

**HISTORIC LANDMARKS**

1. Highway 106
2. Mount Zion AME Zion Church
3. Moore Building
4. Madison Memorial
5. Memorial Stadium
6. Breese Gymnasium
7. McKee Building
8. Cherokee Mound
9. Haywood Field
10. A.K. Hinds University Center (UC)
11. Alumni Tower
12. The Catafount
13. Reid Gymnasium
14. E.J. Whitmire Stadium
15. Ramsey Regional Activity Center
16. Childress Field at Hennon Stadium
17. Catamount Statue
18. Highway 107

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**CELEBRATING 125 YEARS  
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR**

**2014 marks the 125th anniversary  
of Western Carolina University.  
In recognition of this milestone,  
this walking trail takes you on a  
tour of the rich history the  
campus has to offer.**





WCU has held numerous titles over the years, but for the purposes of this tour, the institution will be universally referred to by its current name.

## INSTITUTIONAL TITLES

- 1888-1891** Cullowhee Academy
- 1891-1905** Cullowhee High School
- 1905-1925** Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School
- 1925-1929** Cullowhee State Normal School
- 1929-1953** Western Carolina Teachers College
- 1953-1967** Western Carolina College
- 1967-PRESENT** Western Carolina University

### 1. HIGHWAY 106

In 1889, getting to WCU was challenging. Dirt roads made travel slow and arduous. It was not uncommon to see faculty and students hitch rides on the Blackwood Lumber rail line that transported logs from East LaPorte to Sylva along the Tuckasegee River. The first paved road, Highway 106, was completed in 1933 along the backside of Cullowhee.

### 2. MOUNT ZION AME ZION CHURCH

In 1892, 11 African Americans established a Methodist church in a log cabin near Cullowhee. Five years later, a growing congregation purchased land from the Thomas Davis family to build a new structure on the hill where Robertson Hall now stands. In 1926, WCU's Board of Trustees approached the congregation with plans to purchase the land for a new dormitory. By 1929, negotiations settled on a price of \$3,200, and an additional \$1,000 for the relocation of the 76 graves in the cemetery. The Church and cemetery are



now located near campus on Old Cullowhee Road and a historic marker identifies the church's location near Robertson Hall.

**3. MOORE BUILDING** is the oldest building still standing on campus. Built in 1925, it was originally used as a dormitory. Over the years, Moore has been used in a variety of ways. During the 1960s, Moore served as a dining hall for students and classes were held there. Beginning in 1977, the building was home to the Health Sciences Department. Vacant today, the building was once the center of campus life. Time and expansion have moved that center from upper to lower campus.

**4. MADISON MEMORIAL** was erected on June 4th, 1934 on the site of the original Cullowhee Academy. The memorial honors WCU's founder, Robert Lee Madison. Madison worked as a teacher in Qualla Township, where he developed "The Cullowhee Idea." Madison hoped to improve mountain life by training teachers.



and the press box were located in the Stillwell Building.

### 5. MEMORIAL STADIUM

In 1949, WCU opened Memorial Stadium to honor students, faculty, and staff who served in the United States Military during World War II. Situated where Hunter Library and the Natural Sciences Building now stand, the stadium was WCU's official football field until 1973 and offered seating for 3,000 fans. The players' locker rooms

**6. BREESE GYMNASIUM** is one of six buildings funded by New Deal emergency relief projects. Built through the Works Progress Administration, the building's construction provided jobs to local residents. It stands as a testament to the important relationship between WCU and the community. Dedicated in 1939, Breese was named after William E. Breese, a past chairman of WCU's Board of Trustees. Upon completion Breese gave students a new basketball arena and an indoor swimming pool. During the 1950s, Breese was designated as a nuclear fall-out shelter. Today, it is home to the physical education and dance programs.

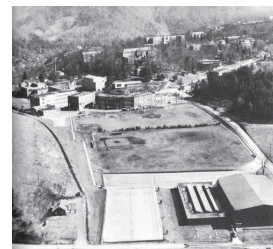
**7. MCKEE BUILDING** another New Deal project, was funded by the Public Works Administration and dedicated at Homecoming in 1941. The building was named for Gertrude Dills McKee, the first woman elected to the North Carolina State Senate and a member of the WCU Board of Trustees. Once a training school for teachers, the building now houses Anthropology and Sociology, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Social Work, Cherokee Studies, and Forensic Anthropology.



Photo Courtesy: Sara Madison

### 8. CHEROKEE MOUND

A Cherokee mound sat at the present-day location of the Killian Building. The Cherokees inhabited the area that would become WCU until the mid-17th century. The mound was central to the village as the location of the town house. The university grew up around the mound until it was leveled in 1956 when Killian was constructed.



field was moved to where the Bardo Arts Center sits. Ten years later the field was moved to the south end of the WCU campus (see #17).

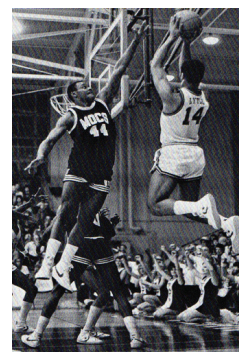
### 9. HAYWOOD FIELD

In 1932, WCU's baseball program experienced significant growth under its first full-time coach, Charles C. Poindexter. The original diamond, Haywood Field, was named after coach Bill Haywood and was located where the A. K. Hinds University Center and the Coulter Building now stand. In 1968 the

**10. A.K. HINDS UNIVERSITY CENTER** was built in 1968 and named in honor of Anthony Keith Hinds, a former dean and mathematics professor. The UC created a new social center for campus and was emblematic of the general shift of student life from upper to lower campus. The UC underwent a series of renovations in 2001. Today, the UC continues to serve as a place for students to congregate and provides a variety of services including film screenings, a multipurpose room for university events, student mailboxes, and a food court.

**11. ALUMNI TOWER** was dedicated in 1989 as part of the university's Centennial celebration. At 66 feet tall, the tower is both a gathering place for students in the Central Plaza and a symbol of the essential role that alumni play in continuing to shape WCU. Legend holds that undergraduate students who walk under the tower will spend an extra year in college.

**12. THE CATAFOUNT** was constructed in 2011 and has become an epicenter for social activities such as the Valley Ballyhoo, Greek life ceremonies, and impromptu gatherings. Funded by alumni contributions, the fountain creates an important public space for students, faculty, and staff.



**13. REID GYMNASIUM** opened in 1956 as part of the university's campaign to improve athletic facilities. Named after Paul Apperson Reid, who served as president of WCU from 1949-1956 and from 1957-1968, this gym witnessed some historic events in basketball. Henry Logan was the first African American to play for a white public college in North Carolina and Ronnie Carr made the first NCAA three point shot against Middle Tennessee State in 1980.

### 14. E.J. WHITMIRE STADIUM

In 1973, E. J. Whitmire Stadium opened and Catamount football found a new home. Whitmire served on the Board of Trustees from 1949 to 1972 and is credited with the university's enormous growth during that period.



Haywood, Jackson, Madison, and Swain Counties in the North Carolina House of Representatives for almost four decades.

### 15. RAMSEY REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER

In 1986, the 8,000-seat Ramsey Regional Activity Center opened and replaced Reid as the primary venue for WCU basketball games. The Center honors Liston B. Ramsey who represented

### 16. CHILDRESS FIELD AT HENNON STADIUM

In 1978, Catamount baseball moved to the south end of campus. In 1994, it was officially renamed the Childress Field at Hennon Stadium in honor of Ronnie G. Childress, an avid supporter of Catamount baseball. The baseball team has accrued 11 SoCon Championships since 1985.



### 17. CATAMOUNT STATUE

What is a catamount? In 1932, coach Charles C. Poindexter decided that the school's nickname, the "Yodelers," did not match the aggressive attitude he envisioned for the athletic programs. After a campus-wide contest, students selected the catamount (a mountain cat) as the school's new mascot. In 2000 a gift from benefactors Irwin and Carol Belk allowed for the commission of sculptor Richard Haillier to create a bronze statue of the mascot. The statue was moved to its current location on the roundabout in 2006.

### 18. HIGHWAY 107

Today, getting to campus is much easier than it was in 1889. Between 1980 and 1982, the four-lane Highway 107 was built. The new road and entrance represent WCU's continually expanding student and faculty population.