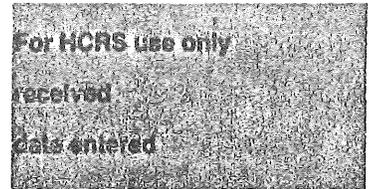


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Green Park Inn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number US 321 ___ not for publication

city, town Blowing Rock ___ vicinity of congressional district Tenth

state North Carolina code 037 county Watauga and Caldwell code 189 & 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Ben E. Douglas, Jr.

street & number Green Park Inn, Box 7

city, town Blowing Rock ___ vicinity of state North Carolina 28605

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Watauga County Courthouse/Caldwell County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Boone, North Carolina/Lenoir, North Carolina state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1882 on the eastern continental divide, the Green Park Inn is one of the North Carolina's most elegant resort hotels. The inn occupies the mountain gap through which the Lenoir Highway (US 321) crosses the Blue Ridge. It is sited close to US 321 (about forty feet away), with its main axis running parallel to the road, its principal elevation facing southwest. A forested hillside rises just behind the inn; the Blowing Rock Golf Course slopes away along the highway to the north. With its imposing three-story mass stretched alongside the roadway for over 300 feet, the structure announces in landmark terms one's arrival at the resort community of Blowing Rock.

Architecturally the Green Park Inn displays a sympathetic blend of original Queen Anne resort styling with twentieth-century Colonial-Revival-inspired expansions and remodelings. Major alterations were made in the 1920s and 1970s, and minor changes in the late 1950s.

The original structure consisted of a three-and-one-half story main block aligned north-south along the roadway with a two-and-one-half story north block. Two full-height wings projected east (to the rear) from the main block. In the late 1920s a large three-and-one-half story block was added to the south, again parallel the roadway, but set back slightly from the main block. At the same time the north block was detached and another three-and-one-half story block was put in its place. The original north block was turned so as to become an east-west wing at the new north end, its gable becoming a part of the new three-hundred foot facade. Other additions were made to the subordinate wings in the late 1950s and in 1977 bringing the inn to its present configuration.

Reflecting typical American Queen Anne styling, the 1880s portion of the inn is weatherboarded on its first and second floors and shingled on its third floor and gables. A slight kick articulates the juncture of these materials above a crown mold that forms the second-story cornice. Other Queen Anne features that sweeten the building in its present massive form include: a projecting, clipped-cornered entrance bay, now central on the facade, with sweeping pendent brackets supporting the gable's overhanging corners; a double-tier balcony (surmounting the continuous ground-floor porch) engaged beneath a steeply-pitched minor gable at the central block's south end and framed with continuous round-arch bracketing infilled with lattice-work on both levels; and a single-tier version of the same balcony on the exposed south corner of the main block adjacent the 1920s addition.

Documentary photos show how the inn's early paint scheme highlighted the Queen Anne expressions of light frame construction: window surrounds, corner boards, and applied gable stick-work were "brought out" in lighter contrasting shades.

The major additions of the 1920s are compatible in their massing and macro-elements, but without question they lack the richness and finesse of the original architecture. For example, the division between the second and third floors is still articulated but with a flat border only; and weatherboarding (now German siding) replaces the shingles above that division. With these additions the inn's image came to rely

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

| |
|-------------------|
| For HCRS use only |
| received |
| date entered |

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page one

upon the simpler architectonics of the Colonial Revival style. This is not at all inappropriate considering the influence Colonial architecture had on the development of the Queen Anne style in America. With its white body and green shutters the inn still today relies upon that very standard and readily understandable "American traditional" image.

The 1977 addition to the inn, a wing running diagonally (northeast) from the north wing, departs most radically from the accumulated fabric in that it is masonry (tan brick) construction rather than frame. However, its double-tier porch ties in neatly with a similar porch on the north wing. Both feature "Victorian" embellishments to their posts and railings. They overlook the inn's swimming pool.

One enters the inn at the south end of the original main block. A compatibly detailed porte cochere announces the entrance from the front drive. For heating efficiency, an entryway with new double doors has recently been added in front of the inn's original doors. The original double doors are each five-panel in configuration with lighted upper panels. Handsome beveled glass fills the transom and sidelights surrounding the doors. An interior transom over double doors to the dining room also contains this splendid decorative glass.

The interior of the inn has been substantially altered. In 1978 the downstairs ballroom was converted to a modern bar, gift shop, and lobby area. Entering the lobby, the gift shop is to one's right, the dining area is directly ahead, and the registration desk is on the east side, to the left of the dining hall entrance. A small sitting room and bar occupy the north end of the lobby, to one's far left upon entering. Between the dining hall and gift shop is a small "nostalgia room" where one can learn the history of the inn. Corridors lead to visitors' accommodations from the nostalgia room and, at the opposite end of the lobby, between the sitting room and bar.

Much of the rich woodwork and molded trim that comprised the inn's original interior embellishments survives; however, this ornament has recently been augmented with cosmetic attachments designed to lighten and brighten the large-scale spaces. Tapered boxed pillars alligned across the lobby area have received latticework wainscotting and long mirrors above their chairmolds. The same lattice-work has been used to create deep valances above the broad lobby windows and to lower the entrance to the north hallway. Original narrow beaded wainscotting survives on the lobby's original walls.

The dining room, which seats two hundred, was extensively remodeled in the 1970s. Raised platforms were added along the north and south sides of the room. Balustrades attached to original boxed pillars separate the platforms from the center area of the room. The recent latticework is used as a frieze between the pillars above the balustrades. South of the main dining room is a simple one-story addition, entered from the dining room through double doors, which is also utilized as a dining area.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page two

The Green Park's guest rooms are reached through hallways that reflect the inn's incremental growth. In the 1880s section robust chair and base molds border narrow beaded wainscotting for the length of the halls. Five-panel doors in heavily-molded surrounds punctuate the long walls. Rooms are wallpapered and decorated in a "traditional" mode but have generally been updated to provide modern conveniences. There are seventy-four guest rooms in the inn today.

Despite major expansions and alterations aimed at accommodating guests in comfort and style, the Green Park Inn remains one of North Carolina's chief physical reminders of the touring public's discovery of its mountainous west in the late nineteenth century.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1882, with later additions
Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Green Park Inn was built in 1882 in the resort community of Green Park, which was incorporated into Blowing Rock in 1927. The original Queen Anne styling of the resort hotel continues to provide its chief architectural interest despite massive additions and cosmetic remodelings that have promoted a simpler Colonial image. The Green Park has catered throughout its life to the well-to-do summer visitors who came to the mountains to spend the entire summer season enjoying the scenery and the cool weather. Despite numerous ownership changes the Green Park has continually modernized its physical plant and has maintained its status as one of the state's outstanding resort facilities. The inn remains as well one of the state's chief physical reminders of the touring public's discovery of its mountainous west in the late nineteenth century.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Green Park Inn is significant as important physical evidence of the wealthy touring public's discovery of North Carolina's mountainous west in the late nineteenth century.
- C. Despite substantial alterations, the Green Park remains an important North Carolina example of the grand frame resort architecture that accommodated the wealthy tourists who took to the roads and rails in ever increasing numbers during the late Victorian era.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

| |
|-------------------|
| For HCRS use only |
| received |
| date entered |

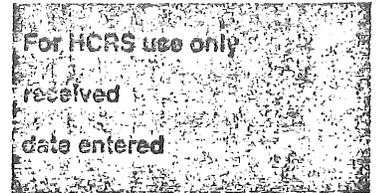
Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 1

The Green Park Inn was built in 1882 by G. W. F. Harper, a Lenoir industrialist. The inn, called the Green Park Hotel until recently, was built in the community of Green Park, which was incorporated into Blowing Rock in the 1920s. The Watauga County community of Blowing Rock is one of the south's leading resort communities. The Green Park is spectacularly located in the North Carolina mountains at the crest of the Blue Ridge. The resort is located between the springs of the New River and the Yadkin River and sets atop the Eastern Continental Divide.¹

Tourists began coming to Blowing Rock in the 1850s, spurred by the completion of the Caldwell-Watauga Turnpike in 1851. Typically nineteenth century visitors ". . . came to Lenoir on the narrow gauge railway. . . . In Lenoir they hired hacks and set out on the jolting 22 mile journey up the mountain."² These visitors were interested in the famous Blowing Rock, but were more attracted to the community because of its cool summer temperatures.³ These so-called "summer visitors" have been the Green Park's stock in trade for most of its existence. These visitors were well-to-do, of high social standing, and usually occupied the hotel for an entire summer. One long time employee writes: They brought trunks. Some of them brought their own maids. A lot brought nurses for their children."⁴ The hotel catered to these visitors in the most luxuriant manner. "In the evenings there were balls at the Green Park Hotel. The music, served up quietly by an Italian harp, a violin and a flute was pleasant. The food was excellent and the porch rockers were comfortable."⁵ Dances were held every Saturday night, with accompaniment by a full orchestra. In 1896 it was reported that the Green Park had fireplaces and hot and cold baths in each room. At the turn of the century the Green Park had accommodations for 300 guests and a 1,000 foot porch. The ever popular porch overlooked a striking view of the mountains. The hotel featured billiard halls and a bowling alley. Around 1913 a golf course was added to the facilities.⁶

In the 1920s Watauga County, previously known as the "Lost Province" of North Carolina, was opened up to the rest of the state by the good roads movement. Blowing Rock became an even more popular tourist attraction than ever. In 1927 the community of Green Park, which included the hotel, was incorporated into Blowing Rock, taking advantage of the latter's municipal facilities.⁷ Likewise, the hotel modernized. A 1927 newspaper account discusses these changes: "The Green Park Hotel is the first large hotel to announce extensive improvements in preparation for the summer season. More baths will be installed, the interior decorating will be gone over, and the woodwork will be repainted. . . . In addition the hotel will install its own fire protection system."⁸ At this time the hotel was owned by the Blowing Rock Improvement Company of L. P. Henkel, H. O. Steele, and David Craig. In 1928 this partnership dissolved and the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company took over ownership. In 1932 Paul Moldenhauer of Fort Lauderdale, Florida purchased the hotel⁹

Moldenhauer, the owner of resort property in Lake Placid, New York, kept the hotel operating through the Depression. He made several additions to the hotel, including an adjacent dance casiono, which is no longer standing. Moldenhauer died in 1942. The property was then sold to Richard H. Gore of Fort Lauderdale. Gore was president of the Cloudland Hotel Company, which owned several hotels in Florida and North Carolina. Gore paid \$31,000 for the property. He kept the hotel until 1953 when it was sold to

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8

Page 2

the Lenoir Furniture Company. The Hound Ears Lodge and Club purchased the property in 1977.¹⁰ Under the leadership of Harry Robbins, president of the club, and Charlotte designer Jack Penter, the hotel was renovated. The downstairs ballroom gave way to a bar, gameroom, gift shop, and lobby. A heated pool was also added.¹¹ The property was recently sold to Tacoma Management of Winston-Salem.

Throughout these numerous changes of ownership the Green Park Hotel/Inn retained its character as one of the state's outstanding resort facilities.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

| |
|-------------------|
| For HCRS use only |
| received |
| date entered |

Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8

Page 3

NOTES

¹Hickory Daily Record, June 9, 1978; The State, Vol. XXIV, No. 19, October 6, p. 13; Interview with Stanley Green, July 29, 1980.

²Daniel J. Whitener, History of Watauga County (Boone: N.p., 1949), 48, hereinafter cited as Whitener, History of Watauga County; Winston-Salem Journal, August 6, 1950.

³The Blowing Rock, for which the village is named, is a cliff "so named because the rocky walls at this point form a flume through which the northwest wind sweeps with such force that whatever is thrown over the rock is hurled back again." It is one of North Carolina's most popular tourist attractions. John Preston Arthur, A History of Watauga County, North Carolina (Richmond: Everett Waddey Co., 1915), 218.

⁴Charlotte Observer, July 28, 1978.

⁵Winston-Salem Journal, August 6, 1950.

⁶The State, October 6, 1956, pp. 24-25; Ina and John J. Van Noppen, Western North Carolina Since the Civil War (Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973), 371, hereinafter cited as Van Noppen, Western North Carolina.

⁷Van Noppen, Western North Carolina, 332-334; Whitener, History of Watauga County, 49.

⁸Charlotte Observer, February 20, 1927.

⁹Watauga County Deed Book 28, p. 574; Book 40, p. 501; Watauga County Record of Corporations and Firms, Book B., p. 63.

¹⁰Watauga County Deed Book 55, p. 317; Book 55, p. 350; Book 59, p. 521; Book 69, p. 609; Book 175, p. 595.

¹¹Hickory Daily Record, June 9, 1978; Winston-Salem Journal, June 19, 1978.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation page

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8.69

Quadrangle name Globe Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

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

F

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

G

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

H

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached tax maps with property outlined in red.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Research Specialist; Description prepared by Douglas Swaim, Preservation Specialist and Janet Hutchison, Preservation Assistant

organization N. C. Division of Archives and History date December 15, 1981
(704) 298-5024 (Asheville)
street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545 (Raleigh)

city or town Raleigh, state North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Frier, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 10, 1982

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

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

Page 1

Arthur, John Preston. A History of Watauga County, North Carolina. Richmond:
Everett Waddey Co., 1915.

Charlotte Observer. February 20, 1927; July 28, 1978.

Interview with Stanley Green by Maggie Whitesides.

Hickory Daily Record. June 9, 1978.

State, The. Vol. XXIV, No. 19, October 6, 1956.

Van Noppen, Ina and John J. Western North Carolina since the Civil War. Boone:
Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973.

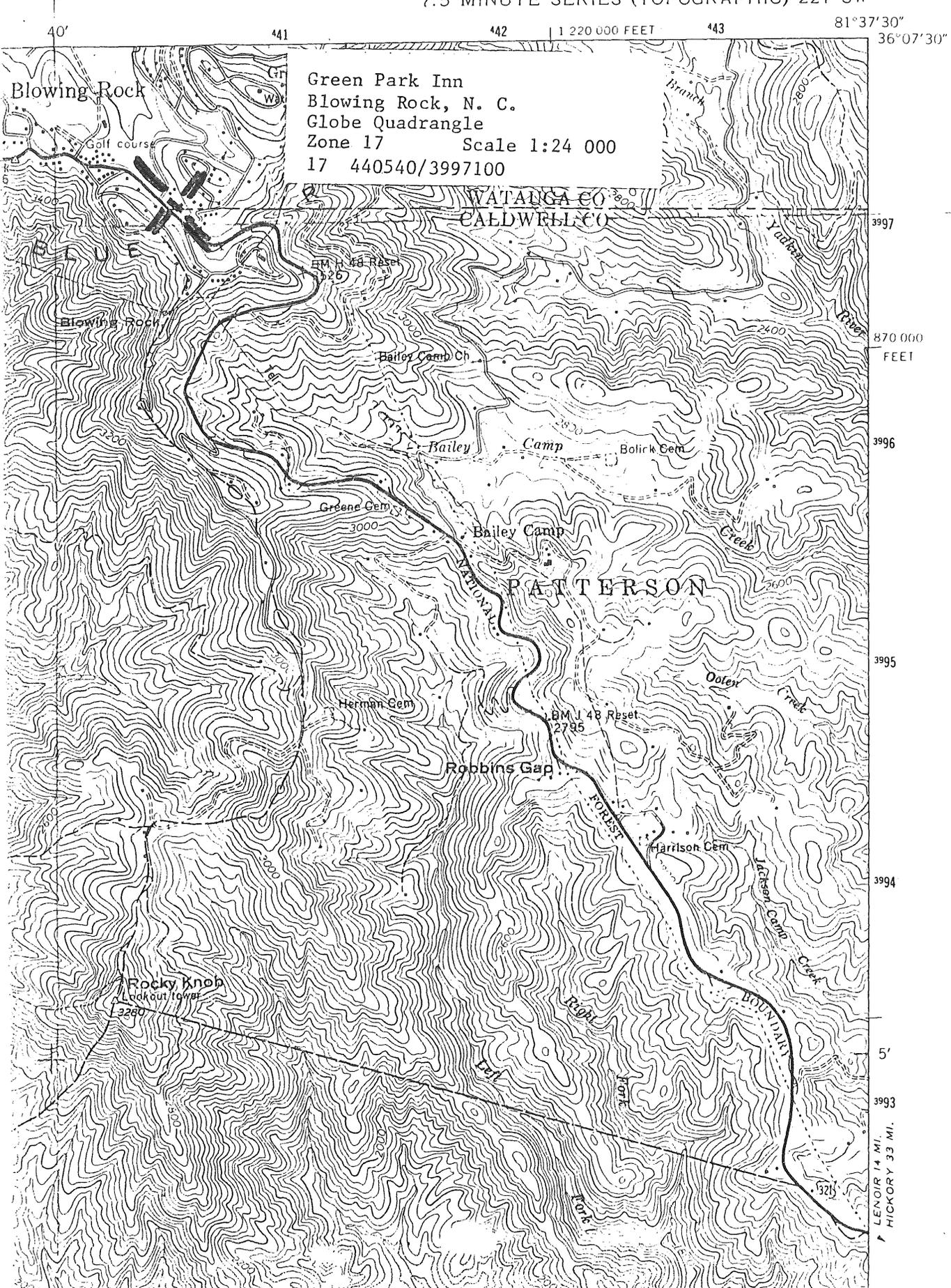
Watauga County Records. Deed Books, Records of Corporations and Firms.
Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

Whitener, Daniel J. History of Watauga County. Boone: N.p., 1949.

Winston-Salem Journal. August 6, 1950; June 19, 1978.

GLOBE QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 221-SW

4656 II
BLOWING ROCK 1:62 500



Green Park Inn
Blowing Rock, N. C.
Globe Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000
17 440540/3997100

WATAUGA CO
CALDWELL CO

PATTERSON

5'
3993
LENOIR 14 MI.
HICKORY 33 MI.

