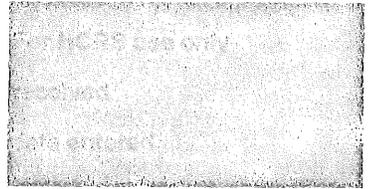


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service



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 Pine Crest Inn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Pine Crest Lane \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Tryon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Eleventh

state North Carolina code 37 county Polk code 149

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert and Frances Hull

street & number P. O. Box 1030

city, town Tryon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Columbus \_\_\_\_\_ state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Situated on Godshaw Hill, one of the several prominent hills of Tryon, the Pine Crest Inn consists of the inn and ten cottages with a total of 34 guest rooms and dining and gathering facilities. The resort complex blends with the otherwise residential Godshaw Hill neighborhood. Inconspicuous wooden signs direct the visitor down Pine Crest Lane, a cul-de-sac terminating in a loop lined with private residences that encircle the Inn. A large millstone on end at the head of a landscaped plot in front of the Inn marks the main entrance at the beginning of the loop. The visitor may follow the narrow drive to the front of this building or continue along the loop to the cottages. Manicured lawns, which afford spectacular views of the surrounding countryside, particularly during the winter months, extend from the main building to embrace several of the cottages, while wooded areas surround those cottages on the periphery.

The two-story-with-attic Inn and three one-and-one-half story cottages situated in an arc to the north of the Inn compose the nucleus of the Pine Crest Inn complex. These structures were erected around 1906 as a tuberculosis sanatorium by an unidentified builder in a standard version of the popular Neo-Classical Revival style. Pedimented gables, wide cornice boards, and attached one-story shed porches supported by Tuscan columns distinguish these weatherboarded structures. The Inn is a long and broad building with a narrower wing across its south end which renders the building a modified "T". One exterior and two interior brick chimneys punctuate the gabled roofs. Individual and coupled double-hung sash windows, either multiple-paned or one-over-one, are symmetrically positioned around the building.

A few plate glass and louvered windows reflect remodelling which includes several additions. Except for the projecting gable-roofed portion over the main, north entrance and a portion to the west of this entrance, the wrap-around porch was enclosed during the 1930s to expand the dining and living areas on the first floor. The two-story addition to the southeast corner of the building is a more recent expansion of the service area. A wide terrace along the west flank of the building and a massive, single-shouldered stone chimney with an exterior fireplace on the east constitute the most striking additions.

In expanding the interior space, these alterations have not marred its integrity, determined by plaster walls and woodwork, wainscoting and exposed beams of heart pine on the first floor. The stone chimney serves a wide dining room fireplace, the hearth and mantle of which came from the old Saluda, N. C., post office. Similar to the interiors of the cottages, the individual guest rooms that occupy the second floor are panelled in knotty pine.

The three cottages contemporary with the Inn have cross gable roofs and two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps. During the 1930s, doors replaced the vents in the front gables and the projecting gable roofs above the first-story entrances were replaced with flat roofs and railings to form entrances to second-floor suites. These three cottages vary in the placement of the outside staircase to these second-story entrances and the first-story porch railings. The porch supports of Building #1 have been replaced with chamfered posts.

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Six of the remaining seven cottages, in a variety of styles, exude a certain air of rusticity. Carter Brown, who established the Inn in 1917, designed and built four of these cottages. During the 1920s he built the Gatehouse as his private residence. The one-story frame, gable-roofed, H-shaped building with a large exterior stone chimney has been remodeled in recent years by the current owners who added a small, one-story, gable-roofed wing and re-sided the entire building in rusticated weatherboarding.

Built in the early 1920s, the Woodcutter's Cottage is a small, jerkin-headed frame structure with shed-roofed wings that sports an interior stone chimney, attic vents of cut-out boards and decorative cut-out bargeboard along the roofline of the main facade. Originally sided in a horizontal German siding that interlocked and extended beyond the corners in emulation of log construction, the cottage recently has been sheathed in a material that resembles reverse board and batten siding.

Brown designed the German-sided, splayed gable-roofed, multi-level cottage built into the side of a hill as a service building. Known as the Ice Cube for its basement room that provided vegetable storage, the cottage also contained a compressor, a laundry, and servants quarters. After having fallen into disuse for several years it was renovated as a guest cottage by the current owners. Deep eaves with projecting beams and an exterior stone chimney that penetrates the roof overhang distinguish the cottage.

Around 1933 Brown designed the one-story, L-shaped gable-roofed house of load-bearing random-ashlar construction with an interior stone chimney and metal-framed casement windows.

Two of the cottages are "re-cycled" structures. Brown moved the components of the Twain and Swayback cottages from the Tennessee mountains around 1935 and reconstructed them as resort accommodations. When he re-assembled the half-dovetailed, hewn logs of the latter building, he sheathed the gables with rusticated weatherboarding and reconstructed the gable roof so that it sags in the middle. The Twain Cottage consists of two hewn log cabins with interior stone chimneys that are saddle-notched on the south corners and half-dovetailed on the north. A gable-roofed section constructed by Brown connects the two gable-roofed cabins so that the resultant cottage is H-shaped. The front half of the gable-roofed connector is a recessed porch with a wall of random-coursed ashlar that is the base of a wide chimney.

Although incompatible with the rustic quality of the other cottages, the 1960 L-shaped, one-story Britton Cottage sheathed in cedar shakes fits comfortably into the complex due to its mature landscaping.

## 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 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 checked="" 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) recreation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1906-07

Builder/Architect

Unknown for original buildings.  
Later structures by Carter Brown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pine Crest Inn is the last of the four major inns still in operation associated with the early development of Tryon as one of the finest resort communities of western North Carolina. The moderating climate and the notable scenery of the small town on the southern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains began to attract summer visitors from across the nation after the arrival of the railroad in 1877. Among these early visitors were persons suffering from various respiratory ailments, and the original four buildings of the Pine Crest were built in 1906 as a tuberculosis sanatorium called the Thermal Belt Sanatorium. In 1917 Carter Brown, a young resort developer from Castle Park, Michigan, took over the property and managed it as the Pine Crest Inn. Brown attracted a large clientele, many of whom stayed and contributed to the growth of Tryon. He was also the moving force behind Tryon's earning a national reputation as an equestrian center. Brown's architectural interests also were manifested throughout the area and are most evident at the Pine Crest where he designed and built four cottages and made other improvements to the property. The inn and its associated cottages are simple structures that reflect the unpretentious comfort that characterizes Tryon's overall quality.

### Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the early development of Tryon into one of the best known resort communities in the region.
- B. Associated with the life and work of Carter Brown, the individual most responsible for Tryon's successful twentieth century development and its national reputation as an equestrian center.

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The history of the Pine Crest Inn and the town of Tryon are intertwined. Tryon has gained fame in many areas, from its vineyards to its crafts and furniture-making to its variety of architecture, but it is perhaps its reputation as a resort with which it is best identified. Engendered by its climate, recreational activities, and friendly citizens, Tryon's resort status is embodied in the numerous inns and boarding houses which have operated over the years and in turn have contributed to the success of the other endeavors associated with Tryon. Since the late 1870s, four hostelryes--McAboy Inn, Oak Hall Hotel, Pine Crest Inn and Thousand Pines Inn--have signified Tryon's fame as a resort. Of these four, only the Pine Crest Inn continues to operate and maintain the high standards established by its developer, Carter Brown, standards that create a reputation of excellence for its gracious hospitality that is unpretentious yet is in keeping with the Inn's position as a resort.

Although Carter Brown's name was synonymous for several decades with the Pine Crest Inn and, indeed, with much of Tryon's architectural and sporting developments, prior to Brown's arrival in Tryon the Inn property was closely associated with the town's reputation for a healthy climate that initially attracted those ailing from lung diseases. Since the advent in Tryon of the Spartanburg-Asheville Railway in 1877, Tryon's location in the Thermal Belt--an area in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains protected from the northern winds so that the temperature is milder than in neighboring towns--had been attracting those seeking a healthy climate. Prior to 1877 there was little major commerce in the area and no tourism as it is known today.<sup>1</sup> During the early 1870s Dr. L.R. McAboy had purchased the Dr. Columbus Mills House just north of Tryon and had expanded and converted it to the McAboy House, soon to become a popular inn. With the construction of the railroad, many of those who had been travelling to Asheville, famous for its tuberculosis sanitoriums, began to visit Tryon and the McAboy House in search of the "cure"; apparently many of the invalids attracted to the warmer climate and pleasant surroundings of Tryon were disillusioned with the unpredictable Asheville weather and tired of being around so many tuberculosis patients.<sup>2</sup> In 1906, three doctors, Earle Grady, E. M. Sally, and W. R. Engel, acquired the nucleus of the Pine Crest Inn property and proceeded to have what would become the main inn building and buildings one, two and three, erected as a tuberculosis sanitorium.<sup>3</sup> Although several other boarding houses and the Oak Hall Hotel (which operated until 1979 when it was razed to make room for a condominium project) were established along Melrose Avenue near the center of town, it appears that the Thermal Belt Sanitorium, Inc. constituted Tryon's first full-fledged sanitorium.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, Tryon experienced a great deal of growth. Crafts operations were established and land values rose rapidly as investors became interested in the town. The number of visitors, more and more frequently tourists instead of patients, rapidly increased. Many of these visitors were train passengers who had time to look around Tryon during stopovers and liked it so much that they decided to stay, often becoming seasonal visitors and permanent residents. Property records indicate, however, that one enterprise that did not succeed was Thermal Belt Sanitorium. In December of 1911, E. M. Sally purchased the interests of Drs. Grady and Earle, and when Carter Brown arrived in Tryon in 1917, the property had been idle for several years.<sup>4</sup>

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In 1916, Carter Brown had graduated from the University of Illinois, married and immediately purchased from his uncle, John Parr, the Castle (later known as Castle Park), a modest summer resort near Holland, Michigan. In September of 1917, realizing that the winter would be long and unproductive after their first season of operating the Castle, the Browns visited Tryon at the urging of Mrs. Brown's grandmother who recently had visited the area.<sup>5</sup> They were so impressed with the town and the sanitorium property that they rented the property from Dr. Sally for the winter seasons of 1917-1918 and 1918-1919 and with H. A. Wilkie, Mrs. Brown's father, purchased it in 1920.<sup>6</sup> The Browns named the Tryon property the Pine Crest Inn and continued to operate it from October to May until 1951. (They operated the Castle from June through September until 1977.)

Over the years the Browns upgraded and enlarged the Pine Crest Inn and attracted a substantial "carriage trade" clientele to Tryon. Many of their guests continued a trend that had been established in Tryon during the late nineteenth century by buying property in the town. These seasonal or year-round residents in turn attracted others who would stay at the Inn and perpetuate the trend. Thus the Pine Crest Inn became a focal point for Tryon's growth and ultimate development.

The Pine Crest Inn has entertained a diverse assortment of guests during its 62 years of operation. They include South Carolina governor Jimmy Byrns; "Lefty" Flynn of silent movie fame and his wife Nora Langhorne, the screen's Gibson Girl; author F. Scott Fitzgerald; Lord and Lady Astor; and the historians Mary and Charles Beard (he wrote The Republic in the Woodcutter's Cottage). Industrial magnates include Harry Ferguson of Ferguson Tractors and John Kimberly of Kimberly-Clark Paper Co.<sup>7</sup> Many of the guests were upper-mid-westerners, due to Carter Brown's ties there, and the majority were sporting people.

Although many Pine Crest Inn guests were merely looking for the relaxed atmosphere it affords, a strong interest in horses always has been in the foreground. Carter Brown was a principal force in establishing Tryon as an equestrian center of national importance. Brown opened riding trails, started Tryon's annual horse and hound show and steeplechase, and popularized fox hunting. At the Inn he maintained the Galax Stables of riding and steeplechase horses and he kennelled hounds. In developing Tryon's reputation as a riding and hunting center, he built on a tradition that dated from the early 1800s when settlers from the South Carolina Low Country laid out race paths in the area for horse racing and fox hunting. Many of the first residents of Tryon had re-established these sports, and Brown proceeded to make them part of Tryon's essential business and community character.<sup>8</sup> Through Brown's efforts, these sporting activities attracted many of the people, including the U. S. Equestrian Team which was based in Tryon for many years, and contributed a great deal to the atmosphere of Tryon. The Pine Crest Inn continues to be identified with those efforts.

Brown's interest in horses was associated with his interest in local architecture. He stabilized a fort and trading post known as the Block House and converted it to a private residence, as well as encouraged its nomination to the National Register. He also carved out the Harmon Field race course next to the Block House, the site of the horse show and football, baseball and track events. Brown strongly demonstrated his architectural interests at the Inn; he designed and built four of the cottages and moved three log cabins to the property and converted them to resort cottages.

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Brown also instituted many activities associated solely with the Pine Crest Inn. These included Thanksgiving dinner preceding the opening formal fox hunt of the season; weekly barbecues at the large outside stone fireplace; mid-day and moonlight picnics in the surrounding mountains; and candlelight Sunday evening buffet suppers, followed by group singing. He also established a school in a cottage once located on the site of the Britton Cottage. This one-room building with a large porch on which the desks were located accommodated five to twenty students. They were Inn guests and children of former guests who became permanent Tryon residents, and they were taught by a Miss Pasick.

In 1951, Carter Brown sold the Inn to a partner, Edwin McLean.<sup>10</sup> Brown continued to live in Tryon until the late 1960s when he returned permanently to Castle Park, Michigan where he died in 1978. McLean and subsequent owner Bob Ernst continued to maintain the high standards of the Inn established by Brown. Current owners Bob and Fran Hull acquired the Inn in 1972 and proceeded to restore those cottages which McLean and Ernst had stopped using. Through the talents of Fran Hull, who cooks all of the meals served in the dining room, the Pine Crest Inn has earned another fine reputation for its gourmet foods.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Diane E. Lea and Claudia Roberts, An Architectural and Historical Survey of Tryon, N. C. (Raleigh, N. C.; N. C. Division of Archives and History, 1979), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>3</sup>Polk County Registry of Deeds, Book #22, Page 60, June 6, 1906.

<sup>4</sup>Polk County Registry of Deeds, Book #31, Page 152.

<sup>5</sup>Carter W. Brown, letter to Claudia P. Roberts, 30 May 1980.

<sup>6</sup>Polk County Registry of Deeds, Book #39, Page 409, February 28, 1920.

<sup>7</sup>Carter W. Brown.

<sup>8</sup>Lea and Roberts, p. 7.

<sup>9</sup>Carter W. Brown.

<sup>10</sup>Polk County Registry of Deeds, Book #95, Page 274, December 19, 1951.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, Carter W. Letter to Claudia P. Roberts. 30 May 1980.

Interviews with Tryon citizens Elizabeth Farwell, Robert Hull and Helen Wing, May, 1979 and May 1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8.56

Quadrangle name Inman

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

### UMT References

A 

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3	8	9	6	6	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes all of the property identified in the Polk County Tax Office as parcel 3 of block D, tax map 5, and includes the inn and its associated cottages and landscaping.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia P. Roberts, Consultant

organization N. C. Division of Archives and History  
Archaeology and Historic Preservation date October 16, 1980  
Section

street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919-733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

title	date
For NCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	
Chief of Administration	

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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date entered

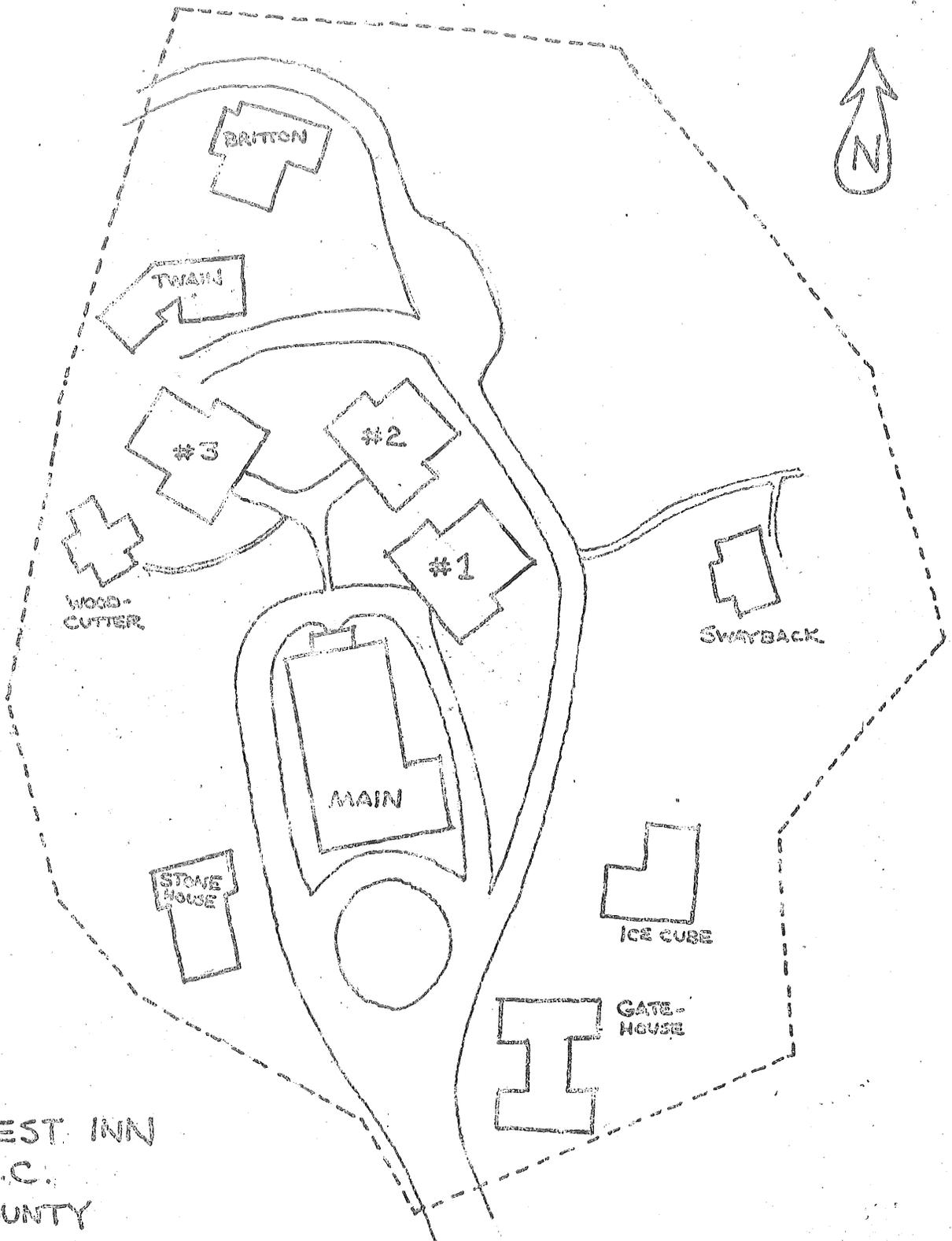
Continuation sheet

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Lea, Diane E. and Claudia Roberts. An Architectural and Historical Survey of Tryon, N. C., Raleigh, N. C. N. C. Division of Archives and History, 1979.

Polk County Registry of Deeds.



PINE CREST INN  
 TRYON, N.C.  
 POLK COUNTY  
 8.56 ACRES

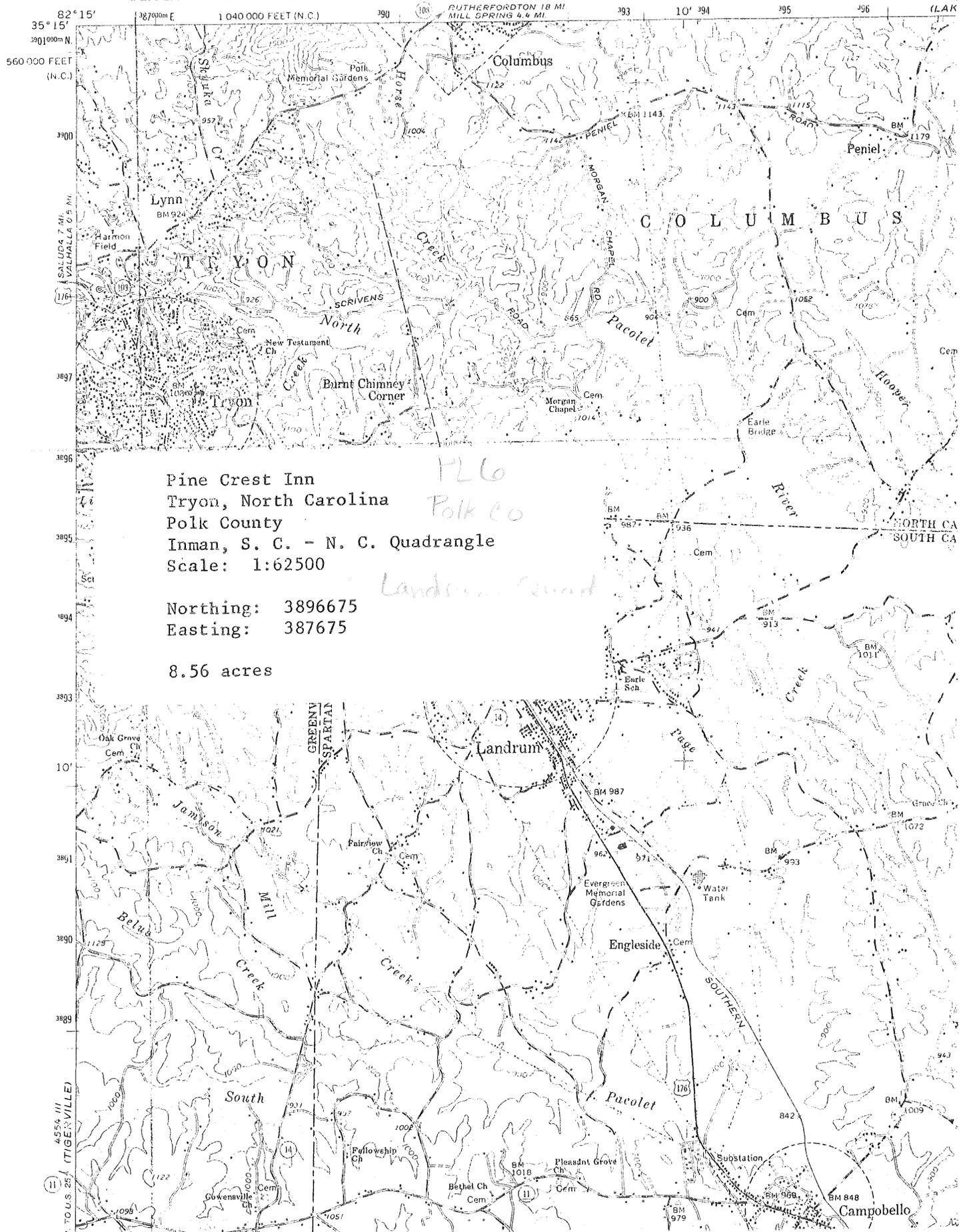
OCTOBER 1980

0 100'  
 APPROXIMATE SCALE

DRAWN FROM POLK COUNTY TAX MAP 5, BLOCK D, LOT 3.

1334 IV SE  
CLIFFFIELD MN 202-SE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Pine Crest Inn  
Tryon, North Carolina  
Polk County  
Inman, S. C. - N. C. Quadrangle  
Scale: 1:62500

*PL6*  
*Polk Co*

Northing: 3896675  
Easting: 387675

*Landrum Road*

8.56 acres

35° 15' N  
3910000 N  
560000 FEET (N.C.)  
3900  
3897  
3896  
3895  
3894  
3893  
10'  
3891  
3890  
3889  
11

82° 15' E  
1040000 FEET (N.C.)  
390  
393  
10' 394  
395  
396 (LAK)

11  
TO U.S. 25 (TIGERVILLE)  
4856 III

