

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Jones House

and or common n/a

2. Location

street & number 124 East King Street not for publication

city, town Boone n/a vicinity of

state North Carolina code 37 county Watauga code 189

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Boone

street & number P. O. Drawer 192

city, town Boone n/a vicinity of state North Carolina 28607

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Watauga County Courthouse

city, town Boone state North Carolina 28607

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state N/A county local

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Western Office

city, town 13 Veterans Drive, Asheville state North Carolina 28805

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Jones House stands as a reminder of Boone's more tranquil past and a pleasant contrast to the condominiums which have sprung up just across Grand Boulevard to the southeast. Located in Boone's commercial district, the Jones House and its spacious lot offer a dramatic visual break from the two-story red brick buildings which comprise Boone's downtown section.

The house is sited at the center of a one-acre lot at the foot of Rich Mountain in the commercial center of Boone. A smoothly-quarried stone and mortar retaining wall separates the Jones House from the sidewalk edging King Street, Boone's main thoroughfare. The lot steeply rises for about six feet above the retaining wall, then abruptly levels off to the gentle slope which characterizes the remainder of the lot. Fronting the property are three mature maple trees which serve to separate the house from the street below. The Jones property originally consisted of six acres. Stables, an ice house, several other outbuildings, and a garden were all part of the original lot. Construction of an office building by Dr. Jones in 1924, subsequent sales of parcels of the property, and the widening of several of Boone's streets have all contributed to the reduction of the property from its original six to its current one-acre size.

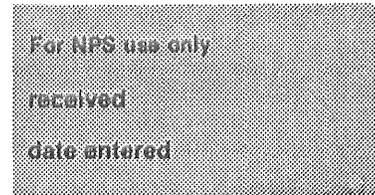
The overall form of the three-level combination Colonial Revival and Queen Anne style home is a compact cube with identical projecting bays on three sides and a two-story extension to the rear. A pyramidal roof covers the cubical mass and features gables extending to the front and sides. A gabled roof covers the rear extension. Asphalt shingles cover the roof and gables and a continuous boxed cornice surrounds the house and gables. Raked molding is present on all of the gables. Horizontal wood weatherboarding with simple cornerboards make up the outer vertical surfaces of the house. The original brick foundation was replaced in August, 1985, with a new brick foundation which matches the original in both coloration and dimensions.

Three bays, located on the southeast and northwest sides and the southwest corner of the house, are created by three panels which project out of the plane of the walls. The faces of each bay contain a window at each floor level. One small attic-height window is contained in each gable. Irregular fenestration occurs elsewhere on the house. All windows are of rectangular, one-over-one, double hung sash design and all feature plain surrounds.

A hipped roof single-story porch carries across the front of the house. A shallow gable on the porch roof projects outward in line with the bayed section on the southwest corner of the house. The porch floor and balustrade bow out gently in line with the bay and gable on the southwest corner. Raked molding appears on the porch gable. The porch roof is supported by eight turned columns and two pilasters of simple Doric design. The columns sit on bases which form an integral part of the porch balustrade. A porch was originally inset along the northwest corner of the house. This porch was enclosed in the 1930s and now conforms with the other lines of the house.

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**Continuation sheet** Description **Item number** 7 **Page** One

The house is entered through a paneled door near the southeast corner. The front door features three small vertical panels at the bottom and two horizontal panels located above and below a square glazed opening. A robust molding sets off the panels on the front door. The original doorknob is present, as is an elongated brass backplate.

A stair hall occupies the southeast corner of the house on the ground floor. Three other major rooms, a living room, dining room and bedroom and a kitchen make up the ground floor. Each of the three major rooms feature a bayed wall corresponding to the external bays. The upstairs is composed of five bedrooms and a large bathroom which had been a closet prior to a conversion in the early 1920s. Closets were added to each bedroom soon after the house was built, but they were not original. The arrangement of the second floor is similar to the ground floor, but a center hallway reduces the size of the rooms. A stairway in the northeastern corner of the house connects the two main floors with the attic and the basement.

Narrow beaded chestnut sheathing set vertically below a molded chair rail and horizontally above the rail make up all the wall surfaces in the stair hall and the living room. Ceilings in the living room and stair hall are paneled in pine with tongue and groove construction. The dining room and bedroom are of similar arrangement, but have several differences. The dining room contains pine paneling, added in 1975, above the chair rail on three walls and paper on the remaining wall, as well as an acoustic tile ceiling. The bedroom was papered above the chair rail and on the ceiling not long after the house was completed. Flooring throughout the house is of oak. Baseboards are present throughout the house and all feature a molded cap.

Along the northwest side and corner of the house an inset porch originally was present. In the 1930s the porch was enclosed to form a small bathroom and utility room. The enclosed space is accessible from both the downstairs bedroom and kitchen. The kitchen features tile covered floors and papered walls and contains a modern cooking stove and wash basin. A pantry and stairs are found in the northeast corner of the kitchen.

Doors throughout the house are of five panel pine construction. The inset panels are arranged in groups of two, set vertically above a horizontal center panel and two set vertically below the center panel. All of the doors retain their original brass knobs, latches, and teardrop backplates. Door and window surrounds throughout the house are of simple symmetrical pine molding. Simple cornerblocks appear throughout the first floor, but feature turned circles in their centers in the stair hall, living room, and all three upstairs bedrooms along the northwest side of the house. The remaining rooms have door and window surrounds of similar layout, but do not feature cornerblocks.

All wall and ceiling surfaces in the upstairs rooms were originally papered. Two of the bedrooms were paneled in 1975 and one of those was given an acoustic tile ceiling.

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The Jones House originally had two chimneys and four fireplaces. The chimneys were located in the center of the house and along the northwest wall. Fireplaces were present in the living room and largest upstairs bedroom on the northwest wall, and in the downstairs bedroom and second bedroom upstairs. The fireplaces were cemented over, the stacks removed, and radiators installed in the early 1920s. Currently all the fireplaces and internal chimneys have been removed and ongoing restoration plans call for the reinstallation of fireplaces, chimneys, and stacks made from materials matching the originals. All radiators will be removed and a modern electrical heat pump system will be installed to provide heat, air conditioning and humidity control. Much of the new system was installed during the summer of 1985.

Restoration plans for the house call for return to its original appearance, both inside and out. Although a modern heating system is being installed and an access for the handicapped is to be constructed, all other ongoing restoration work is aiming for a return to the way the home looked when the Jones family moved in, in 1908.

# 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 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) Community development
<b>Specific dates</b>	1908	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Sited on a large, open lot in the heart of Boone's commercial district, the Jones House is one of the few reminders of the pre-WWI era in Boone. The combined Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style house was built in 1908 by Dr. J. Walter Jones, a prominent citizen and respected physician who served the community from 1902 until his death in 1925. The house is sited above main street on a gently sloping lawn separated from the commercial area by a stone retaining wall and three mature maple trees. Boone's present-day commercial district is basically the product of mid-century growth, and the existence of a sizeable residential lot in its midst harkens back to late nineteenth and very early twentieth century land-use patterns. The town of Boone purchased the house in 1983 and has begun to rehabilitate it for use as a community center, preserving it and the open space around it, a precious commodity in the fast-growing university town.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT.**

C. The Jones House is significant as one of Boone's few remaining examples of pre-WWI architecture. The house exhibits a combination of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, and features prominent gables and bays which break up its cubicle mass. The house gains added significance from occupying one of the few remaining open lots along Boone's principal commercial street. In this respect it is a rare surviving example of what was perhaps a typical land-use pattern in the late-nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries.

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After attending the Chattanooga College of Medicine, Dr. John Walter Jones, a native of Alleghany County, North Carolina, decided to move to Boone in 1902 to practice with Dr. Thomas Blackburn. The Blackburns were one of Watauga County's most prominent families at that time. Besides Thomas, the physician, two other Blackburns had achieved prominence. E. Spencer Blackburn had been a successful lawyer, state legislator, District Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, and was serving his first of two terms as representative to Congress from the Eighth District when Dr. Jones arrived in Boone.<sup>1</sup> The third prominent Blackburn brother was Manley B., owner of the Blackburn Hotel and a successful local politician who, at various times,<sup>2</sup> filled the offices of postmaster, clerk of Superior Court, and register of deeds. It was through these men that Jones met his wife to be, Mattie Mae Blackburn.

J. W. Jones married Mattie Blackburn in May 1907. After their marriage J. W. who had taken complete charge of the medical practice following Thomas Blackburn's decision to move and practice in Hickory, and Mattie searched for a place to build a home. They selected a six-acre site near the center of Boone's small commercial district on which to build a home. The site was one of the oldest ones in Boone. One of Boone's first two residents, either John or Jerry Green, had a house on the property.<sup>3</sup> George N. Folk, a lawyer, had a home there before moving to Asheville prior to the Civil War and "W. B. and Robert Arrowood and Professor Blake, of Davidson College, their uncle, taught in a small one-room house" which had been located on a corner of the Jones lot.<sup>4</sup>

Building materials for the new home were obtained largely through exchanges of materials for medical services instead of cash payments.<sup>5</sup> Contracted labor completed work on the house quite rapidly and The Watauga Democrat reported on April 28, 1908, that Dr. and Mrs. Jones were in the process of moving into their new home.<sup>6</sup> Dr. Jones had a successful practice which allowed him to modernize his family's home whenever he felt changes were necessary. Closets and running water were early additions to the home as was the building of an ice house, a barn, and a stable, as well as the acquisition of some livestock.<sup>7</sup> When electricity became available Dr. Jones had it hooked up. Mazie Jones Levenson, Dr. and Mrs. Jones' daughter, cannot recall when their family was without electricity.<sup>8</sup> J. W. and Mattie Jones raised two children in the house. The eldest, Mazie Jean, was born in 1914. Her brother, J. W., Jr., was born the following year.<sup>9</sup>

In 1922, with his medical practice booming, Dr. Jones decided to build an office. This two-story structure, familiar to Boone residents as the location of Hunt's Department Store, was opened in 1924. Dr. Jones used the upstairs as an office and dispensary and rented the downstairs out as a department store.<sup>10</sup> The Jones building also contained Boone's first telephone exchange. Tragedy struck the Jones family during the year-end holiday season in 1924. Dr. Jones became sick and was taken to Knoxville, Tennessee, for treatment, by Drs. Miller, Butler, and Hodges.<sup>11</sup> Despite receiving treatment Dr. J. W. Jones died of pneumonia on January 14, 1925. The Watauga Democrat wrote that "perhaps no doctor ever had a stronger hold on the people of this county than did he".<sup>12</sup> Boone lost a very popular and influential physician.

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Sales of portions of the original six-acre lot had begun as early as 1920.<sup>13</sup> Following the death of J. W. Jones the court twice compelled the sale of portions of the Jones' land.<sup>14</sup> Mrs. Jones found it necessary to begin taking in roomers a few years after her husband's death in order to make ends meet.<sup>15</sup> She continued taking in roomers until the 1960s, when she became unable to handle the cleaning chores. Mattie Jones is remembered as a firm enforcer of rules, but a person who was willing to bend the rules at certain times. Jerry Wilson, who roomed in the Jones House in the early 1940s remembered Mattie didn't allow drinking in the house, except if the drinker was willing to share some with her.<sup>16</sup> The Jones House was always popular with roomers and Wilson remembers that the price was right, seven dollars a month when he stayed there.<sup>17</sup> As time passed, the Jones property continued decreasing in size. The sale of Dr. Jones' former office in 1937 and the sale of two and one half acres behind the Jones House in 1939 represented the two most important sales of Jones property.<sup>18</sup>

The Jones family began going their separate ways in the 1930s. J. W., Jr., joined the Navy, served in China, and, tragically, died following an operation in 1938. Mazie Jean finished college at Appalachian, then pursued graduate degrees at other institutions, eventually she and her husband Harold Levenson settled in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mattie Jones continued to live in the family home until 1975 when, due to advanced age, she moved to a nursing home in Greensboro where she resided until her death in 1978 at the age of ninety-five.<sup>19</sup>

After Mattie Jones moved away the house was used only in the summer by Mr. and Mrs. Levenson. In 1983 the Town of Boone purchased the house with the hope that it could be put to some public use and perhaps slow the rapid pace of development in downtown Boone. Mazie Levenson placed several restrictions on the use of her home in the deed which turned the house over to the Town of Boone. The "restrictive covenants" included in the deed call for the property's use as a cultural or historic center or park, and expressly forbids the use of the property as a parking lot.<sup>20</sup> Since that time work has been turned over to a special committee, Jones House, Incorporated, and restoration work has begun. The goal of that work is to restore the home to its original condition and preserve the beautiful lot and setting that the Jones House occupies in downtown Boone.

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FOOTNOTES

1. John Preston Arthur, A History of Watauge County, North Carolina: With Sketches of Prominent Families (Richmond, VA: Everett Waddey, 1915; reprint ed., Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1976), p. 286.
2. Ibid., p. 285.
3. Ibid., p. 147.
4. Ibid, p. 301 and 251.
5. Rosalie Dorsey, "The Old Timey," Mountain Living 4 (Spring, 1973):60; and Interview with Mazie Jones Levenson, Greensboro, North Carolina, 23 September 1985.
6. The Watauga Democrat, 28 April 1908.
7. Dorsey, "The Old Timey":61; Interview with Mazie Jones Levenson.
8. Interview with Mazie Jones Levenson.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. The Watauga Democrat, I January 1925.
12. The Watauga Democrat, 15 January 1925.
13. Watauga County Records: Deed Book 26-34.
14. Ibid: 32-501 and 36-365.
15. Interview with Mazie Jones Levenson.
16. Interview with Jerry H. Wilson, Boone, North Carolina, 15 November 1985.
17. Ibid.
18. Watauga County Records: Deed Books 47-308 and 48-519.
19. Interview with Mazie Jones Levenson.
20. Watauga County Records: Deed Book 241-660.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.073

Quadrangle name Boone, N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	7	4	3	8	5	7	0	4	0	0	8	1	8	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

The nominated property includes the lot defined as Lot #768, Map 196-14 in the Watauga County Tax Supervisor's Office. See attached tax map, nominated 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 N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark D. Vickrey, Consultant to Jones House, Inc.

organization N.C. Division of Archives and History date April 1986

street & number 13 Veterans Drive telephone (704) 298-5024

city or town Asheville state North Carolina 28805

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Frier

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 7, 1987

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

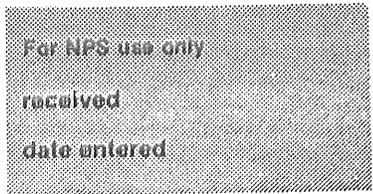
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Arthur, John Preston, A History of Watauga County, North Carolina: With Sketches of Prominent Families. Richmond, VA: Everett Waddey, 1915; reprint ed. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1976.

Austin, Ned. Boone, North Carolina. Interview, 14 November 1985.

Dorsey, Mrs. B. K., comp. "Mini Tour #2: Self-Guided Sightseeing Tour (Exterior Viewing Only): Historical Homes and Sites in Boone, North Carolina, Boone Centennial Celebration 1872-1972, June 30 - July 4" Boone, NC, 1972

Dorsey, Rosalie. "The Old Timey" Mountain Living 4 (Spring 1973): 59-62.

Levenson, Mazie Jones. Greensboro, North Carolina. Interview, 23 September 1985.

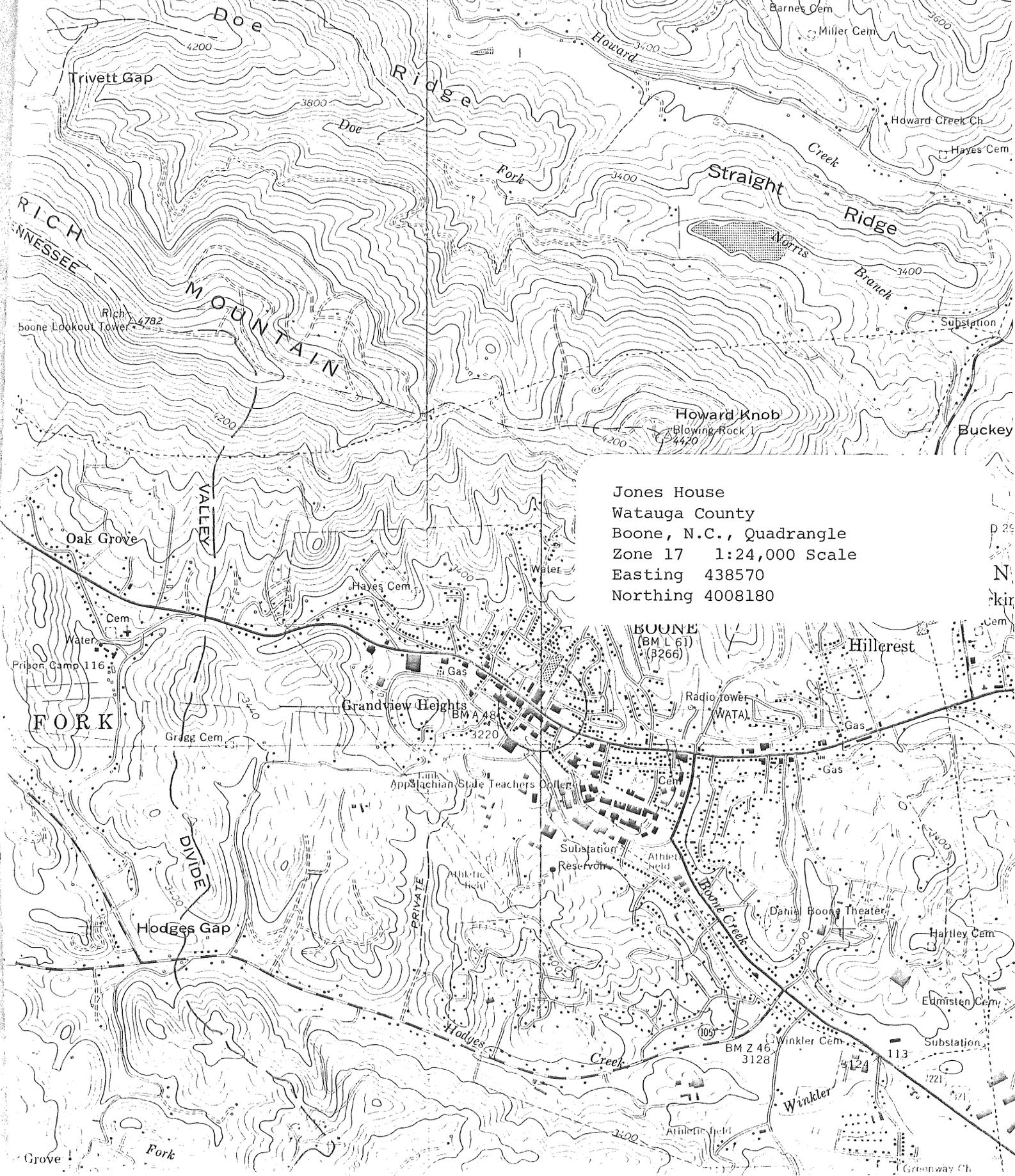
Watauga County Records: Deed Books.

The Watauga Democrat. Boone, NC: March 19, 1980; April 28, 1908; September 3, 1908; January 1, 1925; January 15, 1925; January 22, 1925.

Wilson, Jerry H. Boone, North Carolina. Interview, 14 November 1985.

UNITED STATES  
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY  
MAPPING SERVICES BRANCH

436 42'30" 437 4656 1 SW (ZIONVILLE 220 SW) 439 40'



Jones House  
Watauga County  
Boone, N.C., Quadrangle  
Zone 17 1:24,000 Scale  
Easting 438570  
Northing 4008180

Jones House  
Watauga County  
Watauga County Tax Map 196-14  
Boundary of nominated property  
outlined in red  
Scale: 1"=100'

