

E-net! Headlines

[E-net!](#) | [My notes](#) | [E-cast](#) | [Want ads](#)
[▶ POST YOUR NEWS](#)

Architectural historians confirm dating of antebellum schoolhouse

A noted architectural historian and an interior designer for historic preservation visited campus this week to study the construction materials, design and technique of a pre-Civil War schoolhouse that the university hopes to restore.

Benjamin Briggs, executive director of Preservation Greensboro, Inc., and Nora Miller, principal interior designer for historic preservation with the Southern Living Custom Builder Program, consulted pro bono on the structure that sits to the north of Rhodes Stadium.

Preservation Greensboro is the city's only not-for-profit, non-governmental preservation organization.

Briggs and Miller were accompanied on April 29 by Brad Moore, associate director of planning, design & construction management at Elon; Helen Walton, an instructor of mathematics; Carole Troxler, professor emerita of history; and Christina Esters and Larry Vellani from University Advancement.



[click image to zoom](#)

Benjamin Briggs, executive director of Preservation Greensboro, Inc., and Carole Troxler, professor emerita of history.

The group spent two hours studying the general architecture of the structure and determined that:

- The building was constructed in three phases: 1.) an initial north-south facing gable; 2.) an addition to the north side of the original gable, almost doubling the building's original square footage; 3.) a less sophisticated, west facing, transverse gable of later construction.
- Several architectural and construction features reflected greater than normal attention to finishing detail and aesthetic concern by the craftsman responsible for the original north-south portion and the addition to the north-south gable;
- The building is a very rare and unique example of a vernacular structure of institutional use from the pre-Confederate era.
- The building was among the first common schools to be established after the creation of Alamance County (from the western portion of Orange County) in 1849, and it is of interest that the structure dates to very near the founding in 1851 of the Graham Institute (renamed Graham