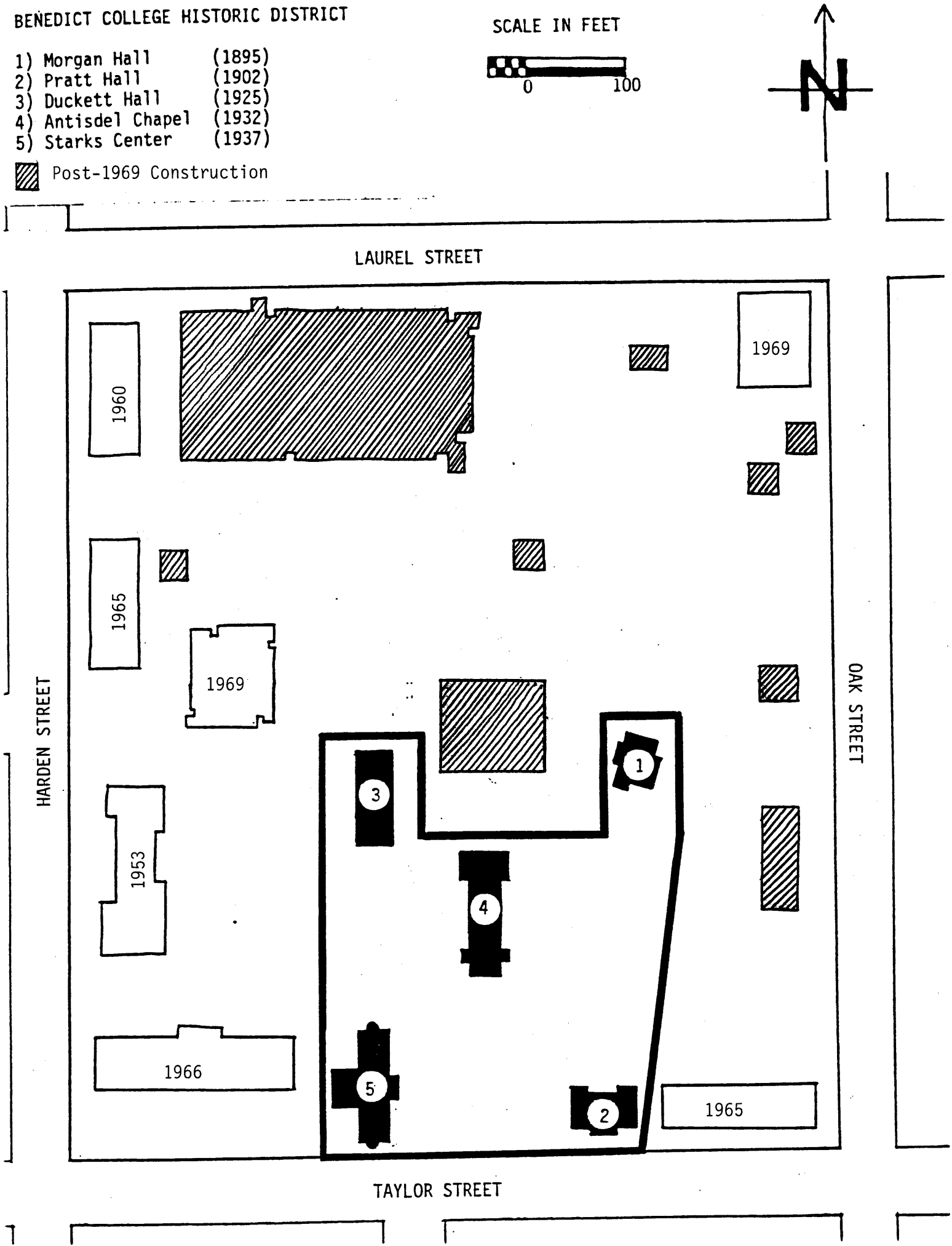
E: 17/498100/3763360

F: 17/498060/3763340

G: 17/498120/3763200

H: 17/498220/3763240

BENEDICT COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

1) Morgan Hall (1895)
2) Pratt Hall (1902)
3) Duckett Hall (1925)
4) Antisdel Chapel (1932)
5) Starks Center (1937)

Post-1969 Construction