Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
North Carolina	
COUNTY:	
Wayne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On SR 1542 .6 miles from the junction of SR 1542 and US Highway 117

CITY OR TOWN:
Fremont (Third Congressional District)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
North Carolina	37	Wayne	191

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Raleigh	North Carolina	37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Wayne County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Goldsboro	North Carolina	37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Wayne
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(If known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site consists of the farm complex where Governor Aycock was born in 1859 and a nineteenth century frame schoolhouse which was moved to the site to commemorate Aycock's role in the development of public education in North Carolina. The farm includes a dwelling house, kitchen, stable, and several other smaller outbuildings.

The house, built about 1840, is a one-story weatherboard dwelling on a brick pier foundation with a gable roof and exterior common bond end chimneys. Protecting the three-bay front facade is a shed extension. The east and west bays of the extension are enclosed to form a small room on either side of a central porch. Each of these rooms has a small window with four-over-four sash and an entrance to the porch. The porch area is finished with flush siding, while the rest of the house is covered with beaded weatherboards.

On the interior, the house presents a hall-and-parlor plan with two entrances from the front porch, one leading to the west parlor and the other leading to the large west hall. The hall and the west parlor have horizontally sheathed walls and exposed beam ceilings. Each room has a fireplace with a crude shelf supported by small molded brackets. The partition which divides the two rooms is vertically sheathed and contains the entrance to an enclosed spiral stair which leads from the northwest corner of the hall and rises through the parlor to an unfinished attic.

There is a shed porch across the rear facade supported by simple wooden posts. The west bay under the porch was enclosed sometime after the completion of the house and is covered by plain lapped weatherboards.

The kitchen, located to the east of the house, is a small frame building with a gable roof and an immense common bond chimney on its east gable. The front (south) facade is three bays wide with a central entrance flanked by small windows with four-over-four sash. A small extension of the roof projects over the entrance as protection for the doorway. The interior of the kitchen building contains two rooms, the smaller west room for dining and the large east room for cooking. These rooms are finished in a fashion similar to those in the house. There is a rear doorway in each room which is connected to the back entrance of the main house by a plank walkway. Both of these doorways feature the same unusual roof projection as the one on the front.

The remainder of the outbuildings are located to the south and east of the houseyard.

To the west of the house is a late nineteenth century school house which was moved to its present site from Nahunta in Wayne County in 1912. Originally the Oak Plain School, it is a large weatherboard building with a gable roof, built about 1870. The south gable end is three bays wide containing two entrances flanking a central window with six-over-six sash. The building is six bays long on each side with a heavy box cornice which returns on the gables. The interior consists of one large room with a potbellied stove in the center. The room is furnished with early bench-desks with slat backs. Sections of boards painted black, situated between each window, were used instead of slate for blackboards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [x] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [x] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Charles Brantley Aycock, forty-ninth governor of North Carolina, was born near Nahunta township (Fremont) on November 1, 1859, in a house built about 1840 by his father, Benjamin. Benjamin Aycock, who was clerk of court for Wayne County for eight years, state senator from 1863 to 1866, as well as a farmer, had inherited the fifty acres upon which he built the house from his father, James Aycock. By the time Charles, the youngest of ten children, was born in 1859 his father's plantation consisted of about 1000 acres. Although this was a rather large farm for the Nahunta community, it is said that the Aycock family lived in a frugal manner. This is borne out by their unpretentious home.

Charles attended the schools of his neighborhood, working on the farm during his vacations, and, after preparing for college at Wilson Collegiate Institute (1876-77), he entered the University of North Carolina in 1877, from which he graduated in 1880. During his senior year he began to study law. In 1881 he completed his law studies in Goldsboro and was admitted to the bar. During every election campaign from 1881 to 1898 he canvassed the state for the Democratic ticket, becoming well-known for his political oratory. In 1900 he was nominated and elected governor on a platform favoring the suffrage amendment, which required new voters coming up for registration after December 1, 1908, to take a literacy test. Although the literacy test prevented many North Carolina Negroes and poor whites from voting, it led to an expanded educational system for the state. Aycock "pledged his administration to the development of public schools for whites and Negroes, so that after the registration of 1908, no white man need be disenfranchised because of illiteracy." The Central Campaign Committee for the Promotion of Public Education was organized and launched an extensive, highly effective campaign to convince North Carolinians of the importance of public education. During Aycock's four year term, schoolhouses were built at the rate of one a day, every day in the week including Sunday. The salaries of teachers were almost doubled, the length of the school term was increased from four to five months, and special education for teachers was provided in order to improve their professional qualifications.

During the last few years of his life Aycock traveled throughout the eastern and southern states making speeches in behalf of education. He collapsed and died suddenly while delivering such a speech in Birmingham, Alabama, on April 4, 1912.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance

The Charles B. Aycock birthplace shows not only the relatively modest circumstances of Aycock's birth, but also a typical eastern North Carolina farmhouse with outbuildings of the mid-nineteenth century. The schoolhouse is a reminder of his importance to public education in North Carolina. When Charles B. Aycock was elected governor in 1902, he and other state leaders launched "the most remarkable educational campaign in the history of North Carolina." Aycock, who said that he was inspired to work for universal education in North Carolina because his mother was illiterate, made public education his personal crusade until his death. Largely as a result of Aycock's work, "the people of North Carolina became convinced of the value of public education, spent increasing amounts for schools, and came to consider education their most important public activity."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Allen (ed.). Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928.

Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Newsome, Albert Ray. The History of a Southern State; North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Wayne County Records, Wayne County Courthouse, Goldsboro, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY									OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"				35°	31'	11"	77°	58'	30"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Eight and one half acres.

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, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: April 26, 1971

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 [X] Local [ ]

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date April 26, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300b
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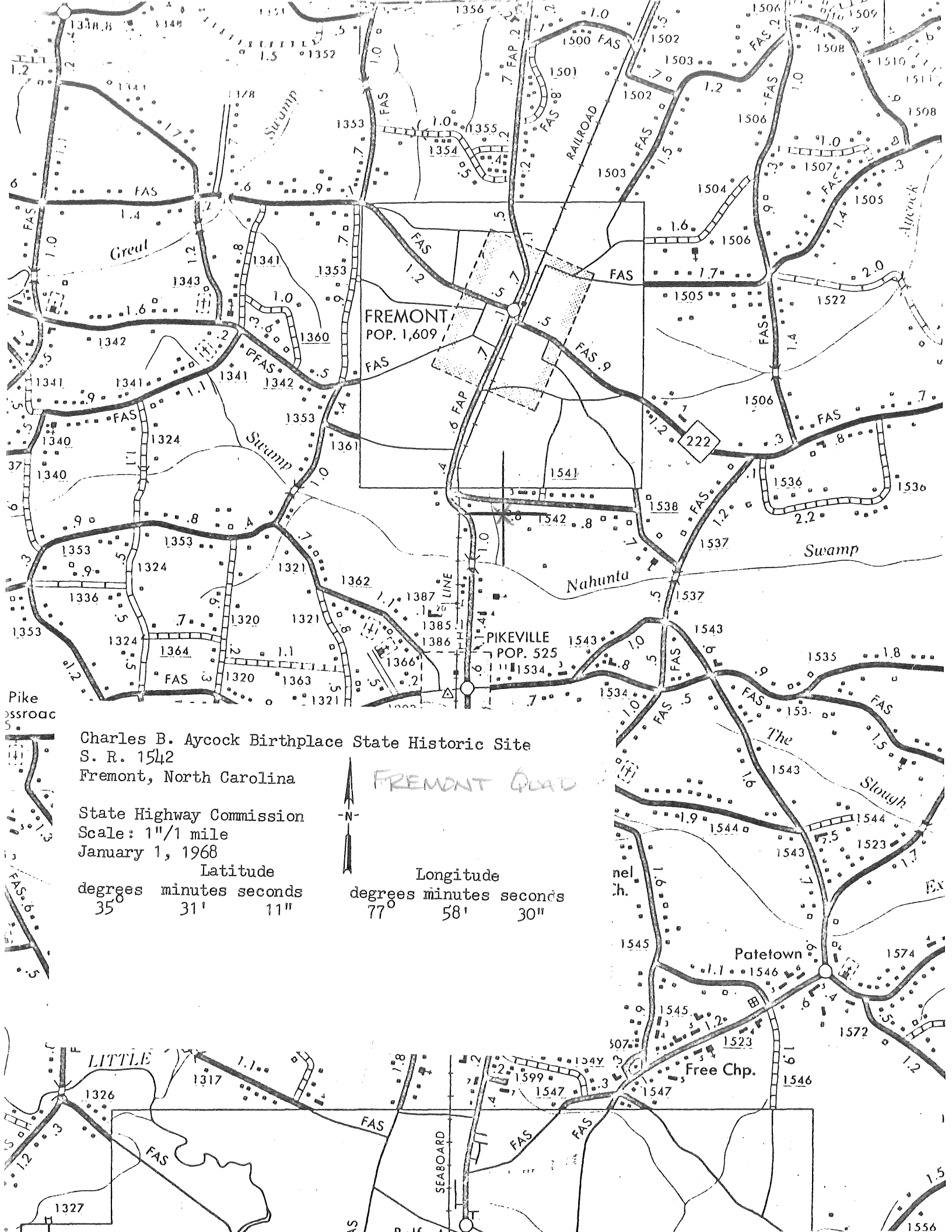
9. Bibliography

Wayne County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).



Charles B. Aycock Birthplace State Historic Site
S. R. 1542
Fremont, North Carolina

FREMONT QUAD

State Highway Commission
Scale: 1"/1 mile
January 1, 1968

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35°	31'	11"	77°	58'	30"