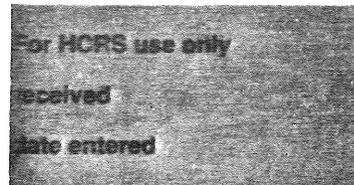


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Lambeth Inn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Lambeth Drive, Lake Junaluska Assembly not for publication

city, town Lake Junaluska vicinity of congressional district Eleventh

state North Carolina code 37 county Haywood code 087

3. Classification

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                            | <b>Status</b>                                       | <b>Present Use</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                          |
|   | N/A   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                            |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum                   |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                                |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence                   |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious                |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                          |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                      |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: conference center |

4. Owner of Property

name Lake Junaluska Association, Melton E. Harbin, Director

The United Methodist Church, Southeastern Jurisdiction

street & number Post Office Box 67

city, town Lake Junaluska vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Haywood County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Waynesville, state North Carolina 28786

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

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## 7. Description

---

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lambeth Inn rests on a knoll on the north shore of Lake Junaluska surrounded by native conifers and backed by the gently sloping mountains of Haywood County, North Carolina. The handsome Neoclassical Revival structure stands as a focal point of the Methodist Lake Junaluska Assembly. The inn, which overlooks the two-hundred-and-fifty acre lake, is sited slightly above the other buildings which line the lakeshore. Constructed in 1921 on the site of the earlier Junaluska Inn, the Lambeth Inn is an imposing and fully articulated example of Neoclassical Revival architecture, rare in its use for a mountain inn.

The inn's overall facade presentation is a symmetrically organized grand composition, approached by a steep, winding road and complemented by rock walls that curve to frame and accent the building. The original frame portion of the inn is a long rectangular block with three short rear wings. This frame structure is flanked by 1950s buff-colored brick additions extending symmetrically from each end. The principal elevation of the original structure is three stories high and features a two-story shed porch carrying across its length and threading beneath a finely-detailed three-story central portico. The brick additions are the same height as the original structure and are set apart slightly by recessed hypens. Because the inn is built into a hill, the rear elevation rises only two stories.

The first story of the original structure--actually an exaggerated foundation--is made of smooth gray river rock. The upper floors are sheathed in german siding, now painted yellow with white trim. Arched openings in the rock ground floor hold paired 6/6 sash surmounted by fanlights. A fanlight transom also accents the inn's principal entrance, double doors centered on the ground floor and recently enclosed in a weather-lock vestibule. Fenestration at the upper floors is irregular--single, double, and triple sets of 6/6-lited double hung windows. Central doors beneath simple rectangular transoms lead to the porches on the second and third floors.

The inn's principal elevation is dominated by the massive pedimented portico and its six three-story Ionic columns. The columns support a full entablature and denticulated cornice, the cornice carrying completely around the building. A single round window with radiating muntins accents the pediment's tympanum. A dome-capped octagonal cupola lighted by delicate arched windows crowns the inn. The cupola rests on a square base, the corners of which are decorated by urn-shaped finials. A pair of Palladian dormers with finely denticulated cornices breaks the slope of the gable roof to either side of the cupola. Rock chimneys rise on the ends of the original structure. These chimneys are partially engaged in the building and are consumed by the gables' cornices. Small quarter-round windows flank each chimney at the gable.

Narrow rock pillars support the second floor of the double-tier shed porch across the front of the building. Ionic columns rest on the rock piers at second-floor height and support the porch's shed roof. The second level of the porch includes an enclosed portion on the west end which opens to the porch beneath the portico. The porch's shed roof is interrupted beneath the portico to provide a third tier. A slender chippendale balustrade binds this landing and also stretches between columns on the second tier.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page one

The three gable-roofed wings of the inn display the denticulated Palladian dormers on each roof slope. A full-length two-story porch with Ionic columns connects the ends of the wings unifying the rear elevation. At each end of the porch, stairs with double landings provide communication between the levels. Above the porch, in each roof gable, is a fan-shaped window, repeating the fan motif of the first-story windows and the Palladian dormers.

The interior of the building is basically functional and utilitarian in character. On the first floor the double entrance doors lead from the center of the porch into a large lobby that carries across most of the inn's facade. A modern registration area is across from the entrance. With its large arched windows, the lobby emits a refreshing sense of light and elegance, despite the recent installation of a dropped ceiling. Boxed pillars and partial partitions divide the lobby space. On the east side of the lobby is a massive stone fireplace.

The first floor has an irregular plan, providing spaces used primarily for meetings. To the rear of the lobby on the east side are large rooms, and behind them the old kitchen and boiler room. On the west side of the lobby, beyond the registration desk, is a narrow corridor feeding small meeting rooms. Wide windows of clouded glass and transoms face the corridor helping to light these spaces which are underground.

Stairs ascend to the upper floors on both the east and west sides of the lobby. These stairways are similar to those on the rear porch. The balusters are square in section. Their boxed newel posts display heavy bases, rectangular panels and slightly rounded caps. Ornamental brackets decorate the open string of the stairs.

The second and third stories of the inn contain wide double-loaded corridors running the length of each wing providing access to the many bedrooms. The functional bedrooms have six-panel doors surmounted by three-pane transoms. The central hall portion of the inn on each floor opens to wide double doors which lead onto the front porch. On this porch, visitors can relax and enjoy the glowing vista of the lake and mountains. The main deviation from the use of the upper floors for bedroom facilities occurs on the west end of the second floor where the visitor, turning to the right after ascending the stairs enters a large comfortable sitting area with a massive rock fireplace, like the lobby fireplace with a simple bracketed mantel shelf. This large room leads to the Korean Room, the enclosed porch area seen on the exterior. Wide windows throughout the building's interior reveal the natural beauty of the setting and provide relief from its narrow functionalism.

During the 1950s the Lambeth Inn underwent the addition of east and west wings adjoining the original block at each end. The chief alterations to the earlier structure were the placement of modern double doors on either side of the lobby fireplace on the east and a single set of modern doors on the west end. The exterior of the massive buff brick additions demonstrates an attempt to unify the original structure and the additions. The additions have double hung 6/6 sash windows, gable roofs with denticulated brick cornices, and arches over the first-story windows. Overall, however, the massive character of the brick additions creates a contrast with the imposing, but much lighter, character of the original frame structure.

# 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)     |

**Specific dates** 1921 **Builder/Architect** Dr. A. J. Baylor

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Lambeth Inn, also called the Mission Centenary Inn and the Lambeth Hotel at various times, is the main hotel facility of the Lake Junaluska Assembly, located in Haywood County in the North Carolina mountains. The Lake Junaluska Assembly, which opened in 1913, houses a variety of Methodist conferences, seminars, and meetings. The Assembly is owned and operated by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church and encompasses approximately 2500 acres and a 250 acre lake. Since 1952, the World Methodist Council has had its American headquarters at Lake Junaluska. Against a backdrop of wooded mountainsides, the three-story frame and brick Lambuth Inn stands as a picturesque focal point in the Lake Junaluska Assembly, sited slightly above the other buildings which line the northern lakeshore. Constructed in 1921 and enlarged in the 1950s, the Lambuth Inn is a handsome, fully articulated example of Neoclassical Revival architecture, rare in its use for a mountain inn.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

C. The Lambeth Inn is a very fine representation of Neoclassical Revival architecture. The inn is prominently sited in the Methodist Lake Junaluska Assembly and accented by the splendor of the natural environment. The application of the Neoclassical Revival style for a mountain inn is rare in western North Carolina.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet    HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE    Item number 8    Page 1

The Lambeth Inn is the main hotel facility of the Lake Junaluska Assembly. The assembly is owned and operated by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, and surrounds the picturesque 250 acre Haywood County lake which gives it and the surrounding community its name. The inn was built in 1921 and has been renovated and enlarged several times.

The Lake Junaluska Assembly was first projected in 1908 when the Laymen's Missionary Movement of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, resolved that the church should "have an assembly ground . . . for the gathering together of our forces at stated times."<sup>1</sup> After several years of searching the organization decided to locate its assembly in Haywood County, in the heart of North Carolina mountains. The Southern Assembly was incorporated in 1909 "to establish and maintain . . . assemblies, conventions, conferences, public and other operations . . . [and] also a religious resort, with permanent and temporary dwellings for health, rest, recreation, Christian work, and fellowship."<sup>2</sup>

The first conference was held at Lake Junaluska in 1913. The speakers included many of the country's Methodist leaders, including Bishop Walter Lambeth, a noted missionary to Africa for whom Lambeth Inn would later be named. The physical plant of the Assembly was crude, however, and "seems to have been a dismal place. The Lake had not been filled, and early attendants spoke of mud all over the place and walking across the dry lake bed where a corn crop was being harvested."<sup>3</sup> A physical plant gradually went up. The Junaluska Inn was built in 1918, but burned a short time afterwards. The Lambeth Inn, originally called the Centenary Mission Inn, and later the Mission Inn was built on the site of the Junaluska Inn at a cost of \$170,000. Dr. J. A. Baylor designed the building.<sup>4</sup> Other public buildings followed and the lake was also surrounded by privately owned cottages. The assembly, however, struggled financially throughout the 1920s. Large amounts of money were borrowed to finance the undertaking.<sup>5</sup> By 1925 "there was increasing pressure from creditors, and the bills could not be met as was desired."<sup>6</sup> In 1929 the stockholders of the corporation deeded the property to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. By this time the assembly had incurred a debt of \$300,000. The official name of the assembly was changed at this time from the Southern Assembly to the Lake Junaluska Methodist Assembly.

The Methodist Church took over 1,250 acres of mountain land, a 250 acre lake, and numerous buildings. The Mission Inn, later to be called Lambeth Inn, was described as "the home of the Junaluska Summer School, affiliated with Duke University; the school of missions; the Epworth League Assembly; and various other conferences and schools. . . . It is equipped with class rooms, parlors, chapel, cafeteria, rooms with or without bath, and dormitory space."<sup>8</sup>

The change of ownership of Lake Junaluska unfortunately coincided with the advent of the Great Depression. The financial situation continued to deteriorate until the assembly was placed in the hands of a receiver in 1932. By 1936 enough money had been raised to pay off the indebtedness of the assembly, largely through the efforts of Bishop Paul B. Kern and the Reverend W. A. Lambeth of High Point. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, meeting in General Assembly, formally assumed ownership of the debt free assembly in the spring of 1938.<sup>9</sup>

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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| date entered _____ |

Continuation sheet

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 2

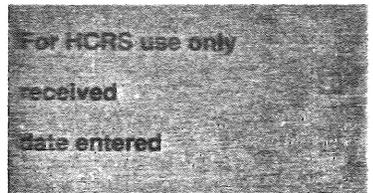
The assembly carried on its programs during the Second World War. At the conclusion of the war the organization began a program of expansion which would make it "the first of the mountain assemblies, to provide a year-around, instead of a summer-only program for conventions, study groups, and other meetings, both religious and lay." The "renovation of Lambuth Hall into a modern hotel, with installation of a heating system"<sup>10</sup> was crucial to the successful expansion of the assembly's programs.

In 1952 the assembly became the property of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. During that same year the World Methodist Council established its American headquarters at Lake Junaluska. In 1956 the Ninth World Methodist Conference met at the Lake, giving the assembly an international reputation.<sup>11</sup> Lambuth Inn had new wings added in 1956 and 1963 in order to keep up with the increased flow of travelers.

Today the Lake Junaluska Assembly is prosperous and esteemed. Every year it is "the scene of outstanding programs of a religious and cultural nature . . . and the attendance totals many thousands."<sup>12</sup> It is one of the South's most important religious assemblies.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8

Page 3

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Mason Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska (Greensboro: Piedmont Press, 1950), 79-80, hereinafter cited as Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska.

<sup>2</sup>Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska, 92

<sup>3</sup>Elmer T. Clark, Junaluska Jubilee (New York: World Outlook Press, 1963), 11-13, hereinafter cited as Clark, Junaluska Jubilee.

<sup>4</sup>Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska, 27, 95-99; Clark, Junaluska Jubilee, 18; W. Clark Medford, Mountain People, Mountain Times (Waynesville: N.p., 1963), 138-140.

<sup>5</sup>Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska, 100-101; Elmer T. Clark, Methodism in Western North Carolina (Asheville: Western North Carolina Conference, 1966), 105, hereinafter cited as Clark, Methodism in Western North Carolina.

<sup>6</sup>Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska, 100.

<sup>7</sup>Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska, 100-103; Clark, Methodism in Western North Carolina, 105; Clark, Junaluska Jubilee, 26-27.

<sup>8</sup>Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska, 107.

<sup>9</sup>Crum, The Story of Lake Junaluska, 107-110; Clark, Methodism in Western North Carolina, 105-106; Clark, Junaluska Jubilee, 27-32.

<sup>10</sup>Bill Sharpe, "The New Junaluska," The State, June 28, 1952, Vol. XX, No. 4, p. 3.

<sup>11</sup>Clark, Methodism in Western North Carolina, 105; Ina W. and John J. Van Noppen, Western North Carolina Since the Civil War (Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973), 86.

<sup>12</sup>Clark, Methodism in Western North Carolina, 105-106.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8.3

Quadrangle name Corbin Knob

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 7 | 3       | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5        | 0 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See planimetric topographic map with property outlined in red.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A   |      | N/A    |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Description prepared by Janet Hutchison, Preservation Assistant and Douglas Swain, Preservation Specialist; Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, researcher  
 organization N. C. Department of Cultural Resources  
 Division of Archives and History date  
 street & number 13 Veterans Drive telephone 704-298-5024  
 city or town Asheville state North Carolina 28805

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

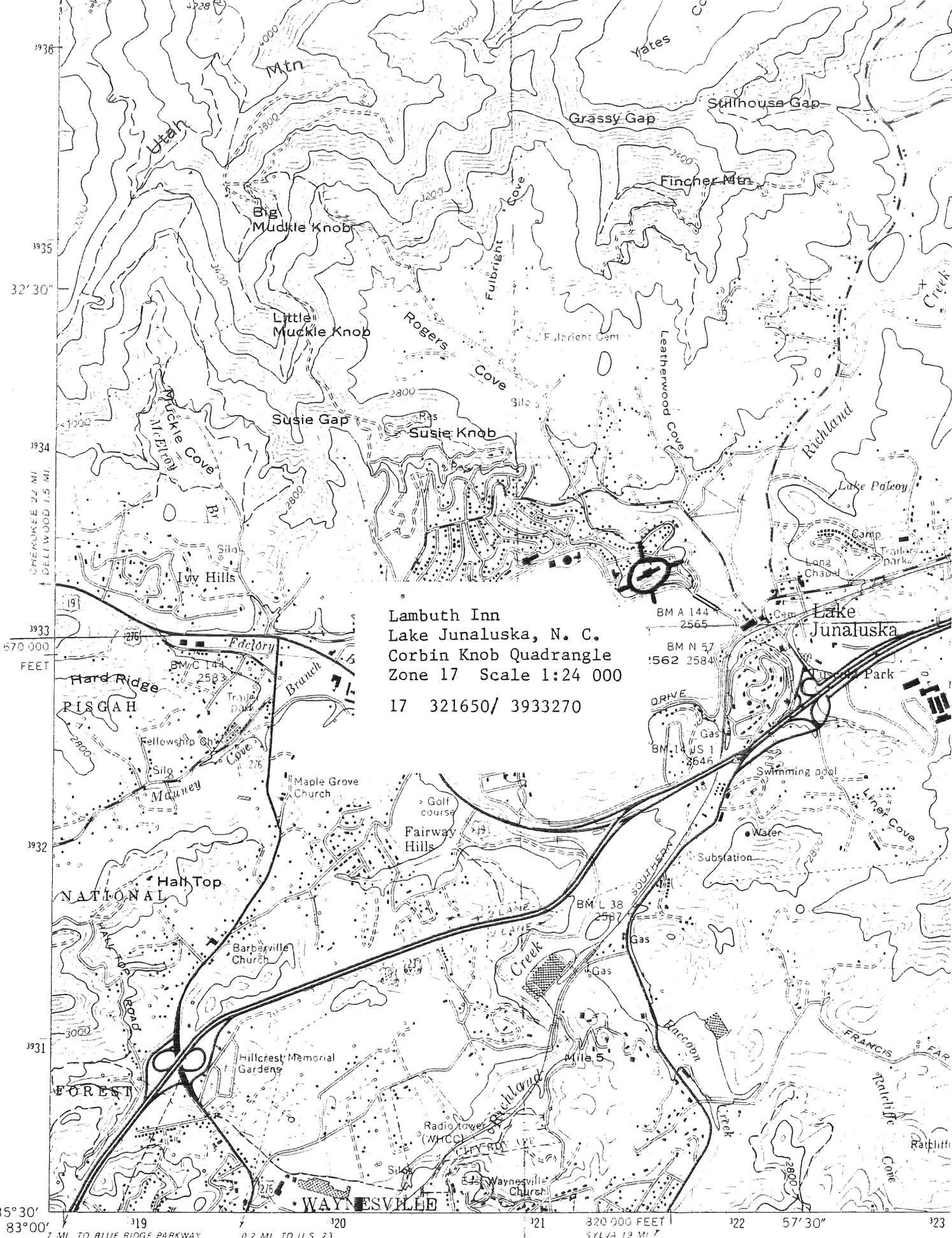
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William S. Phipps*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 24, 1982

|  |      |
|--|------|
| For HCRS use only  |      |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register |      |
|  | date |
| Keeper of the National Register  |      |
| Attest:  | date |
| Chief of Registration  |      |





Lambuth Inn  
 Lake Junaluska, N. C.  
 Corbin Knob Quadrangle  
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000  
 17 321650/ 3933270

3936  
 3935  
 32' 30"  
 3934  
 3933  
 570 000  
 FEET  
 3932  
 3931  
 35° 30'  
 83° 00'

7 MI TO BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY 0.2 MI TO U.S. 23  
 Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Published by the Geological Survey

Control by NOS, NOAA, USGS, and TVA

Revised by TVA in 1967 by photogrammetric methods using aerial photographs taken 1966 and by reference to TVA 11-2-67



HAZELWOOD 175-NE1  
 4354 1 NE

