

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Watauga
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Cragg House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: On U.S. 221, 0.7 mi. ^{north} south of Watauga-Caldwell line			
CITY OR TOWN: Blowing Rock vicinity		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Tenth The Hon. James Broyhill	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Watauga	CODE: 189

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 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) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Lula Gragg Newton			STATE: North Carolina
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1			
CITY OR TOWN: Blowing Rock	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Watauga

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Watauga County Courthouse			STATE: North Carolina
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Boone	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Watauga

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cragg House stands on the lip of a high mountain ridge with its back to the north wind. The lush green area, once remote, is now only a short drive from nearby resort areas. The house follows a saddle bag plan of construction and features a central stone chimney and half-dovetail corner timbering. Constructed of wide planks, the one-story house is said to have had no windows when first built. Doors facing each other on either side of the chimney gave the only access to either of the first floor rooms. (This entrance area has since been enclosed and is now a closet.) The east side of the main facade now contains a central door flanked by windows. The west side of the main facade now has a door near the chimney and a window which roughly divides the wall into halves. All of the main facade openings are protected by a shed porch (a later addition) which is supported by eight unfinished poles and extends the length of the house. The west end of the first floor wall contains one central window and the east end remains unaltered. Each of the gable ends are covered by lapped siding and contains a window. To the rear of the west section is a two-room later addition which gives the house an "L" shaped plan. The addition has covered two doors and one window in the original exterior rear wall. The area to the rear of the chimney between the two sections was enclosed at an early date for storage and is now a bath. The rear wall of the east portion contains two rather evenly spaced windows.

The interior horizontal sheathing, which is used throughout the house, is said to have been added later as well as the second (attic) floor. The east room, first floor, has been partitioned to make one large room heated by the large stone fireplace and two small unheated rooms of equal size at the extreme east end. A narrow stair, consisting of two short runs, is located in the northwest corner of the large room. The west room is partitioned into a large and small room. The small one occupies the westernmost third of this portion and contains an enclosed stair. The first-floor large room contains a crude mantel with pilasters and a multi-plane support for the board shelf. The rear storage area is entered from this room as well as the rear addition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the remote mountains of western North Carolina exists a fine example of exacting craftsmanship by a pioneer family who worked primarily with the materials at hand. The Gragg House is illustrated in Johnston and Waterman's Early Architecture of North Carolina as the finest example of North Carolina's most sophisticated type of log construction "in which all four surfaces were so carefully hewn that the effect was of a sawn plank."

Thomas T. Waterman provides a detailed analysis of the construction which gives the Gragg House its chief significance:

The joints in hewn-log construction were so tight and the contact of the surfaces so exact that caulking was often unnecessary. Through the years the centers of the buildings where the doors and window openings were cut have sagged, so that the surfaces of the timbers have drawn apart, and the joints have opened. In this building the great width of the members is particularly striking. The planks are so thin as to suggest that in this particular example they were sawn. The corners give the effect of being halved, as in some cases they were, but on close examination it can be seen that they are dovetailed, the splays being very slight. The dovetailed joint was used on the finest log buildings, and provided a permanently tight corner.

Family tradition holds that the first pen of the Gragg House was built by Burton Gragg and his son Finley about the middle of the nineteenth century. Due to loss of records, this date cannot be confirmed; however, the property can be traced in the late nineteenth century to Leonard Gragg, son of Finley. Leonard's daughter, Lula Gragg Newton, currently owns the remarkably preserved house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.
 Watauga County Records, Watauga County Courthouse, Boone, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Watauga County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Frances B. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		36 0 07. 00 "	81 0 40. 39 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 17 September 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 17 September 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

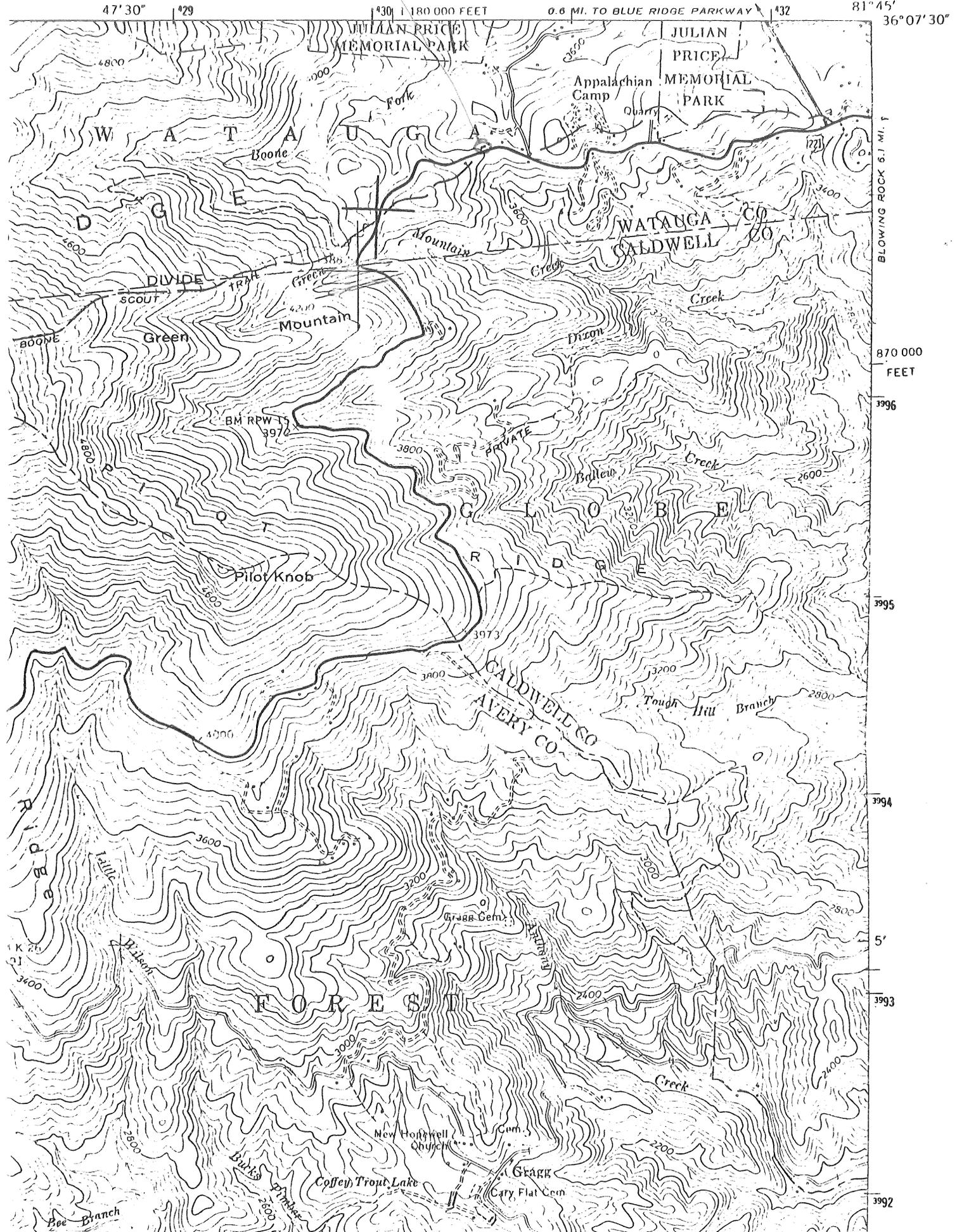
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 215-SE

4656 II NW
(BOONE 221-NW)

Probably
here



BLOWING ROCK 6.1 MI. E

870 000
FEET

3996

3995

3994

5'

3993

3992

