

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Grove Park Inn

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Macon Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Asheville

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Buncombe	CODE 021
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Resort</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Jack Tar Hotels, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 South Akard Street, Box 5235

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas	STATE: Texas	CODE 75202	CODE 113
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Buncombe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Asheville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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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:
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grove Park Inn, which crowns a ridge at the foot of Sunset Mountain, overlooks the valley within which the city of Asheville is contained. The Blue Ridge Mountains provide a background. The inn, situated on a north-south axis, is built in five sections which join end-to-end and step in terrace-like placement along the ridge. It is located amid a complex of cottages, staff dormitories, and small outbuildings tucked into the hillside, and is reached by a circular flagstone drive which leads to the main entrance in the center of main (east) facade beneath a porte cochere. The inn is surrounded by terraces. The flagstone drives and footpaths which encircle it render the entire park terrain accessible. From the west (rear) side of the inn a broad terraced lawn slopes down to tennis courts, a swimming pool and a golf course. A small stone guardhouse with a tile roof located on a rise at the head of the circular drive originally controlled access to the inn, but it is no longer used for this purpose. Also part of the original complex is an arcaded shelter in the same architectural idiom located at the terminus of the former trolley line which transported visitors to the inn until 1934. There are several rustic staff cottages; the largest of these, Sunset Hall, is a simple, striking Tudor Revival structure.

Native uncut granite boulders, quarried from Sunset Mountain, laid over a reinforced concrete frame, form the wall surfaces and chimneys of the inn. The stones are laid with no mortar joints visible and with moss and lichens still in place, forming walls four and a half feet in thickness. Red clay tile produced in Tennessee covers the main roof and several of the terrace roofs. The large main block is four double bays wide and four stories high with a roof pierced by two rows of dormers--thus having six floors in all. The other sections are also four stories high, but have only a single row of dormers, with a total of five floors. Each window opening is crowned by a huge horizontal boulder lintel surmounted by a rough flat stone arch and contains a casement window. The windows on the main block occur in four pairs. Each bay in the first story of the main facade of the central block contains a floor-length casement opening. All of these serve as windows except for the double doors which occur in the inner half of each of the two central double bays. The upper three levels of this block contain large double windows in each side.

The tremendously plastic deep hip roof is composed of a bottom layer five inches thick of Portland cement with steel reinforcing rods. Five layers of Trinidad asphalt alternating with three layers of asbestos felt cover the cement, and clay tile secured with steel nails and roof cement forms the outer covering. The organic roof overhangs the walls in great undulating eaves. Each dormer, covered with red clay tiles, is an eyelid opening of the roof itself. Their shape and placement repeat the design of the eaves. The small upper dormers and the larger lower ones both contain double casement windows. The roofs of the flanking sections have straight rather than undulating eaves, and contain a single row of windows similar to those that appear on the main roof. The ridges of the roof of the central block and of the northernmost section, the kitchen, are glazed with a continuous flat skylight. A huge granite interior chimney rises from the end of each section. A tall square granite stack which rises

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against the east elevation of the northernmost section serves the steam heating plant, formerly powered by coal and now oil-fueled.

A three-bay porte cochere with a shed roof of red clay tile supported on square granite boulder posts shelters the main entrance to the inn. The two double oak doors, each having a flat-paneled lower half and a glazed upper half, open beneath the porte cochere into the great lobby. A terrace with granite boulder walls which extend above the red flagstone floors as a low parapet begins south of the porte cochere, continuing around the southernmost section and extending along the west side of the structure to the end of the section which flanks the main block on the north. The section of terrace surrounding the southern wing was originally sheltered by a shed roof of red clay tile supported on stone posts like those of the porte cochere, but is now widened and enclosed, with broad expanses of jealousy windows and a red composition shingle shed roof. The terrace widens along the west side of the main block into a grand piazza, illuminated by large copper lanterns which hang from wooden beams projecting from the wall between each of the five bays. The small sun porch with an open garage beneath which projects from the main block north of the porte cochere was added a year after the construction of the inn.

The interior plan and furnishing of the Grove Park Inn equal the exterior design in the combination of grandeur of scale and rustic simplicity of materials. The main lobby or great hall, 120 feet long and 80 feet wide, which occupies the entire first floor of the main section, is the center of activity in the inn. At each end of the room is a great chimney breast, built of boulders, that projects into the room with a huge square hearth opening, a pair of equally large wrought-iron andirons and a wide hearth ledge. The rough boulder walls were originally exposed on all sides, but during the 1955 remodelling, the end wall areas flanking the fireplaces were plastered to emphasize the fireplaces themselves. A small electric elevator manufactured by Otis Elevator Company and original to the structure rises at the rear of each chimney stack. Six huge columns, whose central steel and concrete cores were originally surrounded by rough boulders like the walls and are now encased in vinyl-covered plaster, support the coffered ceiling. Suspended from the center of each coffer, formed by the exposed concrete beams of the ceiling, is a solid square copper lighting fixture ornamented by a dogwood blossom design. The central bays of the east and west sides contain double doors surmounted by casement transoms which open on the west to the main terrace and on the east beneath the porte cochere. The wicker furniture with which the lobby was originally furnished has disappeared, although some remains in the Palm Court. The original large grandfather clock manufactured by Roycrofters for this room is, however, still present. The massive oak furniture in a robust rustic design which now ornaments the lobby was purchased in the 1940s from an Illinois lodge.

The main level of the adjoining north wing contains the main dining room, and smaller dining and entertainment areas occupy the adjoining south

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wing. The main kitchen, located in the next-to-last north section is open to the concrete rafters, which are supported by floor-to-ceiling concrete pillars. The skylight further lightens the kitchen, with its white tile walls and floor. The original furnishings of these areas have been replaced. In addition to service areas, the ground level originally contained a gymnasium complete with swimming pool, and a bowling alley with 150-foot lanes was located beneath the main west terrace. This level has now been converted to conference rooms. The guest rooms, located on the upper stories of the main block and the north and south flanking sections are all quite small, apparently intentionally so, to encourage guests to seek amusement in the common rooms. This is consistent with an early booklet describing the inn which emphasizes the intention of the management that the uses of the "amusement rooms" and the bedrooms be well differentiated. The bedrooms of the main block open onto a central Palm Court, which is open from the third floor to the roof and surrounded at each level by a plaster tile-coped balcony. The luxuriant greenery inside the court is bathed in sunlight from the roof skylight which extends the length of the court. The unusual width of the interior partition walls was expressly intended to insure absolute separation of recreation and rest. The partition walls separating the unusually wide corridors and bedrooms are tile partitions almost one-and-one-half feet thick, and the ceilings of the main lobby and of the former bowling alley and billiard rooms are constructed of solid concrete over one foot in thickness. The handsome original solid oak bedroom furniture, produced by the White Furniture Company of Mebane, North Carolina in a severe slat-like style reminiscent of the geometric dignity and simplicity of William Morris's English furniture, is still in use. The bathrooms retain the elegant original porcelain fixtures and light fixtures, manufactured by Haines, Jones and Cadbury of Philadelphia. All the floor surfaces in the inn, including the steps, are covered with ceramic tile in varying sizes and designs. The inn advertised following its opening that not a single electric bulb was visible; the more than 600 solid copper indirect lighting fixtures, manufactured for the inn at the time of its construction by the Roycrofters are still functioning. The square suspended fixtures which illuminate the first floor of the south wing contain an abstract fleur-de-lis pattern. Conical fixtures with turquoise accents suspended from the ceiling and copper lanterns hung between the side bays illuminate the dining room. Simple suspended globes light the corridors of the sleeping areas.

The major renovation of the Grove Park Inn, which occurred in 1955 upon its purchase by the Jack Tar Hotel Company, was effected with respect for both the interior and exterior of the structure. The finest of the original furnishings were renewed and retained, although the original rugs had to be replaced. A private bath was installed to serve each room, those in the wing rooms created within one of the two cavernous trunk closets which each of these chambers possessed. Terraces were enclosed and an outside swimming pool and sundeck were added. The addition of a fifty-room lodge south of the inn in 1958 and a recent guest wing to the northernmost section have completed the complex to the present.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

E. W. Grove, owner of the pharmaceutical firm manufacturing Bromo-Quinine, was the builder of the Grove Park Inn. He had come to Asheville to establish a chemical company and found the climate so much to his liking that he purchased land there. A log building he had seen in Yellowstone Park suggested to him the idea of constructing a mountain lodge. His concept, however, called for building with the natural rough stone of the mountain on whose western slope he planned to locate the lodge. He consulted several architects and, feeling that none had grasped his idea, he entrusted the design to his son-in-law, Fred L. Seely. A former newspaperman, Seely undertook to design and construct Grove Park Inn without engaging an architect or contractor.

The huge boulders which form the walls and terraces of the hotel were brought to the site by trains of fifteen wagons carrying over forty tons of stone on each trip. A few of the boulders range in weight from three to five tons. Hundreds of North Carolina laborers were employed as well as Italian masons. Instructions were given that when the inn was finished "not a piece of stone was to be visible to the eye except it show the time-etched face given it by thousands of years of sun and rain that had beaten on it." The rocks were laid with lichens and moss just as they were found. The hotel was completed in eleven months and twenty-seven days, and its grand opening was held on July 1, 1913. William Jennings Bryan gave the opening address. An early advertisement in the National Geographic boasted

Four hundred one-piece rugs were made at Aubusson, France.
Seven hundred pieces of furniture and over 600 lighting fixtures of solid copper made by hand by the Roycrofters.

The rugs lasted until 1955, and the lighting fixtures are still in use. The Roycrofters were a colony of artisans and artists located in East Aurora, New York. Founded by socialist author and publisher Elbert Hubbard, the colony followed a doctrine similar to that of William Morris and produced handmade books, furniture, wrought-iron work, and other objects. The retention of such a great quantity of their handwork is quite significant, esthetically and historically.

Over the years the hotel has entertained many famous guests including the Franklin Delano Roosevelt family, Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, and President Woodrow Wilson. Federal agencies took over the property during World War II, from 1942 to 1946. The State Department used it as an

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internment center for Axis diplomats, and later the Navy used it as a rest and rehabilitation center. The Philippine government in exile was then located in one of the cottages on the sixty-acre tract. For a decade after the war its owner, Ike Hall, operated the hotel but decided to sell it and return to business in Oklahoma.

Jack Tar Hotel Company bought the hotel September 28, 1955. Considerable effort was made to restore the resort to its original state, and the original oak furniture was refinished. Fifty rooms were added in 1958, and a new north wing was opened in 1963. Located about a mile from the top of Sunset Mountain, Grove Park Inn is now operated by the Jack Tar Hotel Company as a summer resort and convention center.

The materials from which the Grove Park Inn was constructed were taken in large part from the mountain on which it stands. The structure reflects an earnest attempt to erect an honest building with no substitution of contemporary popular design for classic construction forms, all the more remarkable because it was designed by an amateur architect during an era of gaudy architectural pretension. The inn is a vernacular reflection of the architectural use of native materials on a massive and rough scale which was popularized by H. H. Richardson and others. The unusual and striking intimacy between the structure and its natural environment is one of the factors in the continued success of the Grove Park Inn in its intended function and perhaps the chief factor in its architectural significance.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buncombe County Records, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Buncombe County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Grove Park Inn: Finest Resort Hotel in the World. Pamphlet printed in early years of the hotel, reprinted recently, presumably by the Jack Tar Hotel Company, Inc., Dallas, Texas.
 The Grove Park Inn Story. Pamphlet printed presumably by the Jack Tar Hotel Company, Dallas, Texas, no date, but since 1958.

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	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	35°	37'	15"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	82°	31'	26"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 5 April 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 109 East Jones Street

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

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12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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, State Department of Archives and History

Date 5 April 1972

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

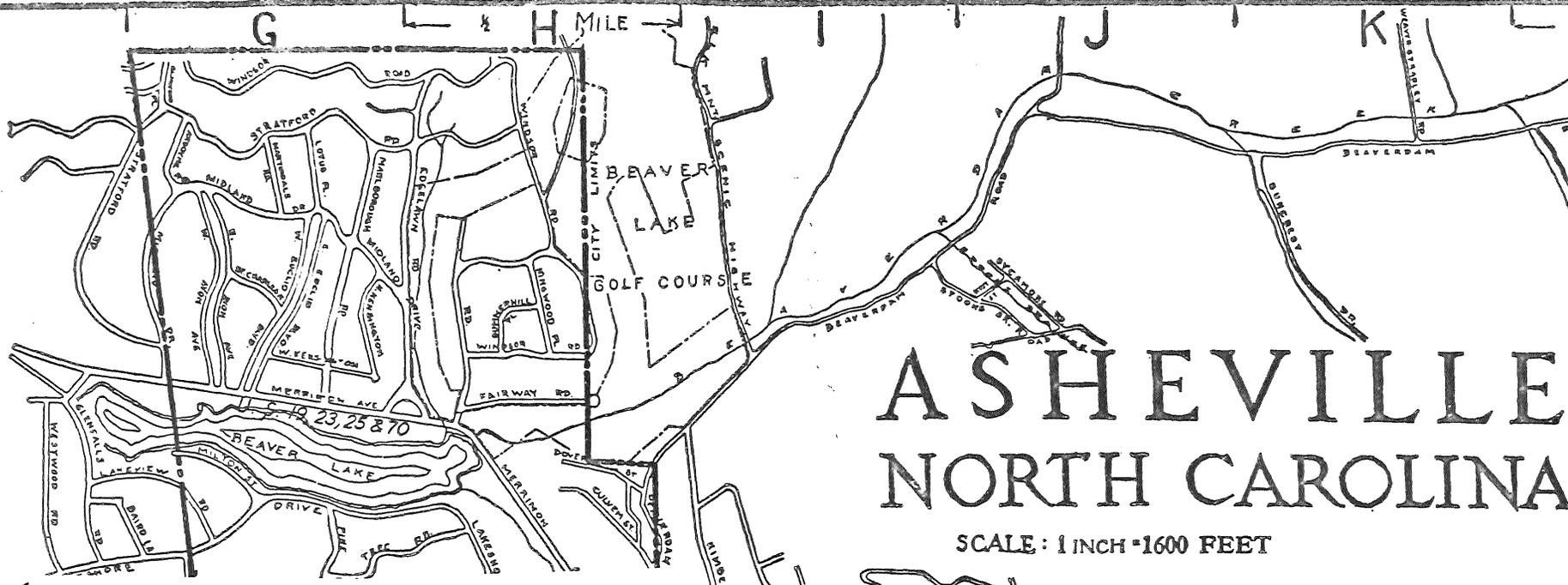
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

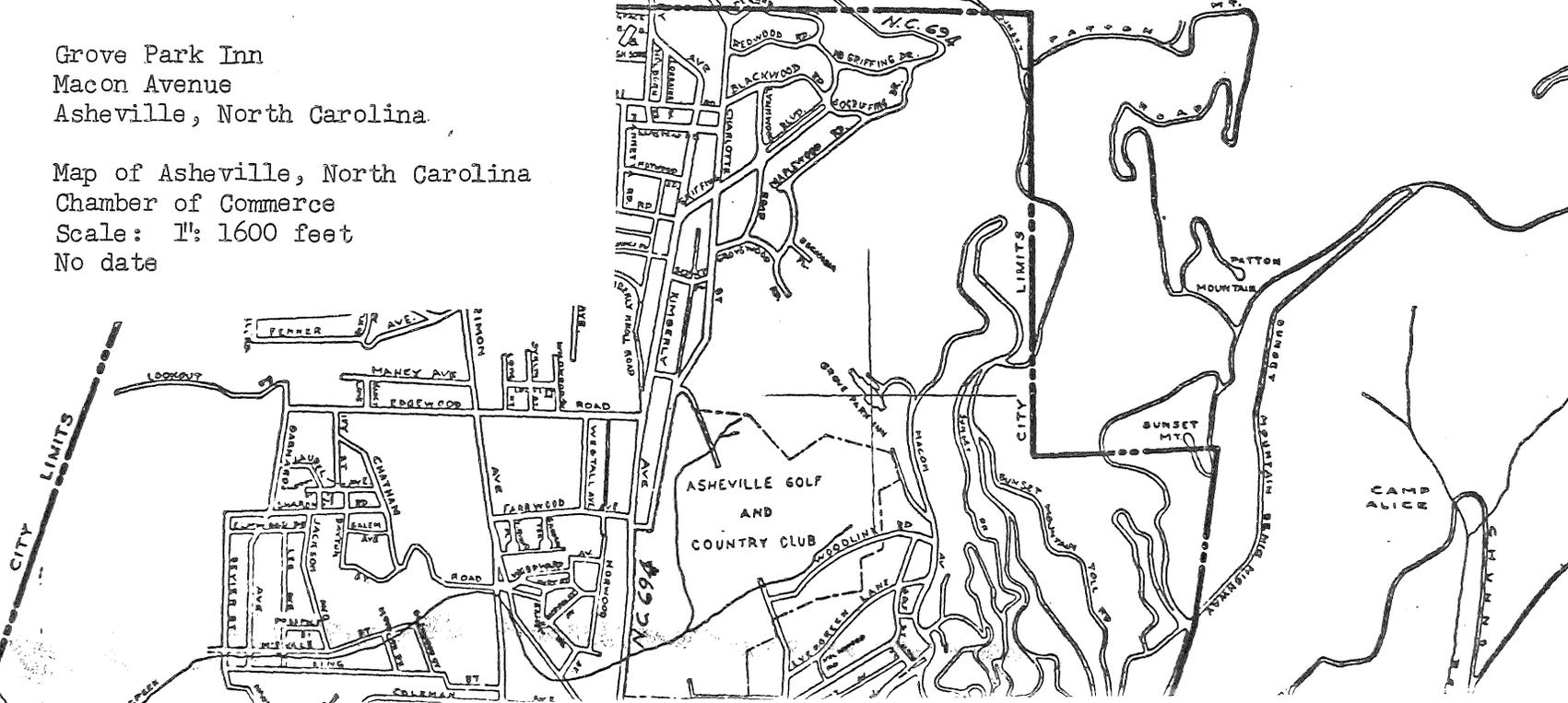
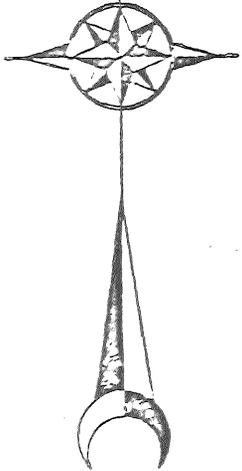


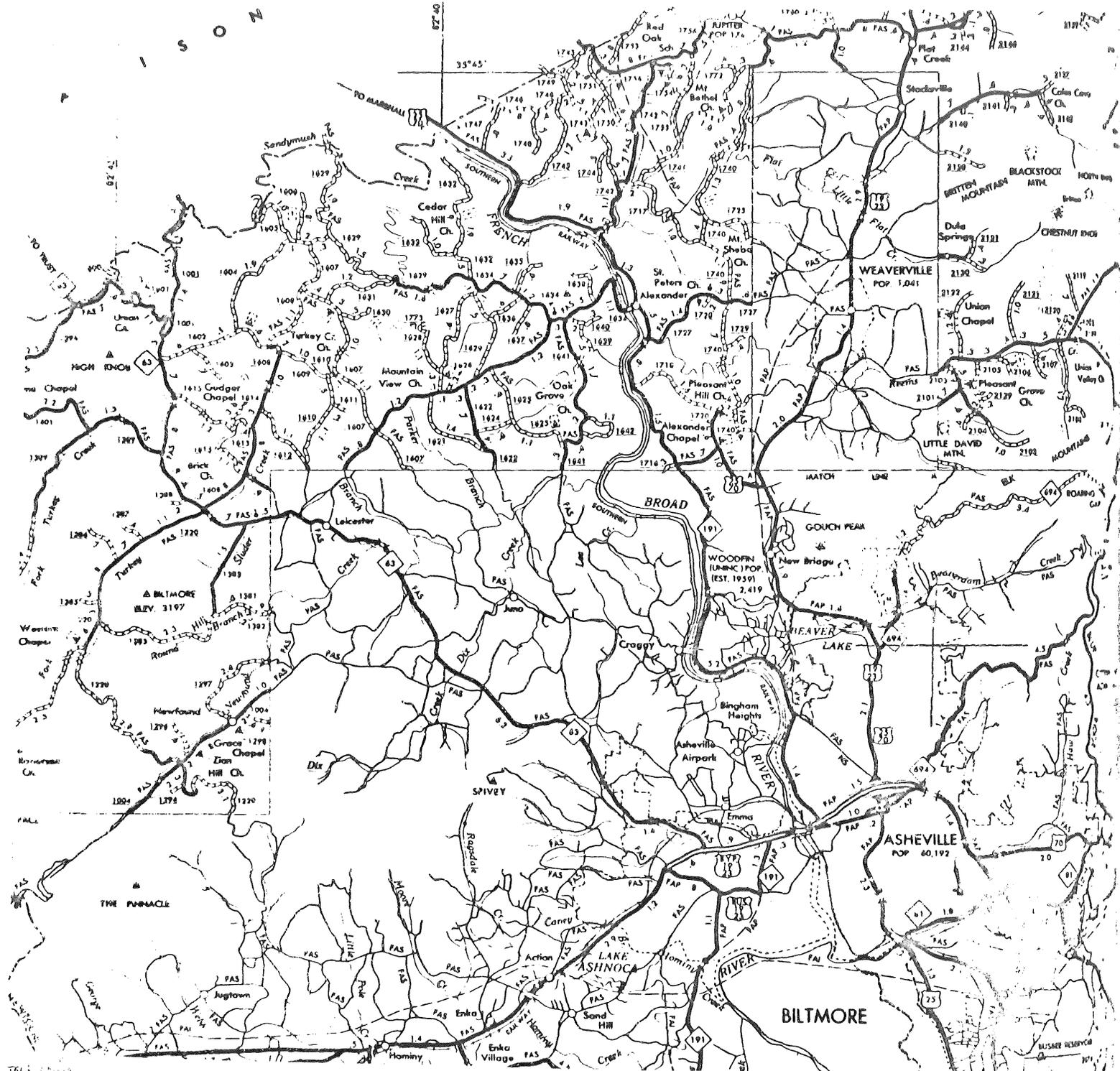
ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA

SCALE: 1 INCH = 1600 FEET

Grove Park Inn
Macon Avenue
Asheville, North Carolina.

Map of Asheville, North Carolina
Chamber of Commerce
Scale: 1": 1600 feet
No date





Grove Park Inn
 Macon Avenue
 Asheville, North Carolina

State Highway Commission,
 Map of Buncombe County
 Scale: 1/2" = 1 mile
 January 1, 1962

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	37	15	82	31	26



FOREST

