

1976

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jones, Rev. Joshua D., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number SR 1526 south side, 0.4 mile from NC 108N/A not for publication
city, town Mill Spring N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Polk code 149 zip code 28756

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fin 8-19-91
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Entered in the
National Register

Michael Byers 9/26/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: 19th-century I-house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls weatherboard
roof tin
other wood
log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Rev. Joshua D. Jones House is situated on the south side of SR 1526 in the Mill Spring vicinity of Polk County. The house is located in the Stony Knoll community of White Oak Township, a community of some twenty families, many of whom are descendents of the original property owners who settled in the area in the 1880s and before. The main road through Stony Knoll; Fox Mountain Road, forms part of the boundary on the north side of the Rev. Joshua Jones House. The house faces southeast, at a right angle to the road. A driveway enters the property from Fox Mountain Road and passes in front of the house, continuing up a gradual hill to the south. A small store building, built by Jones about 1900, sits on the nominated property between the rear ell of the house and Fox Mountain Road. At the southeast corner of the front porch is a well. On a hill west of the house are the Stony Knoll Church, constructed about 1950, a cemetery and an old school building now used by the church. The Stony Knoll library and recreation building are approximately two-tenths mile east of the house on Fox Mountain Road.

The land in the Stony Knoll community is rolling and dotted with deciduous trees, some pines and thick woods. To the south of the house is a large, wooded hill, partially obscuring the view of Fox Mountain beyond. Shrubs have been planted against the foundation of the store building.

The Rev. Joshua D. Jones House is a two-story frame structure with a two-story ell. It is probable that when Jones purchased the property in 1883 it contained a two-room dwelling with central fireplace and attic. Ghost marks on the central chimney indicate the previous roofline, and a section of the kneework shows how Jones added two rooms and a complete second floor to an existing house in 1897. (See exhibit A) He constructed the present two-story, one-room-deep main block around the east room of the original house and raised the original west end as a central rear wing. The east room of the original house occupies the position of the late nineteenth century I-house's traditional center hall. The entire house was then sheathed in new weatherboard.

The main facade of the Jones house is symmetrically organized as three bays with a shed-roofed porch covering three-fourths of the lower facade. Porch posts are plain. The entrance door in the central bay contains two

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1833-1926

Significant Dates

1897

1926

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jones, Rev. Joshua D.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Rev. Joshua D. Jones House, Mill Spring, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A because both house and site illustrate the post-Civil War struggle in the South of African-Americans to own land, to live in communities with members of their own race, and to act through their church to improve their condition in life. Jones purchased land in an African-American community, enlarged an early two-room dwelling to a two-story house for his family, and served his community as pastor of the Colored Methodist Church (CME) and as carpenter, merchant, farmer and teacher. The frame house remains today as the only substantial structure in the Stony Knoll community. Since 1926, when the house was sold, the interior has suffered from neglect. Porches have been replaced, a stairway removed and well-house demolished. However, the house and adjacent store building retain sufficient integrity to serve as important symbols of Polk County's ethnic heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alexander, Ted., Historic Resources of Polk County, NC Division of Archives and History, manuscript, 1985.
Franklin, John Hope, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, fifth edition, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1980.
Jackson, Della Hayden Davenport, Mill Spring, NC, interview and correspondence.
Polk County Historical Association, Polk County, North Carolina, History, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, 1983.
Polk County Register of Deeds, Polk County Courthouse, Columbus.
United States Census, Polk County, North Carolina, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910.
Wilson, Charles Reagan and Ferris, William, eds., Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, University of North Carolina Press Chapel Hill, 1989.
Woodward, C. Vann, A History of the South: Origins of the New South, 1877-1913, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1951.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.95 acre

UTM References

A

1	7	3	9	4	1	5	0	3	9	0	5	6	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Rev. Joshua D. Jones property comprises parcel #70, map P-71, of the Office of Polk County Tax Assessor.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises all the property historically associated with the Rev. Joshua D. Jones House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn A. Humphries
organization Consultant date April 1, 1991
street & number Route 2, Box 175 telephone 704: 526-9462
city or town Highlands state NC zip code 28711

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number 7 Page 1

vertical panes of glass above three horizontal wood panels. For the most part, windows throughout the main block and ell have six-over-six double hung sash and plain trim. A plain frieze, interrupted only by narrow corner boards, runs around the entire main block and rear two-story wing. The gable roof of the main block and ell is covered in tin shingles and has eaves with exposed sawn rafter ends. The foundation is stone and log, hidden by wood lattice. A substantial rough stone interior chimney rises from the ell near the juncture with the main block.

About 1925 a one-story gable-roofed kitchen was added to the south side of the rear wing. The addition is weatherboarded and most of the windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. Each long side has a door and an interior brick flue rises on the interior wall. Later the space between the kitchen and main block was enclosed with a door flanked by single double-hung windows and shed roof. On the north side of the ell is a one-story porch with shed roof and plain posts. Doors open to this porch from the main block and from the ell, and three six-over-six windows open to the porch.

On the interior, the Jones house has an extremely plain finish. Walls are plywood or other modern board, and floors are original pine. All door and window frames are plain. One fireplace in the center room of the main block has been closed and has no mantel. A second fireplace remains in the first floor of the ell but has received a brick face. At one time this room contained, on the south side of the fireplace, a boxed stair which wound up to the attic. This stair has been removed. The remaining stairway is an enclosed stair leading from the center room of the main block to the second floor. The second floor of the main block contains one large room running the width of the house and containing the stairway with its rough railing. A wall dividing this room from the second floor of the ell is made of planks and is supported in part by the massive uncoursed stone chimney. On the chimney it is possible to see the scar left by the roof of the original two-room house. The entire second floor of the house is now used for storage.

Near the southeast corner of the front porch is the original well with concrete platform and modern water drawing equipment. The early well-house has been removed.

Between the house and Fox Mountain Road is a one-room, frame store building with gable roof covered in tin and sides covered with corrugated metal. There are entrances in each gable end, composed of a central five-paneled door of wood flanked by four-over-four windows. A brick chimney pierces the west end of the roof near the gable.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number 7 Page 2

Over the years, the interior finishing of the house, never carefully installed, has suffered from neglect and the abuse of tenants. Some of the original plaster remains, but most walls now are covered with a combination of wallboard and plywood paneling. Door and window surrounds are plain and frequently of irregular width. Floors are wide pine planks. In 1988 the flooring, foundation piers and posts of both porches were replaced, and over the years, the well-house and boxed stairway have been removed. But because of its intact salient features, the house retains its integrity as the only substantial house in the community, and one of the few remaining symbols of Polk County's ethnic heritage.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number 3 Page 1

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

"In few periods of our history has the whole fabric of American life been altered so drastically as during the Civil War and the period immediately following it." (1) Freedom for African-Americans in the South, although totally welcome, ushered in a period of acute suffering. There were thousands of displaced persons, abandoned lands, little food and clothing, and no civil authority to cope with the emergency. (2) The Rev. Joshua D. Jones House and the surrounding Stony Knoll community of Polk County illustrate characteristics of the lifestyle developed by African-Americans immediately after the close of the Civil War. African-Americans made repeated efforts to own land, seeing landownership as a symbol of freedom. (3) Although government efforts at land reform failed and most African-Americans resorted to sharecropping and tenancy, by 1900 one of every four African-Americans in the South owned land. (4) Land was difficult for the former slaves to obtain, but when it had been acquired it was rarely sold but instead was viewed as a family resource to be used by kinsmen and passed down from generation to generation. Jones was able to purchase land for himself as early as 1883. He farmed the land, gradually increasing his holdings and using the land as collateral for later cash needs. Jones established his home and farm in a community of other African-Americans, a characteristic act of former slaves in the period of Reconstruction in the South, where they tended to group themselves in communities, such as the Stony Knoll area, set off from the farms of the white men. Here they could gather with their kin and friends away from the watchful eye of the former owner. Today, "... although black families are rapidly losing their land in the South, family land that resembles small villages with multiple households of related units is still visible in many places." (5) The Stony Knoll community is set off physically from the Mill Spring village by a high wooded hill and winding road.

After Emancipation, the continuing interest of the African-American in religion could at last be realized in a church organization under his own control. Rural churches, composed of a number of extended families, were established immediately after Emancipation and became the center of communities, providing rules for behavior and socialization, responding to the economic needs of members and acting as social service agency, school and spiritual base. (6) Later the church became a political resource for the African-American. The Jones House, set in a community of extended families, was the home of a rural preacher who was associated with the CME church and who was farmer, merchant, carpenter, landowner and teacher, exemplifying the lifestyle of the struggling rural African-American during the late nineteenth century.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number 8 Page 2

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Joshua D. Jones was born in South Carolina in December, 1858, and moved to White Oak Township in Polk County, North Carolina, sometime before 1870, when the United States Census of that year reports that he, his brother, Martin, and sister, Mary, were living with their mother, Lillie, and grandmother, Matilda Foster. (7) Polk County, one of North Carolina's smallest counties, lies on the southern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and the land has characteristics of both mountain and Piedmont, with heavily wooded areas and small amounts of open land used for farming. In 1870 bottom land along the rivers was fertile and cultivated; land along the mountain edges both poor and sandy. Until the railroad arrived in Polk County in 1877, residents relied on subsistence farming, hunting and trading for survival. (8) There had been few slaves in Polk or neighboring Rutherford County, although small numbers of freedmen were listed in the Census of 1850 and of 1860.

In 1880, Joshua Jones was settled in the Stony Knoll area of Polk County, on the old road to Spartanburg, South Carolina, and within a mile of the village of Mill Spring. Stony Knoll was a community of other African-Americans separated from Mill Spring by a high wooded hill. The Census of 1880 records that Jones was leasing a farm and lived with his wife, Mary, his sister, his brother and grandmother. (9) Later that year his first child, Joseph, was born. By 1883 Jones was able to purchase his homeplace, containing three and one-half acres, for \$24.00. (10) It is probable that the home site contained a two-room and attic house, which remains within the present homestead, enlarged by Jones in 1897. (11) Jones purchased a second tract of three and one-half acres in 1890, adjacent to the homesite. The second tract, described in its deed as beginning at a post oak stump, ". . . in said Jones yard", indicated that the family was living on the tract purchased in 1883. (12) In 1894 Jones purchased for \$300 a large tract of 121 acres, adjoining the earlier tracts. (13)

Jones served as pastor of the Stony Knoll CME Church about 1890 to 1900. The church was organized in the early 1880s, when the congregation worshipped first under a brush arbor. Later a log building was constructed. In 1912 a large frame building was completed, and that year the congregation numbered 80 and were hosts for the district conference. For several years around 1910 Jones served the Langford Chapel CME Church in Monroe, North Carolina, but maintained his residence in Polk County. He opened a small store on his property about the turn of the century and worked as a carpenter in the area. (14)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number 8 Page 3

By 1910 only Jones and his wife remained on the homeplace. The Census of 1910 lists him as "farmer," (15) and he was well able to read and write, as is evident in a handwritten note concerning the interest on a mortgage which Jones sent to the court in Polk County in 1909. (16) He occasionally mortgaged the various tracts of land he owned, and in 1915 sold the tract containing 121 acres to the Union Drug Company, Inc., for \$800. (17) In 1926, after the death of Mrs. Jones, the homeplace tract and a second smaller tract were sold by the Tax Commissioner of Polk County. (18) Jones died shortly thereafter in Lebanon, Ohio, the home of his daughter, and is buried there. (19)

The Jones house continued to be used as a private dwelling after 1926. It served as a parsonage for the Stony Knoll Church during the 1930s and housed the community library from 1936 to 1938. In 1977, the property was purchased by Mae Jackson and Joseph Williams. (20)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number 8 Page 4

FOOTNOTES

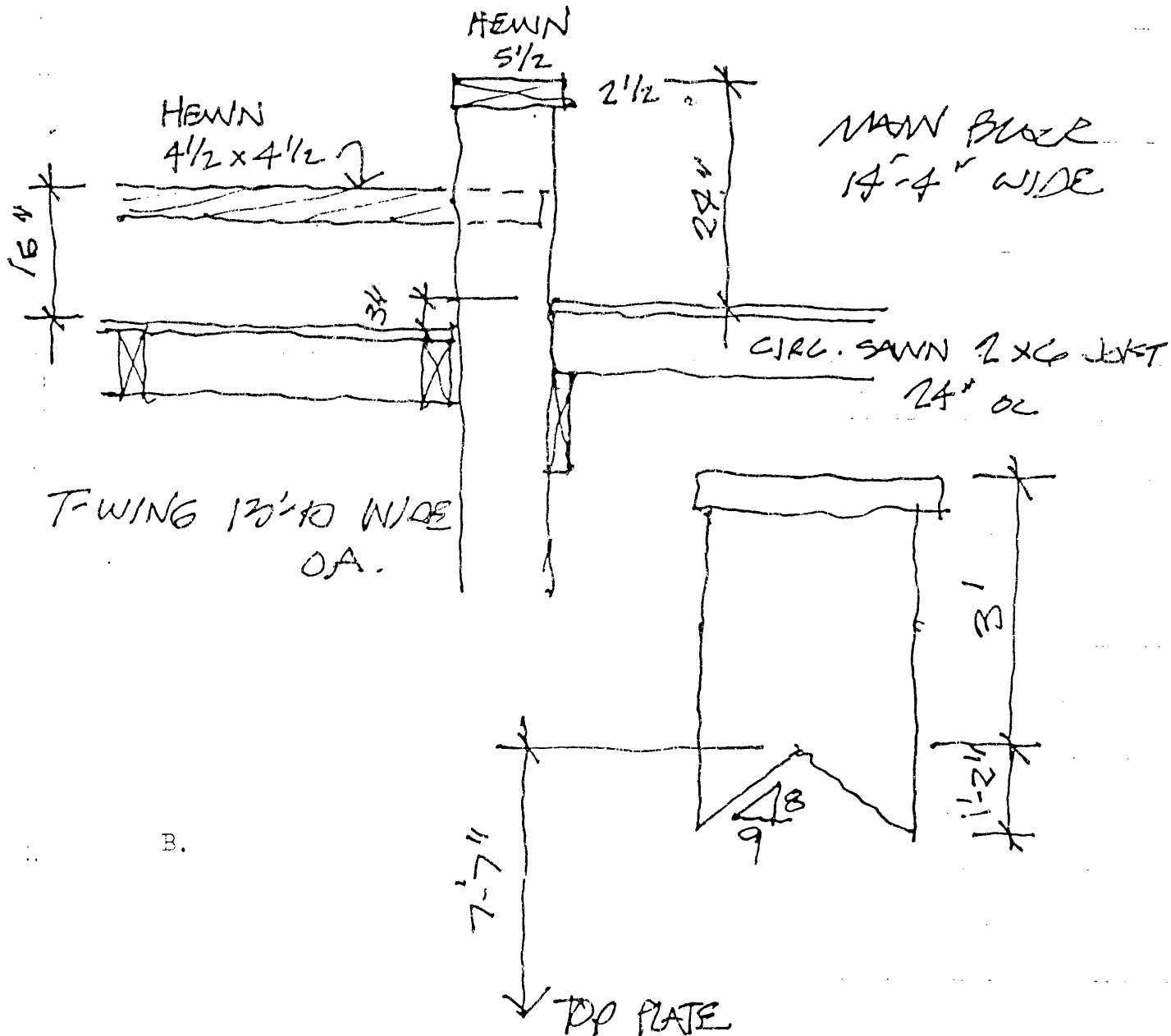
1. Franklin, John Hope, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, 1980, p. 227.
2. Ibid., p. 234.
3. Whitehead, Tony L., "The Black Family", Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, 1989. p. 154.
4. Woodward, C. Vann, A History of The South: Origins of the New South, 1877-1913, 1951, p. 206.
5. Whitehead, op. cit., p. 154.
6. Ibid.
7. United States Census of 1870
8. Alexander, Ted, Historical Resources of Polk County, 1985, p. 1.
9. United States Census of 1880.
10. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 6, page 148.
11. Polk County Historical Association, Polk County, North Carolina, History, 1983, p. 74.
12. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 9, page 190.
13. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 11, page 372.
14. Jackson, Della Hayden Davenport, correspondence, February, 1991.
15. United States Census of 1910.
16. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 22, page 126.
17. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 29, page 398.
18. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book of Mortgages 28, page 54.
19. Jackson, Della Hayden Davenport, interview, October, 1990.
20. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 167, page 1545.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number Exhibit Page A

A.



B.

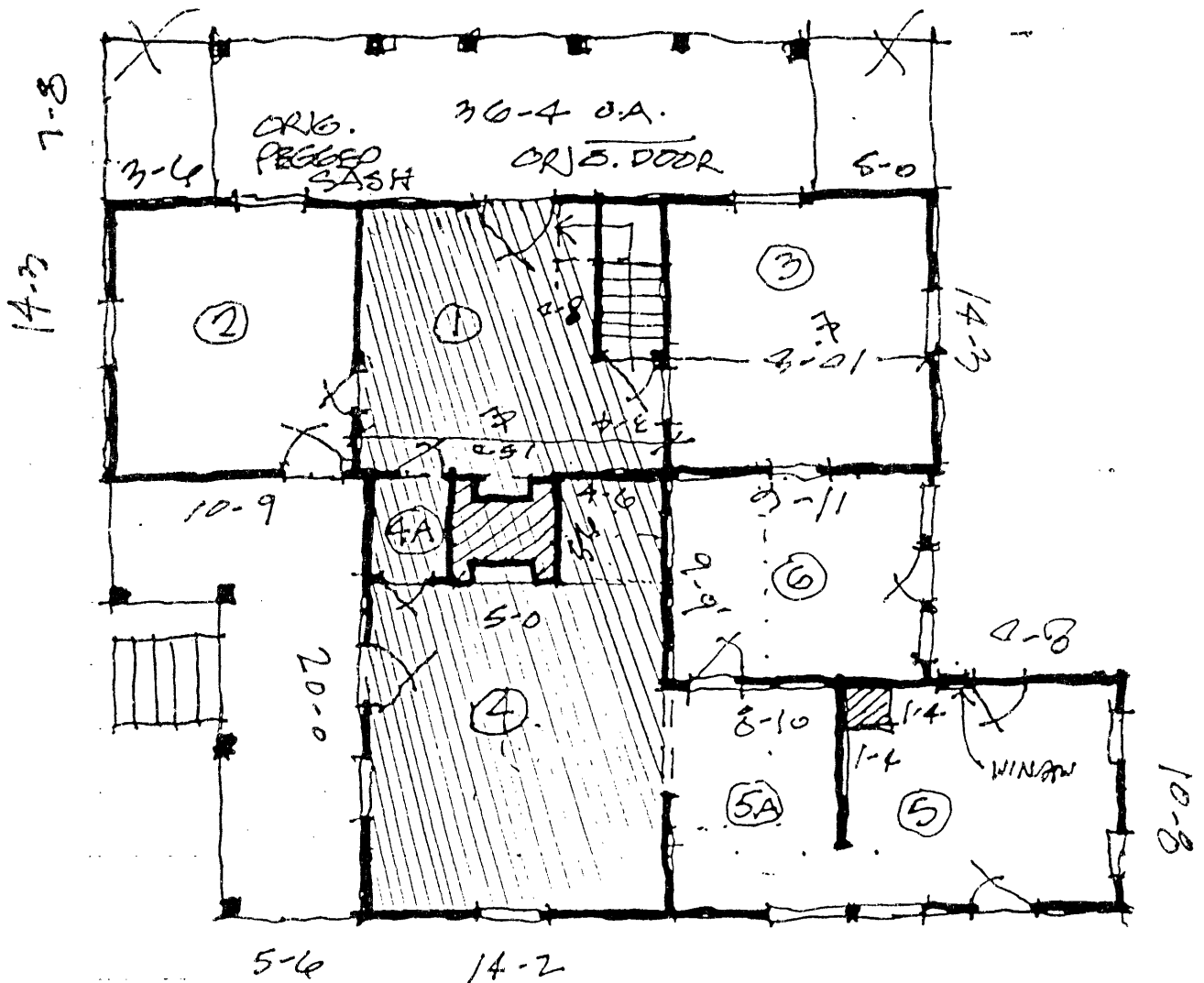
A. section through kneewall, showing juncture of wing and main block
B. elevation of chimney showing ghost mark of old roof

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Rev. Joshua D. Jones House
Polk County, NC

Section number Exhibit Page B

Floor Plan, First Floor



JONES HOUSE



= original house, c. 1880