

## High Point University <sup>[1]</sup>

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by Richard B. McCaslin, 2006



High Point University, NC Highway Historical Marker J-42. Image courtesy of NC Office of Archives & History.

<sup>[2]</sup>High Point University <sup>[3]</sup>, situated in southwestern Guilford County <sup>[4]</sup>, was founded in 1924 by the Methodist Protestant Church. Led by Joseph F. McCulloch, Methodists desiring to build a college in North Carolina secured a financial commitment from their church and a site from High Point <sup>[5]</sup>, a growing city with the greatest number of Methodists <sup>[6]</sup> of any community in the state. Methodists dominated the board of trustees during the college's early years, a period marked by economic struggle and determined development under presidents Robert M. Andrews and Gideon I. Humphreys. The establishment of the United Methodist Church in 1939 brought economic stability and a change in leadership. After the resignation of Humphreys, Dennis H. Cooke assumed the presidency and won national accreditation for the college. He then stepped aside in favor of Wendell M. Patton, who promoted the growth of the institution during a presidency of 21 years.

High Point College became a university in the fall of 1991, offering master's degrees in three areas: business administration, management and international management, and administration of nonprofit organizations. By the early 2000s it had an enrollment of approximately 3,000 students, with some 500 of these enrolled at the school's Madison Park campus in Winston-Salem.

### References:

William R. Locke, *No Easy Task: The First Fifty Years of High Point College* (1975).

Richard B. McCaslin, *Remembered Be Thy Blessings: High Point University-The College Years, 1924-1991* (1995).

### Additional Resources:

High Point University: <http://www.highpoint.edu/> <sup>[3]</sup>

NC Highway Historical Marker J-42: <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=J-42%20-%20HIGH%20POINT%20UNIVERSITY> <sup>[7]</sup>

1940s video of High Point College Students, State Archives of NC: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/north-carolina-state-archives/5082194254/> <sup>[8]</sup>

High Point University Yearbooks: <https://lib.digitalnc.org/search?In=en&p=691:%22High+Point+University%22%20AND%20655:%22Yearbooks%22&sf=year&so=a> <sup>[9]</sup>

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### Subjects:

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N.C. Industrial Revolution (1900-1929) <sup>[11]</sup>

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**Origin - location:**

High Point [15]

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Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[16]

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