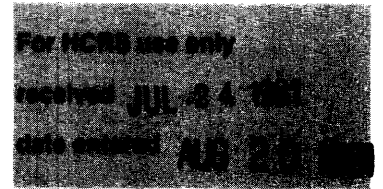


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Winthrop Training School

and/or common Withers Building (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number Oakland Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rock Hill \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state South Carolina code 045 county York code 091

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                  | Status  | Present Use  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered  | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:                          |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Winthrop College (Board of Trustees) State of South Carolina

street & number 701 Oakland Avenue

city, town Rock Hill \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state South Carolina 29730

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Courthouse

street & number Corner of West Liberty and South Congress Street

city, town York \_\_\_\_\_ state South Carolina 29745

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of Historic Places \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
in South Carolina

date December 5, 1980 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia \_\_\_\_\_ state South Carolina 29211

# 7. Description

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   | date _____  |

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Withers Building on the Winthrop College campus within the city limits of Rock Hill, South Carolina, consists of three major sections. The main classroom and office building was designed by the Atlanta architectural firm, Edwards and Sayward, and constructed in 1912-1913. The old Presbyterian High School behind the main building was constructed in 1891. The gymnasium at the rear of the old high school was built in 1952, according to designs of G. Thomas Harmon of Columbia, South Carolina. The Withers Building, as enlarged by Edwards and Sayward, is an example of late Gothic Revival architecture.

Exterior: The main classroom and office building of the Withers Building is a three story masonry building with an "E" shaped plan and a central four story tower. The old Presbyterian High School is connected to the central wing of this building, behind the tower. Entrance is at the base of the tower beneath a four-centered Tudor arch enriched with terra-cotta moldings and trim. The tower above the entrance is of brick, laid in Flemish bond, with four octagonal turrets at the tower's corners. These turrets rise above the tower to terminate in concave, copper covered, pyramidal roofs. Stepped parapets enriched with terra-cotta rise between the four turrets. The turrets are further enriched with long-and-short-work, above the fourth story of the tower, contrasting with the brickwork.

The flanking pavilions of the Withers Building are connected to the tower by three story, four bay sections. A crenelated parapet conceals the slate roofs on these sections. The pavilions feature high stepped gable ends with terra-cotta trim, and secondary entrance pavilions at the sides of the complex, which open into the transverse hall of the school.

The old Presbyterian High School is located directly to the rear of the main classroom and office building. This is a two story brick building with a full raised basement. The second story windows have arched heads. The building originally had a gable roof with a central cross gable. This roof was replaced by the current slate hipped roof when the main classroom and office building was built in 1912-1913. The old high school was connected to the main building in 1972 by a brick connector designed by Paula Treder of Rock Hill.

The new gymnasium, to the west of the old high school, was built in 1952. This is a brick building with a steel bow truss roof. It superseded the old gymnasium on the fourth floor of the tower of the main classroom and office building.

Interior: The main classroom and office building of the Withers Building has a central hall with a transverse hall leading to the side entrances. A divided flight stair in the entrance hall leads to the second floor only. Staircases at either end of the transverse hall provide access to the second and third floors. The halls and the classrooms and offices that open from them have wide baseboards, panelled doors, and plaster walls. The fourth floor of the tower, reached by a small staircase, was the original gymnasium; this was abandoned with the construction of the 1952 gym. It is the only part of the original building not in use.

The old Presbyterian High School is reached from the central hall of the main building, by way of the 1972 connector. This section has classrooms and offices on the first floor, and a large auditorium-drill room on the second floor, with a full stage. The basement has been adapted for locker rooms and training facilities.

# 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Withers Building on the Winthrop College campus, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, formerly the main building of the Winthrop Training School, was first built in 1891 as the Presbyterian High School. Its most architecturally significant portion was added in 1912-13 after the design of Edwards and Sayward, architects of Atlanta, Georgia, and was further enlarged in 1952 with the addition of a gymnasium. The Withers Building is architecturally significant for its fine Gothic Revival design and historically significant for its association with Winthrop College, one of the prime innovators in teaching methods and teacher training in the Southeast.

Winthrop College was begun in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1886 by David B. Johnson as Winthrop Training School for the education of teachers. Johnson, superintendent of Columbia graded schools, was concerned about the need for quality teacher education and dedicated himself to making Winthrop a successful and progressive institution. In 1891, Governor Benjamin Tillman requested the legislature to take action establishing Winthrop as a state college to be called Winthrop College (The South Carolina College for Women). Tillman personally took charge of the search for a location for Winthrop and in 1894 chose Rock Hill whose offer of liberal land and material subsidies and \$60,000 in cash was the most attractive received.

By 1908 the college had outgrown its building and negotiated with the Rock Hill School Board for the Presbyterian High School building, constructed 1891. After two years of litigation the college succeeded in purchasing the building and installed its training school there. In 1912-13 a fine Gothic revival addition designed by Edwards and Sayward, architects of Atlanta, Georgia, was constructed to accommodate the rapidly expanding training school. Until 1960 when the building was renamed for Sarah Withers, alumna and former principal, it was known as the Winthrop Training School.

Winthrop College is significant as the first teachers' training college in the southeast and as an innovating leader in teaching methods. Winthrop provided the only model school in which student teachers learned by observation and practicums with graded school children. Its progressive instruction included the kindergarten program, the Experimental Rural School, the ungraded primary, and physical education.

Architecture: The Withers Building, as enlarged and expanded in 1912-1913 by the firm of Edwards and Sayward, is a significant example of the later Gothic Revival style. The architects drew inspiration from the fifteenth and sixteenth century Gothic buildings of England, such as Hampton Court Palace (ca. 1520) and St. John's College, Cambridge (1511), for the design of the Withers Building. The composition of the building, with the four story central tower and end pavilions, as well as the details of the brickwork and of the terra-cotta ornament, are drawn from these Tudor precedents. The main entrance to the building, with its four-centered arch, and the four octagonal turrets at the corners of the main tower, are embellished with high quality terra-cotta sculpture. The building's ornamentation is focused around the entrances and the roofline. The Withers Building is located on the highest eminence in Rock Hill and is designed to take full advantage of this elevation.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.67  
Quadrangle name Rock Hill, S.C. Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References Longitude 81° 1' 42"  
Latitude 34° 56' 28"

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
AGENCY NOT VERIFIED

A

Zone Easting Northing

C

E

G

B

Zone Easting Northing

D

F

H

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Withers Building nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying tax map of York County, Map 6 '29-2, which is drawn at a scale of 60 feet to the inch. The boundary includes the Withers building while excluding the non-historic Dacus Library.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Winthrop College, York County Historical Society, John Wells, Suzanne Pjckens, and Pam Zagaroli, Catawba Regional Planning Council Robert E. Dalton, S.C.

organization Winthrop College date December 5, 1980

street & number 701 Oakland Avenue telephone (803) 323-2275

city or town Rock Hill state South Carolina 29733

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:  
 national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/13/81

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William H. Bralagan date 8-20-81  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

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Surroundings: The Withers Building is located in a mixed residential and educational setting. The complex is situated on the highest eminence in the city, dominating the neighborhood. The Dacus Library of Winthrop College is located directly west of the Withers Building.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

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The designing firm, Edwards and Sayward, of Atlanta, Georgia, was active for twenty-seven years, with a practice ranging from Florida to Tennessee. William A. Edwards, a native of Darlington, South Carolina, was responsible, alone or in partnerships, for the designs of seven South Carolina county courthouses. William Sayward of Vermont came to Atlanta in 1912, and entered into partnership with Edwards that year. The firm specialized in the design of educational buildings, with designs executed for the University of South Carolina, Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, Florida A. & M. University, the University of Florida, the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, and Winthrop College.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCPS use only

received JUL 24 1981

date entered AUG 20 1981

Continuation sheet

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 Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1953, pp. 208-209.

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