

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Catawba	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Propst House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Shuford Memorial Garden

CITY OR TOWN:
Hickory (Tenth Congressional District, The Hon. James Broyhill)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Catawba	CODE 035
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>under restoration</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Hickory Landmarks Society, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 2341

CITY OR TOWN: Hickory	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Catawba County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Newton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Propst House is a story-and-a-half mansard-roof frame cottage with a mansard tower and interesting wooden ornament. The building presents an asymmetrical appearance; however, it is basically a center-hall plan, two rooms deep on the east and one room deep on the west. All three rooms are relatively similar in size but the west room is set back about midway along the hall, creating a "T"-shaped plan. A square tower rises two-and-one-half stories at the front of the hall in the right angle of the "T". The south (main) entrance is placed in the tower wall as is a second entrance located in the west wall of the tower. (Both doors open into the hall.) A shed porch begins above the main entrance and follows the angles of the house across the west portion of the main facade. The plain frieze of the porch roof is supported by paired, chamfered posts, each broken by a molded band in the upper portion. A scroll sawn balustrade forms an attractive, patterned boundary for the porch. Each of the three first floor rooms has a projecting bay. The room at the base of the "T" (west room) has a three-sided bay with one window of four-over-four sash in each plane. The south arm of the "T" plan has a rectangular projecting bay with similar, but double windows in the south plane only. The other room has a projecting bay on its east side quite like the west room. Each of the projecting bays has a bracketed frieze similar to that which carries around the house just below the slightly concave mansard roof. The remaining windows of the first floor have four-over-four sash, and frames with triangular-arched heads.

Patterned shingles cover the concave mansard roof, which is surmounted by a heavy, plain molded cornice. Piercing the roof are large gable dormers containing segmental-arched windows and ornamented sawn scroll work. At the second level of the tower, on each of the two exposed faces, is a tall round-headed window with a wide surround terminating in a gabled hood. As the tower breaks free above the roof line its ornamentation increases. Just beneath the bracketed cornice of the mansard roof are large quarter fans in each corner of the visible faces of the tower. The fans have large leaves, rounded on their outer edges, with a large hole piercing the tip of each leaf. Each side of the mansard roof of the tower (also concave with a molded cornice) has one round-headed dormer window with a similar surround terminating in a rounded hood.

The interior finish of the house features late Victorian symmetrically molded architraves, with large corner blocks accented by small roundels. A wainscot of narrow beaded vertical sheathing is found in the hall and southeast room. An open-string stair with wave-pattern brackets, molded hand rail, turned balusters and newel rises from near the rear hall door in an unbroken ascent. The elaborate late Victorian mantels may have been embellished by the builder, Propst, who was a carpenter. The mantel in the southeast room has wide, carved pilasters with paired brackets supporting a heavy shelf and four small raised panels in the frieze below. The over-mantel has small raised panels flanking a large central one; four small fluted pilasters divide the panels. Shelves behind bands of spindlework on either side and above the central panel are joined by an arch across the top with carved fans in the spandrels. The mantel terminates in a ramped upper element featuring carved fans and a diamond-shaped cartouche in the frieze. Various geometric patterns and floral designs have been incised on

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7.

the entire mantel. The west room has a more delicate mantel, similar in form to the southeast room, but quite different in detail. Paired engaged turned posts support brackets which in turn carry an unadorned shelf. The frieze has a square center tablet with leaves radiating from a small boss or roundel. A graceful vine pattern springing from each edge of the center tablet is incised on the frieze. The overmantel has a small, beveled-edge mirror in the center with vertically gouged panels on each side. Shelves with spindle courses separate the upper and lower gouged panels. Carved fans and other ornament appear above the mirror. The mantel in the northeast room is plainer with a mirrored overmantel. The arches framing the projecting bays of the two parlors feature elaborate spindle and sawn scroll work. The second floor repeats the plan of the first but lacks the elaborate detail.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Propst House is a handsome Second Empire-style cottage embellished by elaborate wooden ornament thought to have been executed by its first owner, a carpenter. It is one of the most architecturally interesting buildings in Hickory, and apparently the only example of its style. The purchase and planned restoration of the house by the Hickory Landmarks Society, Inc., has been a preservation effort of considerable local importance.

J. Summie Propst, contractor-carpenter, built his Second Empire cottage at 1819 Tenth Avenue (later renamed 723 Main Avenue, S.W.) shortly after he purchased the lot from Robert P. Dakin and his wife, A. B. Dakin, on October 17, 1881. Mr. Propst was recognized locally for his ability as a cabinetmaker; examples of his work exist in several Lutheran Churches of the area as well as in his own home. The Propst House is said to have been a favorite gathering place for friends to go for a social hour and singing after church services. Propst, in addition to his active participation in the religious affairs of his community, also figured prominently in municipal affairs. He is especially remembered for his prohibitionist stand while serving as a member of the Hickory Board of Aldermen.

Propst, who had no children, sold his house to Noah G. and Alda S. Deal, on November 22, 1937, with the restriction that the transaction not be consummated until his death, which occurred on June 15, 1940. The house became the "homeplace" for Noah G. and Alda S. Deal until their deaths; then, by the terms of their will, a daughter, Metta Deal, inherited the house, built by her uncle, J. Summie Propst. On April 10, 1968, the Hickory Landmarks Society, Inc. (formed to save the Propst House) purchased the house, which was falling into disrepair and faced destruction, from Miss Deal and moved it to its present location in city-owned, Shuford Memorial Gardens. Restoration is underway, directed by architect Philippe Gilissen and Hickory Landmarks Society. Miss Metta Deal and Mrs. J. E. Gregory donated furniture remaining in the house as a memorial to their mother, Mrs. Alda Deal.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Charles G. Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.
 Catawba County Records, Catawba County Courthouse, Newton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).
 Catawba County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).
 Catawba County Historical Association, Inc., Charles J. Preslan, Jr., ed. A History of Catawba County. Salisbury, North Carolina: Rowan Printing Company.
 Hickory Daily Record. Hickory, North Carolina, April 20, 1968; April 28, 1970; June 6, 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 44' 16"	81° 22' 45"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History DATE: 6 February 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title State Historian/Administrator

Date 6 February 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

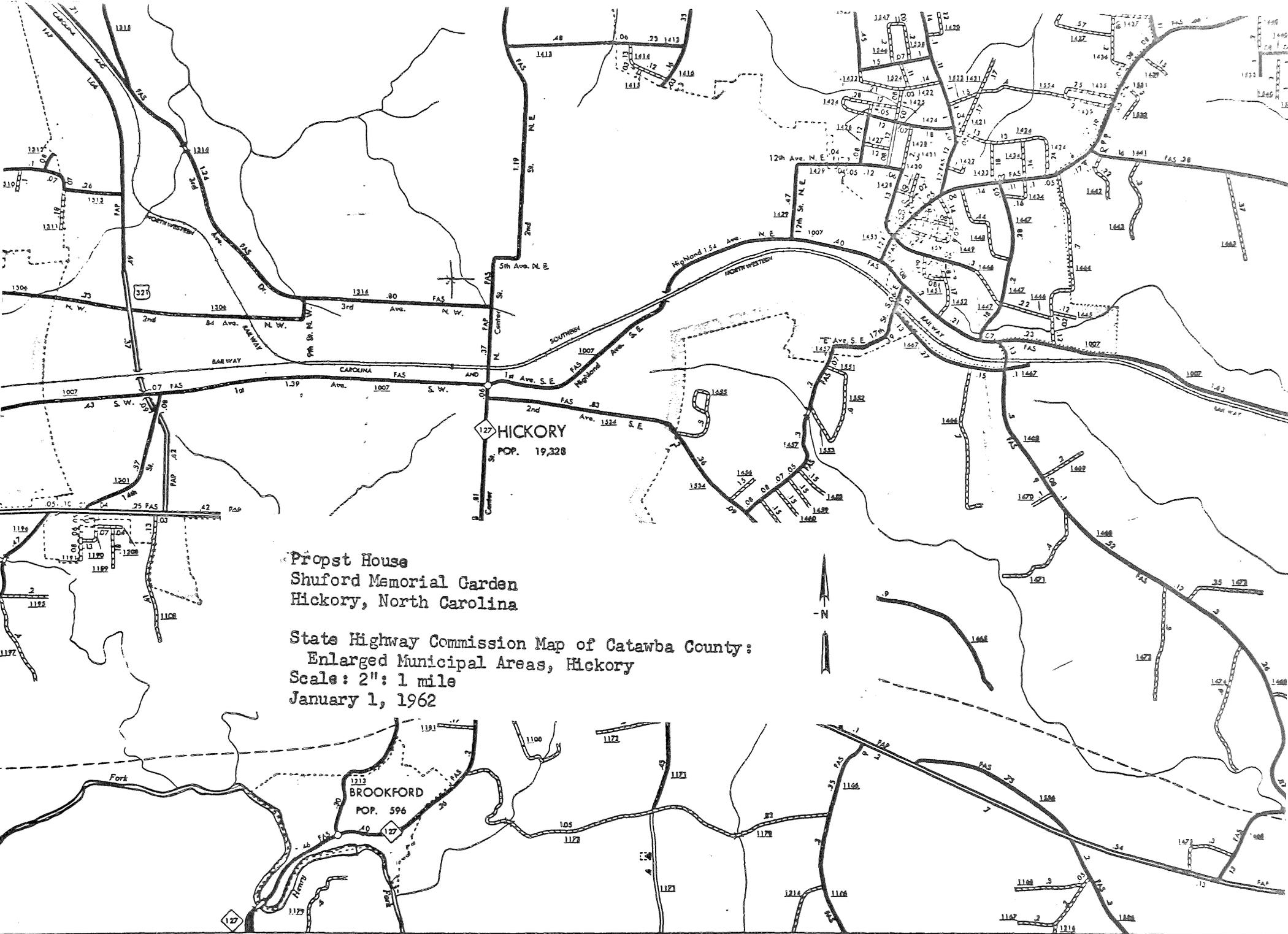
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Propst House
 Shuford Memorial Garden
 Hickory, North Carolina

State Highway Commission Map of Catawba County:
 Enlarged Municipal Areas, Hickory
 Scale: 2": 1 mile
 January 1, 1962

1313
 BROOKFORD
 POP. 596