

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**Office of Archives and History**  
**Department of Cultural Resources**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Tryon Country Club**

Tryon, Polk County, PL0161, Listed 2/5/2013  
Nomination by Jane Templeton and Clay Griffith  
Photographs by Jane Templeton, June 2010



Looking north toward clubhouse from the ninth fairway



Second hole, view to southwest from tee

**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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Tryon Country Club

other names/site number Tryon Golf and Tennis Club

**2. Location**

street & number 393 Country Club Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Tryon vicinity X  
state North Carolina code NC county Polk code 149 zip code 28782

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	6	buildings
1	0	sites
0	3	structures
0	0	objects
5	9	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
In the National Register

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE/sports facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE/sports facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Log

Wood

roof Asphalt

other Synthetic

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or a grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1917-1962

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1917, 1922, 1943

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Leonard, Robert A. – golf course builder

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

Name of repository:

Polk County Public Library, Columbus, NC

Tufts Archives, Pinehurst, NC

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 90 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>386225</u>	<u>3897820</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>385640</u>	<u>3897300</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>385225</u>	<u>3897760</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>385100</u>	<u>3897500</u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jane Templeton, and Clay Griffith, Acme Preservation Services

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date September 10, 2012

street & number 55 Diamond Ridge Ln. / 825C Merrimon Ave., #345 telephone 828-859-5190 / 828-281-3852

city or town Columbus / Asheville state NC zip code 28722 / 28801

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Tryon Country Club

street & number 393 Country Club Road telephone 828-859-9561

city or town Tryon state NC zip code 28722

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Tryon County Club, Polk County, NC

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### Description

Tryon Country Club is a nine-hole, members-only golf course located at 393 Country Club Road, just northwest of the town limits of Tryon, North Carolina. Secondary sources attribute the course design to preeminent golf course architect Donald Ross, and the golf course is the centerpiece of the club, which also includes tennis, swimming, and social functions among its amenities. The nominated property consists of approximately ninety acres situated in the valley formed by Hogback, Melrose, Skyuka, Tryon and Rocky Spur mountains, all of which are part of the Blue Ridge Mountain range. The boundaries on the north, west and south are higher than the center of the property. Little Creek meanders down from the mountains and crosses the golf course in a southwest-to-northeast direction, affecting play on almost every hole. Holes laid out to the west and north generally rise up the slopes of the surrounding mountains. Holes that play to the east generally descend in elevation, with the lowest point of the course at the eastern edge. The result is a course with almost no flat terrain. Hardwood trees and native plants define the fairways and screen the property from the surrounding roads and railroad tracks.

The nominated property is bounded on the north by Country Club Road and Euit Smith Road, on the east by a private residence, and on the south by Horseshoe Curve Road. The gravel and stone driveway to the maintenance shed defines the property's southwest corner. The western boundary generally follows the edge of the wooded area adjacent to the course. The boundary line extends along the tree line past the upper pond near the fourth fairway to an intersection with the right-of-way of the Southern Railway. The line then follows the railroad right-of-way to its intersection with Euit Smith Road. This approximately ninety-acre property containing the golf course and associated buildings is part of the club's current surveyed holdings, and the only part under consideration for this nomination. There are four buildings, one site, and one structure within the district that are considered contributing to this nomination. Seven modern buildings and structures are considered non-contributing. The remaining thirty-six acres owned by the country club were purchased in 1965 and remain undeveloped. The undeveloped property is not included within the boundary.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which surround this property, were mostly forest. The golf course site was part of a dairy farm, with open pastures interspersed with wooded areas. Today heavy woods extend up the mountain sides above the valley. A few private homes look down onto the golf course from both Country Club and Horseshoe Curve Roads; otherwise the perimeter of the club's property is wooded and undeveloped.

From Country Club Road a gravel road enters the property and leads to the east parking lot. The Pro's House is located at 474 Country Club Road on the north side of the east parking lot and northeast of the clubhouse. A separate gravel driveway running parallel with Country Club Road accesses the house. The paved east parking lot ends at a walkway that extends in front of the clubhouse. The clubhouse is a one-story Rustic Revival-style log building erected in 1922 and the one-story board-and-batten pro shop and storage

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Tryon County Club, Polk County, NC

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building was built in 1958. A stone terrace extends across the south elevations of both buildings and offers vistas over the golf course to the south.

Two grass terraces extend below the clubhouse and are bordered by low stone retaining walls. A wide paved cart path provides the point entry to the golf course. A small putting green is located on the east side of the path upon crossing the walkways from the parking lot. The oval putting surface is surrounded by planting beds. Beyond the putting green, the path splits to the east and west. Following the path to the east leads to the first tee. A second practice green is located to the south of the cart path. This practice area is surrounded by taller fairway and rough grasses to simulate course conditions and to allow for pitching and chipping practice. Just beyond the first tee box on the south side of the cart path are the remains of an asphalt tennis court. Tennis was played at the club well into the 1970s, but the court is no longer in use and the playing surface is in disrepair. Following the wide cart path to the west provides access to the ninth green and the swimming pool. A circular observation area is located where the path splits and is surrounded by a low stone wall. On the west side of the path, a flagpole is anchored in a circular stone base.

In the middle of the golf course, at the site of a natural spring, is a concrete swimming pool built in 1968 on the site of an earlier pool. A practice range, accessible from Horseshoe Curve Road, is located on the south side of the golf course. The gravel driveway to the practice range was the original entrance to the course.

The nominated property consists of the golf course built in 1916-1917, a contributing site, four contributing buildings, three non-contributing structures, and six non-contributing buildings.

### **Golf Course, 1916-1917**

### **Contributing site**

The Tryon Country Club golf course was originally laid out in 1914 and secondary sources attribute the design to golf course architect Donald Ross. It is very likely that he designed the course which has a nine-hole layout with the holes routed in a predominately east-west direction in the valley formed by Little Creek. The design utilizes two different sets of tee placements within the tee boxes, which allows the golfer to play the same fairway and green twice for a distinct eighteen-hole round. This solution provides an eighteen-hole course in a half the space. The course continues to be played in this manner, golfers choosing their tee location based on whether they are playing the back nine or the front nine. The golf course has Bermuda grass fairways, Bermuda and zoysia grass tee boxes, and bent grass greens.

When the course was originally constructed, members entered from Horseshoe Curve Road, where the entrance to the practice range is today. A small house, which no longer stands, served as the clubhouse. In 1922, when the present clubhouse building was erected on the north side of the property, the membership decided to renumber the holes on the course in order to start and finish at the clubhouse. In 1940 the club determined that the original sand greens should be replaced with turf. Grasses that had been developed recently to withstand the hot southern climate and required less maintenance became popular for golf

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Tryon County Club, Polk County, NC

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courses. Before converting to grass putting surfaces, sand greens were built as rectangular flat surfaces, which were oiled and raked regularly to keep the sand in place. At same time five tee boxes—for holes three, five, seven, eight, and nine—were moved or elongated slightly to accommodate the stronger golfer. The new greens also required slight adjustments in dimension and location, but the overall length of the holes remained constant.<sup>1</sup>

The first hole (originally number 8) is a nearly straight hole that plays to the east from the clubhouse. The tee box is located directly south of the practice green. The first green, located on the north side of Little Creek, is protected by three sand bunkers. The second hole begins immediately south of the first green on the south side of the creek. The long, dogleg, par-5 hole twice crosses Little Creek and slopes up to the green. The third hole, which was originally the opening hole on the course, plays to the west with a sloping fairway. A retention pond, the second water storage pond built on the course, is located on the north side of the fairway. Approaching the third green, a small alternate fairway extends to the north with a tenth green located on the north side of Little Creek. The additional green, which plays as hole number twelve, was added in 1968 to alleviate wear and tear on the shady third hole. Designed to take advantages of the natural landscape features, the twelfth hole shares a fairway with the third hole; the tee for number twelve is located on ninth-hole tee box. The fourth hole plays to the northwest from an elevated tee box to an elevated green. The fairway dips down to cross Little Creek flowing between the two steepest elevations on the course. Adjacent to the fairway on the southwest side was the first water retention pond, which held water from the Town of Tryon. The fifth hole is a strong par-3 playing to the east from the highest point on the course. The sixth hole begins just northwest of the fifth green and the first shot is played to the east over a water retention pond. The sixth fairway slopes away to its green, which is situated in front of the pro shop. The seventh hole begins near the center, and lowest point, of the golf course and plays with a slight dogleg uphill to the west. The seventh tee box stands just north of the swimming pool. The eighth hole plays back to the east and the dogleg fairway is bisected by Little Creek. The ninth hole is a short par-3 over Little Creek and plays roughly due north back to the clubhouse.

As originally designed the fairways were narrow and composed of native grasses. The holes were laid out to follow the natural contours of the land, permitting water drainage to flow along its usual path to the creek. Of seven log bridges originally built to cross Little Creek, only one remains in place on the eighth fairway. Twelve bridges are scattered throughout the course, including seven modern cart bridges with low parapets of stacked timbers that were constructed in 2009-2010 to replace earlier structures; two rock-faced culverts in the seventh fairway; two wooden footbridges located in the fairways of the second and eighth holes; and the surviving log bridge.

Tryon Country Club introduced electric golf carts by the early 1960s, and cart paths were built near the tees and greens in order to protect them from the potential damage due the weight of the carts. Players in

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<sup>1</sup> Garland Goodwin, interview by Fred Edwards Jr., 2010



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Tryon County Club, Polk County, NC

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carts were expected to scatter on the fairways thereby avoiding the possibility of creating ruts. No design changes were made to hole layouts to accommodate the carts.

Golf courses tend to have their grasses and vegetation changed or replaced over time as part of a routine maintenance program, and Tryon Country Club is no exception. As trees die or fall, they are removed and replanted with new trees. The only large-scale vegetation change has been the loss of the tree line on the north side of Little Creek on hole number two. This loss occurred in the 1940s, and the membership decided not to replace the trees.

### 1. Clubhouse, 1921-1922

### Contributing building

The clubhouse is a side-gabled, one-story log building constructed on the south slope of the hill above the first tee and ninth green of the golf course. The building is rectangular in shape, five bays wide with an asphalt-shingle side-gable roof. Two projecting front-gable porches dominate the façade, framing the central entrance to the building and stone steps from the sidewalk. The porch bays are carried on peeled log posts with flitch-edge wavy siding in the gable ends. A recessed side wing at the west end of the façade is the original location of the pro shop, which was moved into a separate building in 1935. The rear of clubhouse sits close to the hillside with Country Club Road located above and a narrow, paved cart path passing between the building and the slope of the hill.

The clubhouse is constructed of saddle-notched logs with concrete chinking. The building features an interior stone chimney, triangular eave brackets on the center bay of the façade, two rear-facing gables on the north elevation, and a stone terrace extending the full width of the façade. The façade under the east porch is covered with board-and-batten siding. Windows throughout are typically four-light wood-frame casements. The main entrance consists of double-leaf doors with large single lights. The façade windows flanking the entrance are similar, with paired, single-light sash over wood panels. Three corresponding bays on the rear elevation contain twelve-light wood sash windows.

Local fieldstone was used in the foundation, steps, terraces, and the chimney. Wide stone steps lead from the sidewalk to the central entrance and to the side wing. The terrace in front of the clubhouse is bordered by a solid stone balustrade, except for the porch bays, which feature balustrades composed of log rails and diagonal balusters. An attached shed-roof screened porch is located on the east elevation and constructed of concrete block. The side porch opens into the kitchen.

The front entrance doors open into the great room on the interior. A fieldstone fireplace on the east wall dominates the great room, which displays exposed log walls and concrete chinking, hardwood floor, and solid wood interior doors. The exposed roof structure consists of log trusses, log purlins, and tongue-and-groove roof sheathing. The fireplace has a tapering chimney stack, single stone lintel over the fireplace opening, and a stone mantel shelf. Single-leaf doors on the east wall of the great room open to the ladies' locker room at the front of the building and the kitchen at the rear. A single-leaf door on the west wall

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accesses the men's locker room. Double-leaf doors on the west wall open onto the terrace. The locker rooms have been substantially updated, but they do retain some original built-in elements, including cabinets and benches. Both locker rooms also have outside doors located under the corresponding porch bays.

A major clubhouse rehabilitation effort in 1958 included the screened porch addition and modifications to the kitchen and the men's and ladies' locker rooms. Linoleum floors, sheetrock walls, and new plumbing were installed in all three areas. A heating and cooling system was installed under the floor, and the original wood shake roof was replaced with asphalt shingles.

**2. Pro Shop and Storage Building, 1935, ca. 1940, 1958, 1972      Contributing building**

The pro shop and storage building is a one-story side-gable frame structure standing immediately west of the clubhouse. Between the clubhouse and pro shop and storage building is an open walkway. Originally built as a single-room structure in 1935, the pro shop and storage building has been enlarged over the years, and the whole building is covered with board-and-batten siding. A stone terrace continues from the clubhouse and extends across the front of the pro shop and storage building, with a ramp rising to the west and a wooden deck. The deck balustrade is composed of wood railings and diagonal balusters.

The original pro shop was a rectangular, single-room structure constructed of saddle-notched round logs. A single-leaf wood door reached from two wood steps accesses the original section of the building. A triple set of one-over-one wood sash windows face south next to the door. In the early 1940s, the pro shop was expanded with a one-room addition to the west for a snack bar. The west wall of the pro shop was removed and an interior wall was built between the two sections. A second exterior door was added with a ramp for access. Two one-over-one wood sash windows were placed on the south wall.

In 1958, a room was added to the west end of the pro shop for storing walking carts. Again, exterior double-leaf wood doors were added on the south elevation. A door on the north elevation accessed the basketball court, caddie's area, and a small lean-to structure set up for equipment storage at the rear of the building. The addition was covered with board-and-batten siding, and club records show that in 1958, the other exterior walls of the building were clad with board-and-batten.

In 1972, the front-gable wing at the west end of the building was added for storage, and double-leaf wood doors provided access from the front deck. That same year, the lean-to roof over the basketball court and caddie's area was extended to enclose an area for electric golf cart storage. Exterior doors on the east wall of the cart barn, as it was called, connected the roadway behind the two buildings with the east parking lot and the golf course. The exterior walls on the north, east, and west sides were covered with vertical boards to match the rest of the building. Windows throughout the building are typically six-over-six double-hung sash.

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**3. Golf Professional's House, 1958**

**Contributing building**

This one-story, side-gable frame residence is covered with synthetic siding and rests on a full basement with a concrete block foundation. Facing north onto Country Club Road near the entrance to the club's east parking lot, the front entrance of the house is on the north side, centered on the façade. A second entrance is located on the west elevation adjacent to a one-story setback side wing. The building has south-facing gables at the ends of the rear elevation. The majority of windows are paired one-over-one sash. Adjacent to the front door on the west side is an outside storage area that is bordered by a six-foot-tall wooden slatted fence.

**4. Summer House, 1958**

**Contributing building**

In 1958, a bathroom was constructed on the course for the use of the golfers. The site chosen was the farthest from the clubhouse. Located between the fourth green and the fifth tee box at the western end of the golf course, the Summer House is located on the east side of the cart path. The one-story frame building is covered with wood paneling and is capped by a metal-clad shed roof. Casement windows are centered on the north and south walls of the building, and a two-over-two wood sash window is located in the southeast corner. The building is well hidden from view by surrounding vegetation. A stone walkway leads from the cart path to the building, which is entered through a wood door on the west elevation.

**5. Swimming Pool, 1968**

**Non-contributing structure**

A concrete, rectangular swimming pool located between the seventh tee and ninth fairway is shaded by large evergreens and enclosed within a chain link fence. The pool was constructed in 1968 on the site of the original spring-fed swimming area.

The original swimming area was first constructed in 1924 and remained in use until it was replaced by a concrete structure in 1946. Originally a manual pump was used to fill the pool with water from Little Creek. The current pump equipment was installed in 1958.

**6. Maintenance Building, 1973**

**Non-contributing building**

The maintenance building is a large, one-story, gable-roof structure of corrugated metal. The windowless building is accessed through single-leaf entry doors on the long elevations. Two garage bays are entered through overhead doors on the east elevation. Vegetation screens the building from Horseshoe Curve Road to the south, as well as the practice range to the east and the third fairway to the north.

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**7. Golf Cart Shelter, ca. 1972**

**Non-contributing buildings (3)**

Three one-story, open-sided wooden buildings with metal shed roofs are located adjacent to the number two tee box, number three tee box, and number four fairway.

**8. Pump Houses, 1972**

**Non-contributing buildings (2)**

The irrigation pumps were originally housed in makeshift structures that were replaced in 1972 with square, wooden, one-story buildings with flat metal roofs. There are two pump houses: one hidden adjacent to the fourth fairway on the south side and one located between the third and eighth fairways, just north of the pond.

**9. Equipment Shelters, ca. 1995**

**Non-contributing structures (2)**

Two one-story equipment shelters on the course are both open-sided metal structures with flat metal roofs. One of the shelters is located at the west end of the practice range, just east of the maintenance shed. The other shelter is located near the eighth tee.

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Tryon Country Club, Polk County, NC

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### Statement of Significance

#### *Summary*

Tryon Country Club, located just northwest of Tryon, North Carolina, is locally significant as a country club designed to suit the leisure and recreational needs of the local population. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, Tryon evolved as a popular seasonal resort community with a temperate climate and extensive equestrian activities and events. Tryon resident Emma Payne Erskine, a Wisconsin transplant, originally conceived of a nine-hole golf course and a residential community that eventually became the Tryon Country Club. A private club, Tryon Country Club offered members a social gathering place, as well as facilities for swimming, golf, tennis, and other leisure pursuits. The Rustic Revival-style clubhouse, completed in 1922, provided a suitable venue for the club's recreational activities with its log construction, natural materials, and integration with the surroundings. The Rustic Revival style of the building conveyed the relaxed, comfortable atmosphere appropriate for the members' social gatherings and recreation in the mountain resort town. The Tryon Country Club meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of entertainment and recreation and Criterion C for its Rustic Revival-style clubhouse. The period of significance for the Tryon Country Club begins in 1917, with the opening of the nine-hole golf course, and ends in 1962. The Tryon Country Club remains in operation, but the years after 1962 are not of exceptional significance and do not meet Criteria Consideration G for properties less than fifty years of age.

#### *Historical Background and Tryon Recreational History*

The small mountain town of Tryon, North Carolina, lies in the far southern section of Polk County, just north of the North Carolina/South Carolina state line. Polk County is relatively small in area, covering only 237 square miles, and ranges in elevation from 750 feet above sea level in the south to 3,238 feet above sea level at its highest point in the northwest. The crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains forms the northern boundary of the county, which is drained by the Pacolet and Green rivers. Lying on the southern slopes of the Blue Ridge, Polk County enjoys characteristics of both the mountain and piedmont regions. Thermal belts occurring in the county provide frost-free areas that allow farmers to grow a wide range of crops. The natural and geographic conditions strongly influenced agriculture and tourism as important components of the county's economy. Polk County is a predominantly rural county, but the variety and influence of its geography is manifested in the two towns of Tryon, a popular winter resort, and Saluda, a summer resort only eight miles to the north.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> D. William Bennett, ed., *Polk County, North Carolina, History* (Tryon, NC: Polk County Historical Association, Inc., 1983), 5. Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, Volume III (Raleigh, NC: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1961), 1536-1538.

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Located approximately three miles southwest of Columbus, the county seat, which was formed in 1855, the town of Tryon remained a modest settlement through much of the nineteenth century. The community began to take shape following the arrival of the Asheville-Spartanburg Railroad, which reached Tryon in 1877. Built with the intention of connecting South Carolina ports and markets with people and resources in North Carolina, Tennessee, and the Ohio Valley, the railroad had a dramatic impact on the economic and social development of Tryon in the late nineteenth century as the trains between South Carolina and Asheville began to expose a wide range of visitors to the community. Located at the base of the Saluda Grade, the steepest mainline railroad grade in the country, Tryon became a regular stopping place as northbound trains prepared for the grueling climb and southbound trains cooled their wheel bearings and brakes. As a result of the frequent stopovers, a hotel was erected and boarding houses were opened to accommodate the accidental tourists. Tryon's reputation as a pleasant resort quickly spread.<sup>3</sup>

Following its incorporation in 1885, Tryon was laid out in a circle around the railroad depot, with the railroad tracks running parallel to Trade Street through downtown. Trade Street, the town's original commercial street, was the location of T. T. Ballenger's dry good store and his blacksmith shop. Ballenger, who was one of the town's most prominent citizens and its first mayor, built Oak Hall (originally known as the Tryon City Hotel) with John Garrison in 1882. Oak Hall stood in downtown Tryon until its demolition in 1979. Early visitors to Tryon were also served by the McAboy House, an inn located north of town near the community of Lynn. Dr. L. R. McAboy, a Presbyterian minister from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, purchased the Dr. Columbus Mills House in the 1870s, added a third story, and converted it into an inn that became popular among visitors from the North, especially those seeking relief from respiratory ailments. David Stearns later purchased the McAboy House, which he extensively remodeled, modernized, and renamed Mimosa Inn. Stearns added an elevator to the old structure, along with running water, steam heat, gaslights, and a casino at the rear. The Mimosa Inn burned in 1916, but a new building, which continues to operate today, was erected on the same site and incorporated surviving portions of the casino structure. Stearns, along with partner Aaron French, also operated the Skyuka Hotel, a popular lodge built near Tryon on White Oak Mountain in the 1890s (no longer standing).<sup>4</sup>

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Elizabeth Doubleday Frost, *Tryon Memories* (Tryon, NC: Polk County Historical Association and Tryon Publishing Company, Inc., 1995), 7-10, 27-28.

<sup>3</sup> Diane E. Lea and Claudia Roberts, *An Architectural and Historical Survey of Tryon, North Carolina* (Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1979), 1-3. Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 186-188.

<sup>4</sup> Lea and Roberts, 2, 4-5 and 9. Frost, 20-21.

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Whether visitors to Tryon arrived by accident or came specifically for the salubrious climate, a substantial number became enchanted with the community and decided to buy property for seasonal or year-round use. Many of these new residents, including artists, writers, and industrialists, came from the North or upper Midwest regions of the country and helped to promote Tryon's reputation as a first class resort town in the early twentieth century. In addition to traditional agriculture, Polk County became a popular grape-growing area, encouraged by new residents such as George Edward Morton and General Ulysses Doubleday, who established productive vineyards and orchards in and around Tryon. In the early twentieth century, the town evolved into a renowned equestrian center largely due to the efforts of Carter Brown, a Michigan transplant who ran the Pine Crest Inn (NR, 1980) and organized the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club, the Block House Steeplechase, and Tryon's annual horse show.<sup>5</sup>

Charles and Emma Payne Erskine of Racine, Wisconsin, first came to Tryon around 1890, after deciding Asheville was overcrowded with consumptives and other health-seekers. Emma Payne Erskine was the daughter of Alfred Payne, a founder of the Chicago Art Institute, and was herself a painter, writer, and mother of six children. Charles Erskine was secretary for the Case Machinery Company, manufacturers of farm and construction equipment. While staying at the McAboy Inn in the spring of 1892, the Erskines explored a large section of western North Carolina for a place to build a winter home before deciding on a hilltop site just north of Tryon. In 1897, the family spent their first winter in the picturesque house known as Lynncote (NR, 2010), which remained a seasonal residence for a number of years. During this time, Charles Erskine grew enamored of the area and began to invest heavily in land all around the town, becoming a substantial landowner in Polk County with Lynncote as the focal point.<sup>6</sup>

At Mr. Erskine's death in 1908, his cash assets were divided equally among his heirs, including his wife and six children. Emma Erskine also received title to all of his land. The family's Racine house was sold and Lynncote became their primary residence. Mrs. Erskine capitalized on growing interest in Tryon land as a means of augmenting her income. She built houses on her land and offered them for sale. She bought more land and decided to convert an old dairy farm into a golf course and to sell the surrounding property as building lots, creating the first golf course community in Tryon.<sup>7</sup>

Around the turn of the twentieth century, golf was becoming an increasingly popular leisure activity, particularly in the warm-weather southern states. Oak Hall built a "Tom Thumb" course, a diminutive layout composed of short par-three holes, for the use of their guests. The hotel also offered tennis courts, croquet, shuffleboard, and billiards. In 1902, the McAboy House provided a casino, bowling alley, and a nine-hole

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<sup>5</sup> Lea and Roberts, 3-7. Claudia P. Roberts, "Pine Crest Inn" National Register of Historic Places Nomination (1980).

<sup>6</sup> Clay Griffith, "Lynncote" National Register of Historic Places Nomination (2010).

<sup>7</sup> Susan Rogers, *My Family Remembered* (Tryon, NC: published by author, 1976), 27.

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golf course for guests. The hotels billed themselves as resorts and appealed to visitors through the amenities and entertainment they offered.<sup>8</sup>

The organizational framework for country clubs, as they spread throughout the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, originated with the gentlemen's city clubs of New England, New York, and Philadelphia. The movement towards suburban clubs, or "a club in the country," started with the Myopia Club, organized in 1879 outside of Boston. Golf was not the original impetus for the formation of the first country clubs, but more than any other sport, golf encouraged the spread of country clubs across the nation. By 1900, a wealthy golfer from New England could follow the seasons traveling to winter resorts in Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina.<sup>9</sup>

Golf resorts in the South sprang up to accommodate the winter residents. The Tufts family of Massachusetts began developing a resort in Pinehurst, North Carolina in the 1890s. Scottish-born Donald Ross came to Pinehurst in 1900 and served as head of the resort's golfing operations until his death in 1948. At Pinehurst he presided over a small empire of fine courses, including the renowned Pinehurst No. 2, and developed a prolific career designing more than 400 golf courses in his lifetime, which included some of the nation's most highly regarded layouts. In 1913, the Asheville Country Club retained Ross to redesign all eighteen holes of its golf course (present-day Grove Park Inn & Resort Golf Course). Ross designed three other courses in Asheville including the Biltmore Forest Country Club, Buncombe County Municipal Golf Course (NR, 2008), and an eighteen-hole course at Beaver Lake, which became part of the Asheville Country Club in 1931.

The Tryon Country Club appears in a later-compiled list of Ross-designed courses at the end of *Golf Has Never Failed Me*, which was published posthumously in 1996.<sup>10</sup> However, no primary documentation has been located to definitively confirm Ross as the designer. Tufts Archives at Pinehurst, which has an extensive collection of Donald Ross documentation, has been contacted, and it does not have any primary

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<sup>8</sup> Jeffrey A. Byrd, ed., *A Sense of Heritage: A Pictorial Historic of the Thermal Belt Area* (Tryon, NC: Tryon Chamber of Commerce, 1991), 19. "Mimosa Inn's Golden Years Reviewed at PCHA Meeting," *Tryon Daily Bulletin* (October 14, 2009).

<sup>9</sup> James M. Mayo, *The American Country Club: Its Origins and Development* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1998), 63. Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 97-99. Richard S. Tufts, *The Scottish Invasion* (Pinehurst, NC: Pinehurst Publishers, 1962), 39. "Golfers Going South," *New York Times* (December 13, 1908).

<sup>10</sup> Davyd Foard Hood and Laura A. W. Phillips, "Pinehurst Historic District" National Historic Landmark nomination, 1995. Survey and Planning Branch, Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC. *One Hundred Years: The History of the Country Club of Asheville, Inc.* (Asheville, NC: The Country Club of Asheville, Inc., 1994), 15-17. Donald Ross, *Golf Has Never Failed Me: The Lost Commentaries of Legendary Golf Course Architect Donald J. Ross* (Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 1996), 241.



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materials regarding Ross as designer of the Tryon Country Club. Therefore, this nomination attributes the course design to Donald Ross.

The Lanier Society in Tryon held regular meetings for citizens to discuss cultural and recreational plans and offerings for the town. Emma Payne Erskine brought her idea for a country club to the Society, and in May, 1915, the *Polk County News* reported that the newly formed Tryon Country Club gathered stock pledges of \$1,700 from local residents and visitors. Subsequently, Eugene Brownlee, Broadus L. Ballenger, Richard Kirchner, George H. Holmes, Francis P. Bacon and E. E. Misseldine came together as the original incorporators of the Tryon Country Club, formalizing the incorporation on April 28, 1916. Richard Kirchner served as president and F. P. Bacon served as secretary of the new club. Emma Payne Erskine Corwin (she had remarried) also served on the board and, as her pledge, deeded fifty-four acres to the Tryon Country Club.<sup>11</sup>

In 1902, Scottish immigrant Robert A. (Burt) Leonard came to Tryon by way of Utica, New York, to build a golf course for the Mimosa Inn, formerly the McAboy House. In 1916, fire destroyed the Mimosa Inn and Leonard accepted the job of building the Tryon Country Club course and serving as its first golf professional. He was given a house for his personal use, which was located on the south side of Horseshoe Curve Road near the original entrance to the golf course. Construction of the golf course was expedited by men and heavy equipment on loan from the town of Tryon. The nine-hole course opened for business in 1917.<sup>12</sup>

### *The Country Club Years 1917-1962*

The Tryon Country Club was an immediate success.<sup>13</sup> Membership was drawn from full-time, as well as part-time, residents; local hotel guests were also welcomed. By 1922, a spring-fed swimming area was constructed in the middle of the course, and a clubhouse and tennis courts were added. With the opening of the clubhouse, the entrance to the property was moved from Horseshoe Curve Road to Country Club Road, and the holes on the golf course were renumbered so that players would begin and end at the clubhouse.

Golf matches were played weekly. Four Ball matches, where teams of two persons match their best score versus another team, were diligently reported in the local newspapers.<sup>14</sup> The matches drew competition

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<sup>11</sup> "Penny Column," *Polk County News* (May 12, 1915). The Southern Railway brochure *Autumn and Winter in the Land of the Sky* (1915) noted that the golf course was under construction. Polk County Register of Deeds 35/5 (May 8, 1916).

<sup>12</sup> Fred Edwards Jr., interviews with Fred Edwards III and Jane Templeton, May 2009-October 2011. Fred Edwards Jr. was a former caddy at Tryon Country Club and a PGA professional golfer.

<sup>13</sup> "Tryon Country Club Begins Campaign," *Polk County News* (February 7, 1919).

<sup>14</sup> "Penny Column," *Polk County News* (February 15, 1923).

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from the surrounding areas, and country club teams formed. The *Polk County News* reported that “the reputation for a splendid golf course of the Tryon Club has spread over a large part of the country.” H. A. Wilkie of the club’s membership committee is quoted as saying “...(there is) great value to any community of a good golf course. This is especially true of Tryon, for here gather people from every part of the United States for rest and recreation’.”<sup>15</sup>

Burt Leonard left the Tryon Country Club in 1923 to build a golf course in Rutherfordton. He kept his home in Tryon, where he built a par-three course on his property in 1931. The remains of this layout, which he operated for about ten years as Leonard’s Lucky Links, are still visible on land north of the Tryon Country Club on the east side of US 176. With Leonard’s departure, the first of the Burns family members served as course superintendent. Eight family members succeeded each other as superintendent, continuing until 2005.

Royal Remick purchased land on Hogback Mountain in South Carolina to the southwest of Tryon in order to build a residential and golf resort. To spur land sales, he built a nine-hole golf course, swimming pool, two-story clubhouse and eighteen cabins on the mountain top in 1925, and began to promote the development. Some building lots were sold and the golf course was open for three years, but the economic failures of 1929 bankrupted the resort.<sup>16</sup> In 1929, a new resort at Lynn was announced, with a 300-bed hotel and a nine-hole golf course projected for the development. But, before construction could even begin, the Depression hit.<sup>17</sup> At the Tryon Country Club, the building lots that Emma Erskine Corwin platted around the country club went unsold.

The Depression meant that maintenance on the course was a challenge. Sheep were used to eat the grass, but cows damaged the sand greens with their hooves.<sup>18</sup> During the 1930s Donald Ross converted the sand greens at Pinehurst No. 2 to grass, and the membership at Tryon Country Club was ready to follow suit. Grass was easier to maintain than sand greens, which required watering and oiling the surface to keep down the dust.<sup>19</sup> With the introduction of grass greens in the 1940s, the membership decided to reposition or elongate five tee boxes to accommodate stronger golfers.

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<sup>15</sup> “Tryon Country Club Begins Campaign,” *Polk County News* (February 7, 1919).

<sup>16</sup> James Stehlik, *Distilling the Mysteries of Hogback Mountain* (Landrum, SC: published by author, 2011), 60-79.

<sup>17</sup> Anna Pack Conner and Ronnie Mosseller, *Tryon: An Artist’s & Writers Sketchbook* (Chapel Hill, NC: The Tryon Publishing Company, Inc., 2001), 17.

<sup>18</sup> Artie Hamilton, born in 1930, lived on Country Club Road. Interview with Mike McCue, March 27, 2003.

<sup>19</sup> Don Burns, interview with Fred Edwards Jr., October 12, 2010.

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The clubhouse remained in its original form until 1935, when a new building was erected for the pro shop. The swimming pool was rebuilt in 1942, and as a result of the numerous improvement projects, the club declared bankruptcy. In November, 1942, the officers of the Tryon Country Club held a special meeting to reorganize the club, and by April of the following year, the membership formed the Tryon Golf and Tennis Club, which subsequently purchased the assets of the bankrupt Tryon Country Club. The incorporators of the new club were John R. Trowbridge, Francis P. Bacon, K. A. Bowen, J. B. Hester Jr., B. L. Ballenger, George D. Wick, Jr., W. M. Howell, and Montgomery Whaling, all Tryon businessmen.<sup>20</sup>

The clubhouse was the focal point for social events, including weddings, card parties, dances, and private gatherings. The *Tryon Daily Bulletin* dutifully reported the club's events, both golf tournaments and social occasions. David Niven, the screen actor, was a frequent visitor to Oak Hall and enjoyed the social life at the Tryon Country Club. F. Scott Fitzgerald and his friend, Ernest Hemingway, both came to Tryon in the 1930s. Hemingway kept a low profile, but Fitzgerald enjoyed the golf links when he was not busy writing at his desk at Oak Hall. A search of newspaper archives from Hartford, Connecticut, to Chicago, Illinois, reveals a large number of social notices regarding visitors who came to Tryon and enjoyed the social life of the Tryon Country Club.

Interest in golf remained high in Tryon throughout the 1940s and 1950s. Newspapers ran advertisements for Tryon as far away as Sarasota, Florida.<sup>21</sup> Mrs. Calvin Coolidge (Grace) and Mrs. George C. Marshall (Elizabeth) stayed at Oak Hall for long periods of time and often played golf at Tryon Country Club. The club members engaged in golf tournaments at other clubs and, in turn, hosted other clubs at Tryon. The high school golf team practiced daily at Tryon Country Club, hosted competitions at the club, and went on to win many state events.<sup>22</sup> Demand for the use of the club facilities justified the expansion of the pro shop in 1945 with the addition of a snack bar.

Maurice "Lefty" Flynn, husband of Nora Langhorne (sister of Lady Astor), was a Tryon Country Club member and unabashed promoter of all things Tryon. Lady Astor visited her sister in Tryon in 1946 and played a round of golf at the Tryon Country Club.<sup>23</sup> Margaret Culkin Banning, author of several novels set in Tryon, was a Tryon Country Club golfer and lived in the house at the east end of the course from 1950 until her death in 1982. Zach Randolph (the cowboy movie star), Randolph Scott, and Ken Lackey (one of the original Three Stooges) played golf at Tryon Country Club. In 1951, Ted Fox, the golf professional at Tryon

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<sup>20</sup> Copy of the documents attesting to the reorganization and the call to membership is in the working file. The deeds are registered in the Polk County Deed book 79, page 170 (March 30, 1943).

<sup>21</sup> "Oak Hall Hotel, House of Friendship, Tryon, NC" *Sarasota Herald Tribune* (June 6, 1954), 16.

<sup>22</sup> Geoffrey Tennant, retired golf coach at Tryon High School, interview with Marc Brady, October 2010.

<sup>23</sup> "Penny Column," *Tryon Daily Bulletin* (March 30, 1946).

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Country Club invited his friend Sam Snead, the reigning Masters Champion, to give a clinic and play a round of golf at the club.<sup>24</sup>

By 1958 it was time to make some changes. The clubhouse had heating and air conditioning installed, along with a new asphalt-shingle roof and bathroom updates. The pro shop received an addition for storage and a rear lean-to for new motorized golf carts. The motorized golf carts required the membership to build cart paths around the tees and greens to protect them from the weight of the carts. A bathroom was built on the course for players use, and the club erected a residence for its head professional.

Until the 1960s, caddies were part of every golfing event. Members' children, as well as local boys and girls, earned money carrying the bags of the golfers. In turn, caddies learned about playing golf. Special tournaments were held for the caddies, and members encouraged their interest in the game. Tryon Country Club boasts of over twenty professional golfers and ten professional golf course superintendants who got their start at the club. Local high school golf teams, both boys and girls, played at the club and several teams won state championships. Two local high school golfers, Lloyd McKaig and Fred Edwards Jr., both won state recognition for their abilities.

### *History since 1962*

The Tryon Country Club current tax parcel is 126.27 acres, and the area outside of the nominated area, approximately thirty-six acres on the southwestern boundary, was purchased in 1965. There was talk of adding another nine holes on this property, but it never came to fruition. Instead some members left to build Red Fox Country Club, an eighteen-hole course located fourteen miles southeast of Tryon Country Club. With the construction of Red Fox and its surrounding residential development, Susan Rogers remarked that Emma Payne Erskine was "just ahead of her time."<sup>25</sup>

The period from the 1960s to the 1980s was an active one for young golfers at Tryon Country Club. Tryon High School was among the first in the state to field a golf team, and for thirteen years the high school golfers all went on to play college golf either as walk-ons or recruits. Margaret Hannon, sister of the golf pro, was the Ladies State Champion in 1964. She started the Blue Ridge Ladies Golf Association, which continues to host tournaments among member country clubs. Margaret Hannon continued to dominate ladies golf at the state level throughout the 1970s and into the 1990s. She was challenged by another Tryon Country Club member, Isabel "Inky" Cloud, in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Tryon Country Club continues to remain a vital recreation and social club with 280 current members. The Polk County High School golf team practices on the course and hosts tournaments with the

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<sup>24</sup> "Sam Snead Plays Round at Tryon", *Hendersonville Times-News* (September 1951).

<sup>25</sup> Rogers, 27.

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other area schools at Tryon County Club. The clubhouse is regularly used for ladies card games, private parties, and social events. The open design of the great room is a major draw for special events.

### *Architecture Context*

The Tryon Country Club clubhouse is one of a small group of Rustic Revival style commercial buildings in the Tryon area and one of the most intact remaining examples of the style. The other prominent local examples of Rustic Revival-style commercial buildings include the Tea House at Lake Lanier, Sunnydale (NR, 2011), and the Blue Ridge Development Company office (now known as the Rock House Art Gallery). Sunnydale and the Tea House are situated approximately one mile from each other on the south side of Tryon, with the Tea House located just across the state line in Landrum, South Carolina.

The use of the Rustic Revival style was not uncommon for private houses, especially seasonal residences that would allow the owners a sense of escape to the mountains without completely forgoing modern conveniences. Despite the rustic appearances, comfort and luxury typically prevailed over the vague notion of "roughing it." The style appeared less frequently on commercial buildings unless the business specifically drew upon mountain culture as part of its function or marketing image—themed motor hotels and restaurants being common examples. While architectural trends reflected nationally popular styles and influences, specific conditions such as the availability of building materials and skilled craftsmen also dictated a number of regional distinctions. In particular, the wealthy visitors who were largely responsible for the area's growing tourist economy fashioned much of the new architecture with romantic notions about mountain lifestyles. Architects and skilled craftsmen, who were often brought in to work on various projects, coexisted with local builders and craftspeople and together introduced rustic interpretations of architectural styles that were suited to the mountain landscape and climate.

The Rustic Revival style in North Carolina owes a debt to the natural and rustic style of construction and engineering work developed from the National Park Service's design standards for national parks, which emphasized a close harmony of built structures and the natural environment. The style was manifest in low, horizontal buildings constructed using native stone or rock, massive logs, and heavy timbers. Developed in the early twentieth century and instituted as policy in the 1920s, the Park Service's rustic architecture was heavily promoted through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The CCC, a federal relief program, worked extensively in western North Carolina constructing buildings, structures, trails, and roads in the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The forested and mountainous region and tourist-driven economies of small towns along the Blue Ridge found widespread

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acceptance of the Rustic Revival style, which combined traditional building methods and natural materials with modern functionality.<sup>26</sup>

Sunnydale, which is located at 310 South Trade Street, is the best surviving example of a Rustic Revival-style commercial building in Tryon and retains a high degree of integrity. It is a one-story, side-gable building constructed of saddle-notched logs with setback side wings, exposed interior roof structure, stone chimneys, and attached front and side porches. Erected around 1930 as a restaurant and entertainment venue, Sunnydale elegantly combined past building traditions, local materials, and modern functionality. The comparable Lake Lanier Tea House, as noted previously, stands across the state line at 351 East Lakeshore Drive in Landrum, South Carolina. Designed by Tryon architect J. Foster Searles in 1925, the Lake Lanier Tea House is a one-story, side-gable log building with two side wings that angle forward to take advantage of views across the lake to the west. The façade of the building has been altered with modern replacement windows and doors to fully capture the lake views. The two buildings share several features, including their saddle-notched log construction, stone foundations and chimneys, and setback side wings, suggesting that Searles may have also designed Sunnydale. Searles gained recognition for his English- and Tudor-influenced picturesque dwellings in Tryon, often in association with the Tryon Toy Makers and Wood Carvers, a handcraft organization formed in 1916. Both the Tea House and Sunnydale are considerably different in style and level of detail than Searles' residential work, but their function as seasonal entertainment facilities certainly contributed to the architectural character of the two buildings.<sup>27</sup>

Built around 1926, the Blue Ridge Development Company office at 107 Pacolet Street in downtown Tryon has been altered and enlarged over the years. The building is a one-and-a-half-story, Rustic Revival-style stone building with an attached porch of log timbers. The company promoted a resort development on Hogback Mountain, but closed soon after the stock market crash of 1929. The building was used as the Mountain Industries Gift Shop before artist Josephine Sibley Couper purchased it for a home and studio. She divided the building into two apartments, installed false ceilings, and added a wing with two kitchens in the 1940s. In the early 2000s, the building was renovated for use as a single-family residence.

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<sup>26</sup> William C. Tweed, et al, *Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* (National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977).

<sup>27</sup> Clay Griffith, "Sunnydale" National Register Nomination (2011). Lea and Roberts, 13, 19, and 30.

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The clubhouse of the Tryon Country Club, built in 1922 on the north side of the property, is a one-story Rustic Revival-style log structure set against a hillside and offering panoramic views of the golf course. The building features a saddle-notched log exterior, twin front-gable porch bays supported on log posts, stone terrace across the front of the building, and four-light wood-frame casement windows. The gable ends are covered with flitch-edge wavy siding. The interior of the building is organized around an open central open dominated by a stone fireplace and chimney. The rustic character continues on the interior with exposed log walls, wood floors, and exposed log roof trusses. Locker rooms extend from either side of the main room, and a kitchen is located at the northeast corner of the building. Renovations to the clubhouse in the 1950s updated the locker rooms and kitchen facilities, but the building retains its overall historic character and predominant Rustic Revival features. The clubhouse provided a suitable venue for members to pursue their various recreational and leisure activities including golf, tennis, swimming, card games, social gatherings, and receptions. Its architectural expression combines traditional building methods and natural materials to provide a modern and functional facility for the relaxed and comfortable pursuit of leisure activities.

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### **Geographical Data**

UTMs: Continued

	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
5.	<b>385140</b>	<b>3897780</b>

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property for the Tryon Country Club contains the portion of Polk County tax parcel P36-90 historically associated with the club. The property boundary is described in Polk County Deed Book 136, page 132, but excludes a thirty-six-acre section to the southwest that was acquired by the club in 1965. The boundary is delineated on the accompanying survey map "Tryon Country Club, Tryon Twp., Polk Co., No. Car." prepared by Butler Associates and dated July 12, 2005, and copied at a one inch equals 375 foot scale.

### **Boundary Justification**

The approximately ninety acres included in the nominated property contain the full extent of the acreage historically associated with the club.

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Photograph Index

Tryon Country Club Photographs

The following information applies to all of the photographs, except where noted

Name of Property: Tryon Country Club  
393 Country Club Road  
Tryon  
Polk County  
North Carolina

Photographer: Clay Griffith  
Date of Photos: May 2012  
Location of Division of Archives and History  
Digital Master 176 Riceville Road  
Asheville, North Carolina 28805

1. Clubhouse and Pro Shop, looking north from ninth fairway
2. Clubhouse, façade, view to north
3. Clubhouse, oblique front view to northeast
4. Clubhouse – interior, great room, view to southeast
5. Clubhouse – interior, fireplace, view to northeast
6. Pro Shop and Storage Building, oblique front view to northwest
7. Sixth hole, view to west from the green
8. Second hole, view to southwest from tee
9. Putting green, view to southeast
10. Swimming pool, view to south