W.G. PEARSON CAFETERIA — First opened in 1996, the cafeteria underwent a $13 million renovation in 2009 that nearly doubled its square footage and added a modern touch to the décor. The cafeteria is now the heart of campus, a place where students, faculty and staff gather for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Chicken Wednesday, as the day is affectionately known on campus, draws the biggest crowds for all-you-can-eat chicken and tasty sides.

MARY M. TOWNES SCIENCE BUILDING — Named for a longtime professor and dean, the Mary M. Townes Building opened in 2005 with plenty of classroom space, labs and a spacious lobby that has a café. It is connected with the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITe) building; together they offer students top-notch science and research facilities.

CENTENNIAL SQUARE — One of the most picturesque areas of campus, Centennial Square includes a garden, a chapel and the Shepard House, where university founder Dr. James E. Shepard lived. The Centennial Garden, with its swirling pattern of walkways, was designed in 2010 as part of the university’s centennial celebration. It bridges the open space between the Centennial Chapel and Shepard House along the west side of Fayetteville Street.

HOEY ADMINISTRATION CIRCLE — This welcoming entrance to the campus off Fayetteville Street leads to the main administration building where the chancellor’s office is housed. The center of the traffic circle features a bronze statue of university founder Dr. James E. Shepard, who stands atop a red-brick plaza landscaped with colorful flowers that bloom all year.

ANNIE DAY SHEPARD RESIDENCE HALL — Built in 1930, this once all-female dormitory is named for the wife of the founder. In the early days, she taught classes and cooked in the kitchen for students and teachers. The now co-ed hall was renovated in 1977 and again in 2005, when a computer room and lounge were added. This hall is suite-style and houses the University Honors Program.

JAMES E. SHEPARD LIBRARY / GREEK BOWL — The library was built in 1950 and is one of two buildings on campus to bear the founder’s name. Designed to support the academic objectives of the school, the library contains more than 500,000 volumes and 140,200 state and federal documents. The green area near the library is a small valley amid the sloping hills of campus that shows off the icons of NCCU’s fraternities and sororities. There are nine historically black Greek letter organizations, known as “the Divine Nine,” that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and all are featured in the bowl. Student events are held in the bowl throughout the year.

ALFONSO ELDER STUDENT UNION — Named for the university’s second president, this is a primary gathering spot for students. The Student Government Association is based here, along with services such as a barbershop, U.S. Post Office and the new Eagle Service Center. There’s a game room, bowling lanes, and eateries including Pizza Hut and World of Wings (WOW) Café and Wingery.

EAGLESON RESIDENCE HALL — This hall was built in 1968 and named after Frances M. Eagleson, who worked at NCCU from 1921 to 1963. Eagleson served in many roles during her long career, including teacher, advisor, dietician, campus hostess and registrar. This hall is co-ed and built in a traditional corridor style.

STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING — This building houses an array of departments with the mission to help the more than 8,300 students enrolled at NCCU. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Scholarships and Student Aid, Residential Life, Student Disability Services and the Centennial Scholars Program are here. This building also contains the practice room for the Marching Sound Machine.

CHIDLEY NORTH RESIDENCE HALL — This $30 million building opened in September next to the original Chidley Residence Hall, which is closed for renovation. Chidley North is named for the Rev. Howard Chidley, a Congregationalist minister who was a close associate of Dr. Shepard. The spacious hall can house 517 juniors and seniors, mostly in double rooms with a single bathroom. Each floor contains a large laundry, kitchen and study room. There are lounges in every wing, a classroom and computer lab on the second floor, and Wi-Fi throughout.

NURSING BUILDING — The new $25 million building, on the former site of Holy Cross Catholic Church, is designed to meet the needs of a growing nursing baccalaureate program. The building boasts 69,000 square feet over three floors with an additional 2,500 square feet that can be dedicated to future research as the program develops. Special features include a 203-seat auditorium and simulated hospital rooms with computer-controlled mannequins—robot “patients” for student skills development and testing.