

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Block House Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
One-half mile east of US 176, near North Carolina-South Carolina boundary

CITY OR TOWN:
Tryon vicinity

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32 COUNTY: Polk CODE: 75

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Converse College

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Spartanburg STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Polk County Courthouse--Register of Deeds Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Columbus STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Polk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The stone marking the end of the 1772 dividing line between the states of North and South Carolina is in a meadow near which the Block House stood. The surrounding area has been adapted for use as a pasture, stables, and racetrack. The Block House was moved some three hundred yards from South Carolina to its present site in North Carolina in 1942. It was originally a "dog trot" log cabin having two rooms divided by a roofed passage with an open end. In 1944 and at several subsequent periods the house was remodeled, enlarged, and embellished.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <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 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 checked="" 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

As early as 1750 the Block House site was prominent as a landmark on the old Blackstock Road, which ran from lower South Carolina to the mountains. The house itself was constructed about 1756 as a trading post and was modified soon after for use as a fortress to protect local settlers during the French and Indian War. After the Treaty of 1763, and a subsequent agreement with the Cherokees in 1767, a new emphasis was placed on extending the border between North and South Carolina further west. A line was finalized in 1772 with the Block House as its western terminus. During the Revolution the site served as a staging area for various Tory and "Rebel" bands, and was renamed "Fort Howard" for a short time in 1776, in honor of "Captain" Thomas Howard, who led a group in a raid against an encampment of Tories and Indians nearby. In 1813, the site again played a role in a boundary question between the two Carolinas. At a conference held near the Block House, a new line was drawn up by commissioners from both states with the site utilized as the starting point. On September 15, 1815, after this boundary was officially accepted, a stone was placed on the site marking the North and South Carolina border and the beginning of the 1813 boundary line.

During the years following the Civil War the site was a camp on a primary trade route connecting Charleston with the western mountains. The local people used the site's unusual geographic location for illegal cock fights and whiskey manufacture. Since the Block House property extended into two counties in South Carolina and one in North Carolina, avoiding the law in one county, or state, necessitated a move of only a few feet.

The Block House remained on the site until 1942 when it was moved three hundred yards into North Carolina. The site is presently owned by Converse College and still contains the 1813 marker stone in its original position as the lone reminder of the more than two centuries of political and historical events.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Landrum, Dr. John. Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina. (Greenville: Shannon Printers, 1897).

Patton, Sadie. Sketches of Polk County History (Hendersonville (?), 1950).

Polk County Records, Polk County Courthouse, Columbus, North Carolina.

Polk County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wagstaff, Henry (ed.). Papers of John Steele. (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1924): II, 820-824.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "	35	11	47
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "	82	13	04
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "			
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Eight

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
North Carolina	32	Polk	75
South Carolina	39	Spartanburg	83
South Carolina	39	Greenville	45

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: J. G. Zehmer, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penney, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: July 17, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

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*
Dr. H. G. Jones
 Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History
 Date: July 17, 1970

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



370.7

357.7

82.9

200.4

207.6

318.3

336.6

RR-ROW183

300.5

110.7

329.4

277.9

22

RIDGE RD

323.5

346

240

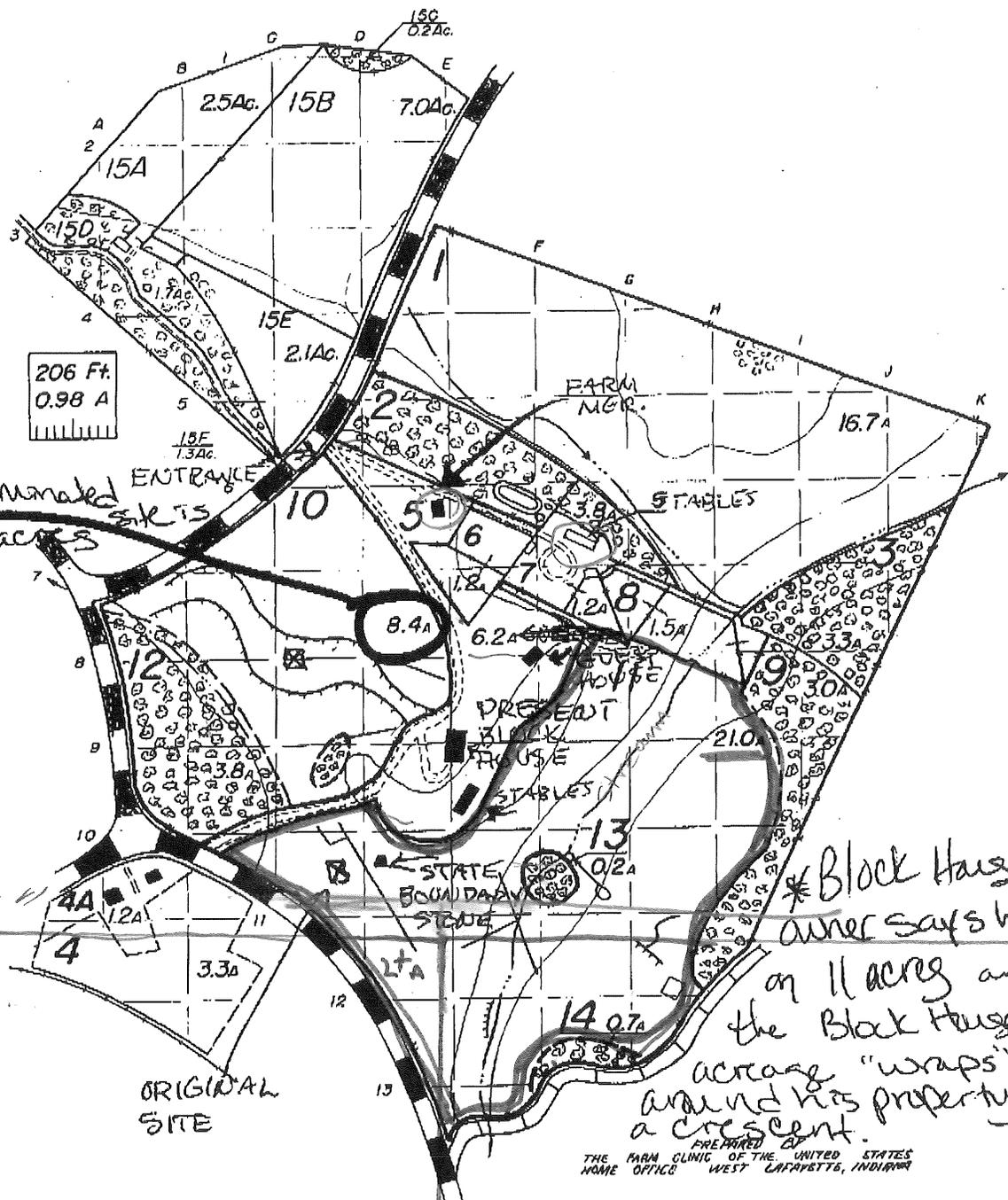
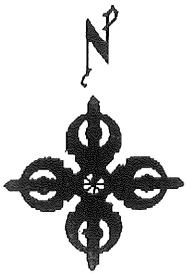
315.4

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THE BLOCK HOUSE FARM

DR. & MRS. O.C. CARMICHAEL JR., OWNERS

TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA



LAND USE	
FARMSTEAD	6.2
PASTURE	61.0
WOODS PASTURE	18.0
LOTS	5.1
ROADS	2.2
TOTAL	92.5

SYMBOLS	
	PAVED ROAD
	GRAVEL ROAD
	LANE
	FENCE
	HURDLE
	SOIL LINE
	FIELD LINE
	DRAINAGE
	BUILDINGS
	TREES
	TERRACE

NOMINATED ENTRANCE

**Block House owner says he on 11 acre and the Block House is a crescent.*

PREPARED BY THE FARM CLINIC OF THE UNITED STATES HOME OFFICE WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

