### 1. NAME

**COMMON:**
Block House Site

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
One-half mile east of US 176, near North Carolina-South Carolina boundary

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Tryon vicinity

**STATE:**
North Carolina

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>[ ] Occupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>[ ] Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>[ ] Preservation work in progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
- [ ] Agricultural
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Educational
- [ ] Entertainment
- [ ] Government
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Museum
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Private Residence
- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Scientific
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Comments

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**OWNER'S NAME:**
Converse College

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
East Main Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Spartanburg

**STATE:**
South Carolina

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**
Polk County Courthouse—Register of Deeds Office

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
Courthouse Square

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Columbus

**STATE:**
North Carolina

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**

**STATE:**

**CODE:**
The stone marking the end of the 1772 dividing line between the states of North and South Carolina is in a meadow near which the Block House stood. The surrounding area has been adapted for use as a pasture, stables, and racetrack. The Block House was moved some three hundred yards from South Carolina to its present site in North Carolina in 1942. It was originally a "dog trot" log cabin having two rooms divided by a roofed passage with an open end. In 1944, and at several subsequent periods the house was remodeled, enlarged, and embellished.
As early as 1750 the Block House site was prominent as a landmark on the old Blackstock Road, which ran from lower South Carolina to the mountains. The house itself was constructed about 1756 as a trading post and was modified soon after for use as a fortress to protect local settlers during the French and Indian War. After the Treaty of 1763, and a subsequent agreement with the Cherokees in 1767, a new emphasis was placed on extending the border between North and South Carolina further west. A line was finalized in 1772 with the Block House as its western terminus. During the Revolution the site served as a staging area for various Tory and "Rebel" bands, and was renamed "Fort Howard" for a short time in 1776, in honor of "Captain" Thomas Howard, who led a group in a raid against an encampment of Tories and Indians nearby. In 1813, the site again played a role in a boundary question between the two Carolinas. At a conference held near the Block House, a new line was drawn up by commissioners from both states with the site utilized as the starting point. On September 15, 1815, after this boundary was officially accepted, a stone was placed on the site marking the North and South Carolina border and the beginning of the 1813 boundary line.

During the years following the Civil War the site was a camp on a primary trade route connecting Charleston with the western mountains. The local people used the site's unusual geographic location for illegal cock fights and whiskey manufacture. Since the Block House property extended into two counties in South Carolina and one in North Carolina, avoiding the law in one county, or state, necessitated a move of only a few feet.

The Block House remained on the site until 1942 when it was moved three hundred yards into North Carolina. The site is presently owned by Converse College and still contains the 1813 marker stone in its original position as the lone reminder of the more than two centuries of political and historical events.
I, SEO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-666), 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 Dr. H. G. Jones
Title Director, State Department of Archives and History
Date July 17, 1970