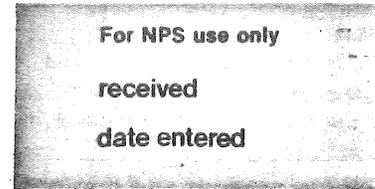


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Church of the Transfiguration

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Henderson and Charles streets not for publication

city, town Saluda N/A vicinity of congressional district

state North Carolina 28773 code 037 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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rev. Tracy H. Lamar, Jr.

street & number Church of the Transfiguration, Henderson and Church streets

city, town Saluda N/A vicinity of state North Carolina 28773

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse

street & number Register of Deeds

city, town Columbus state North Carolina 28722

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title No existing surveys for Saluda or Polk County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in Saluda, North Carolina, the Church of the Transfiguration is an excellent example of the "Carpenter Gothic" style. The church is sited on a hill overlooking the business section of Saluda, a small resort town in mountainous Polk County. The white frame church stands at the corner of Henderson and Charles streets, winding lanes lined with summer cottages. The structure rests on a broad sloping lawn covered with ivy and shaded by tall trees. Large boxwoods stand to either side of its main entrance.

Built in 1889, the Church of the Transfiguration is an example of Carpenter Gothic architecture, a style popular in the United States in the mid to late nineteenth century in which Gothic motifs were executed in wood.

The original rectangular block of the temple-form structure remains intact with a square belltower affixed to its northwest corner. A small rectangular vestry and side porch were added on the north side of the building in 1968.

Like most Carpenter Gothic structures, the church is covered with vertical board and batten siding. The structure has a steeply pitched gable roof with a flared projecting eave. A simple bargeboard with sawtooth shingle mold embellishes each gable eave.

The church sanctuary is lighted by stained glass set in pointed arch windows. Most of the windows were donated to the church as memorials. Narrow comes separate the small panes of stained glass. The geometric shapes of the glass form a narrow vertical pointed pattern. The center of each window features a circular pane of glass inset with a small scene or religious symbol. The delicate tracery and sparkling colors of the windows lend an elegance to both the exterior and the interior of the church.

Originally, the church stood on stone piers. Recently, a cement block foundation has been filled in to better support and insulate the structure.

The main entrance to the church is centered on the west gable end. Wide stone steps with low flanking walls lead to the entrance. The walls curve from the ground and straighten upon ascending. An entrance portico with a flared gable roof on small braced hammer beams abuts the building rhyming the roofline above it. The portico displays the simple bargeboard with sawtooth shingle mold. A Greek cross crowns the portico. Twin lancet windows accent the gable above the portico. Double-leaf doors composed of square and trapezoidal panels lead to the sanctuary through a pointed arch doorway.

A two-tiered belltower stands at the northwest corner of the church. A hipped pent on small pendent brackets separates the lower and upper tiers. The upper belltower has a wide overhanging eave also supported by brackets. Rectangular louvers are located on each side of the upper tier directly above pointed arch windows in the lower tier. A slender steeple and cross rise above the pyramidal splay of the belltower roof.

The south entrance to the church is similar to the main entrance with its gabled portico and stone steps. Like the main entrance, the side portico displays a simple bargeboard with sawtooth shingle edging. A board and batten tympanum beneath the gabled roof is cut out to form a lower pointed entrance arch. A small cross crowns the roof peak. The church is entered through a pointed arch doorway by double-leaf doors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page one

Constructed in 1968, the vestry is attached to the church on the northeast corner. The addition is stylistically imitative of the original structure. It is sheathed with board and batten siding. The overhanging eaves exhibit bargeboards with sawtooth decoration. The vestry also contains small windows with pointed arches and double arched windows centered beneath the gable peak on its north side.

The interior of the church follows a center aisle plan with the main entrance leading to the center aisle. The south side entrance connects with a small aisle which leads to the main passageway.

The interior of the church is sheathed with typical late nineteenth-century "bead board," here set vertically to reinforce the Gothic theme. The roof of the church is supported on the interior by a massive exposed truss system featuring chamfered cross beams. The beams are begged to chamfered pilasters. Flat curved brackets act as capitals for the pilasters.

The original wooden pews of the church remain intact. The pews are attached directly to the walls. The pews are of oak with vertical board backs. The sides of the pews are slightly curved and feature a carved trefoil at each aisle end. The massiveness of the wood adds a note of solidity to the church.

The central altar of the church was carved by the Reverend McCullough, who organized the construction of the church. The altar is centered beneath three splendid stained glass lancet windows on the east end. Applied sawnwork decoration consisting of arches with decorative spandrel-like elements and geometric tracery beneath denticulation carries from the altar across the front of the church. A front altar rail is supported by posts and decorated with brackets. The interior of the church retains the elegant and precise craftsmanship with which it was originally fashioned.

From the sanctuary the vestry is entered through an arched door on the north side towards the east end of the church. The vestry has two rooms which have wide vertical paneling.

Overall the Church of the Transfiguration is a fine late nineteenth-century example of the Carpenter Gothic style utilized in a western North Carolina mountain resort town. Both the interior and the exterior of the building remain almost entirely intact. The 1968 vestry addition blends well with original structure.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) resort community
Specific dates 1889	Builder/Architect Reverend John DeWitt McCullough			

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church of the Transfiguration is a small Carpenter Gothic chapel located in the Polk County town of Saluda, on the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This Episcopal church was finished in 1889 and formally consecrated in 1891. It was built originally to service the many people of Episcopal faith, most of them from South Carolina, who visited the Saluda area in the summer. One of these visitors was the Reverend John DeWitt McCullough, long time rector of the Church of the Advent in nearby Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Reverend Mr. McCullough designed and planned the building, raised money for its construction, and actually helped build a large portion of the church, with help from his sons, townspeople, and theological students from Sewanee Seminary. The small frame building features an exterior sheathed in board and batten siding, a handsome two-tiered belltower, stained glass in pointed arch and lancet windows, and a richly wooded interior displaying original furnishings carved by Reverend McCullough. A small vestry added in 1968 blends well with the original architecture. The church presently has 40 year round communicants and is served by the Reverend Tracy H. Lamar, Jr.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Church of the Transfiguration is a product of western North Carolina's nineteenth century role as summer retreat for the wealthier, largely Episcopalian, population of South Carolina.
- B. The small chapel is a well-crafted example of Carpenter Gothic ecclesiastical architecture, rare for western North Carolina.

EXPL. 10-10-81

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 1

The Church of the Transfiguration is an Episcopal church in the Polk County town of Saluda. The church was constructed during the 1880s and was formally consecrated in 1891. For much of its history it has served largely visitors to the resort areas in and around Saluda.

Saluda is located on the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge mountains. For much of the nineteenth century this area of North Carolina was popular with summer visitors from South Carolina. When the railroad from Spartanburg to Hendersonville came through western Polk County in 1878 the popularity of the area increased. Saluda grew up around the train depot and was chartered in 1881. Located on seven hills, at an altitude of 2,100 feet, the town became "well known for its invigorating climate."¹

One of the visitors to Saluda was the Reverend Mr. John DeWitt McCullough (1822-1902), rector of the Church of the Advent in Spartanburg from 1848 to 1875. McCullough built a summer home in the area, as did William B. Howe, Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina. A number of other Episcopal communicants either owned summer homes in Saluda or were regular visitors. Sometime in the 1880s these men decided to build a summer chapel.² In 1886 Frank Thompson donated a one-half acre plot of land in the center of town to McCullough and three other trustees of the church for the "purpose of building a Protestant Episcopal Church building."³

The Reverend Mr. McCullough designed and helped build churches in several South Carolina towns including Union, Glenn Springs, Gaffney, and Spartanburg. He was responsible for designing and building much of the Church of the Transfiguration. He was assisted in this venture by his sons, friends, and theological students from Sewanee Seminary. McCullough carved the altar himself. Also he was responsible for raising most of the money used in building the church.⁴

The church was completed sometime in 1889. Two years later it was consecrated by Theodore Lyman, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, who wrote:

Monday, August 31, I went to Saluda which is quite a summer resort, near the summit of the Blue Ridge, and which is frequented largely by families from South Carolina. The Bishop of that Diocese has a summer residence there, and Rev. Dr. McCullough has also made that place his summer home for many years past. Chiefly through the active agency of Dr. McCullough, a very neat Chapel has been built at Saluda and as that place is in our Diocese, I was cordially invited to take the building under my spiritual jurisdiction, and consecrate it.⁵

The Reverend Mr. William Stanley Barrows was the first permanent rector of the church after its consecration. He reported to the 1892 Diocesan convention that:

This beautiful little church . . . is virtually a gift from the Diocese of South Carolina to that of North Carolina. . . . The materials were provided by the summer residents and the work was mainly done by the Reverend John D. McCullough and his sons. The altar and chancel furniture were all made by Dean McCullough with his own hands.⁶

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 2

Throughout the 1890s the Church of the Transfiguration held services during the months of May through September. Visiting ministers usually performed the services. In 1893 the "Clergy House Association" was chartered. This organization established a home in Saluda to house the visiting clergyman, most of whom were still from South Carolina.⁷

In the early part of the twentieth century Saluda began to acquire enough permanent Episcopalians to justify keeping the church open for a period longer than just the summer. A library and a mission school were constructed around 1908, largely under the auspices of Saluda physician Dr. Edward Goeltet and his sister Deaconess Julia Goelet. The church was still rarely able to keep a full-time rector for any length of time and visiting ministers continued to hold many of the services.⁸

In 1928 the Reverend Herbert Cary Elwes became the church's full-time rector. He continued in this capacity until 1939. His relatively long tenure gave the church much needed stability and helped it survive the years of the Second World War. The Reverend Elwes returned to Saluda in 1949 and was rector of the church until his retirement in 1955.⁹ It was during his tenure in the 1930s that the Church of the Transfiguration reached its peak membership.

Since his departure the church has had a number of ministers including present rector Tracy H. Lamar, Jr., who had been at Saluda since 1980. The Church of the Transfiguration has 40 year round communicants, although summer services are frequently attended by 100 or more worshipers. The church is a self supporting Organized Mission in the Diocese of Western North Carolina.¹⁰

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 3

NOTES

¹Sadie Smathers Patton, Sketches of Polk County (Asheville: Milton Printing Company, 1950), 67-70, hereinafter cited as Patton, Sketches of Polk County.

²James B. Sill, Historical Sketches of Churches in the Diocese of Western North Carolina (Asheville: Publishing Office of the Church of the Redeemer, 1955), 128-129, hereinafter cited as Sill, Historical Sketches; Western Carolina Tribune (Hendersonville), March 8, 1968; November 1, 1968.

³Polk County Deed Book 7, p. 497. The other trustees were Frank Frost, Peter Shand, and J. M. Gibbes. They were charged a nominal one dollar fee for the land.

⁴Sill, Historical Sketches, 128-129; Tryon Daily Bulletin, December 22, 1976; Western Carolina Tribune (Hendersonville), November 1, 1968.

⁵Journal of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of North Carolina (Raleigh: Greensboro and other cities: various publishers, published annually from 1817 to the present), 1892, p. 57, hereinafter cited as Episcopal Journal, with appropriate year. Although Bishop Lyman wrote that he consecrated the church on August 31, September 1, appears to be the correct date.

⁶Episcopal Journal, 1892, p. 125. At the time of its consecration the Church of the Transfiguration had seven communicants. The church building was valued at \$1,500.

⁷Patton, Sketches of Polk County, 67-70.

⁸Sill, Historical Sketches, 130; Western Carolina Tribune (Hendersonville), March 8, 1968.

⁹Tryon Daily Bulletin, December 22, 1976; Western Carolina Tribune (Hendersonville), November 1, 1968.

¹⁰Telephone interview with Rev. Tracy H. Lamar, Jr., May 21, 1982, notes in file.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.7 acre
Quadrangle name Tigerville, S. C. - N. C.
UMT References Zone 17

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached Polk County tax map S-9, map 12. Property is outlined in red.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

Architectural description by Janet Hutchison, Preservation Assistant
name/title Historical significance by Jim Sumner, Research Specialist

organization N. C. Division of Archives and History date _____
 street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919-733-6545 (Raleigh)
704-298-5024 (Asheville)
 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Rice, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 30, 1982

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Item number 9

Page 1

Journal of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of North Carolina. Raleigh, Greensboro and other cities: Various publishers, published annually from 1817 to the present.

Lamar, Reverend Tracy H., Jr. Telephone interview with. May 21, 1982. Notes in file.

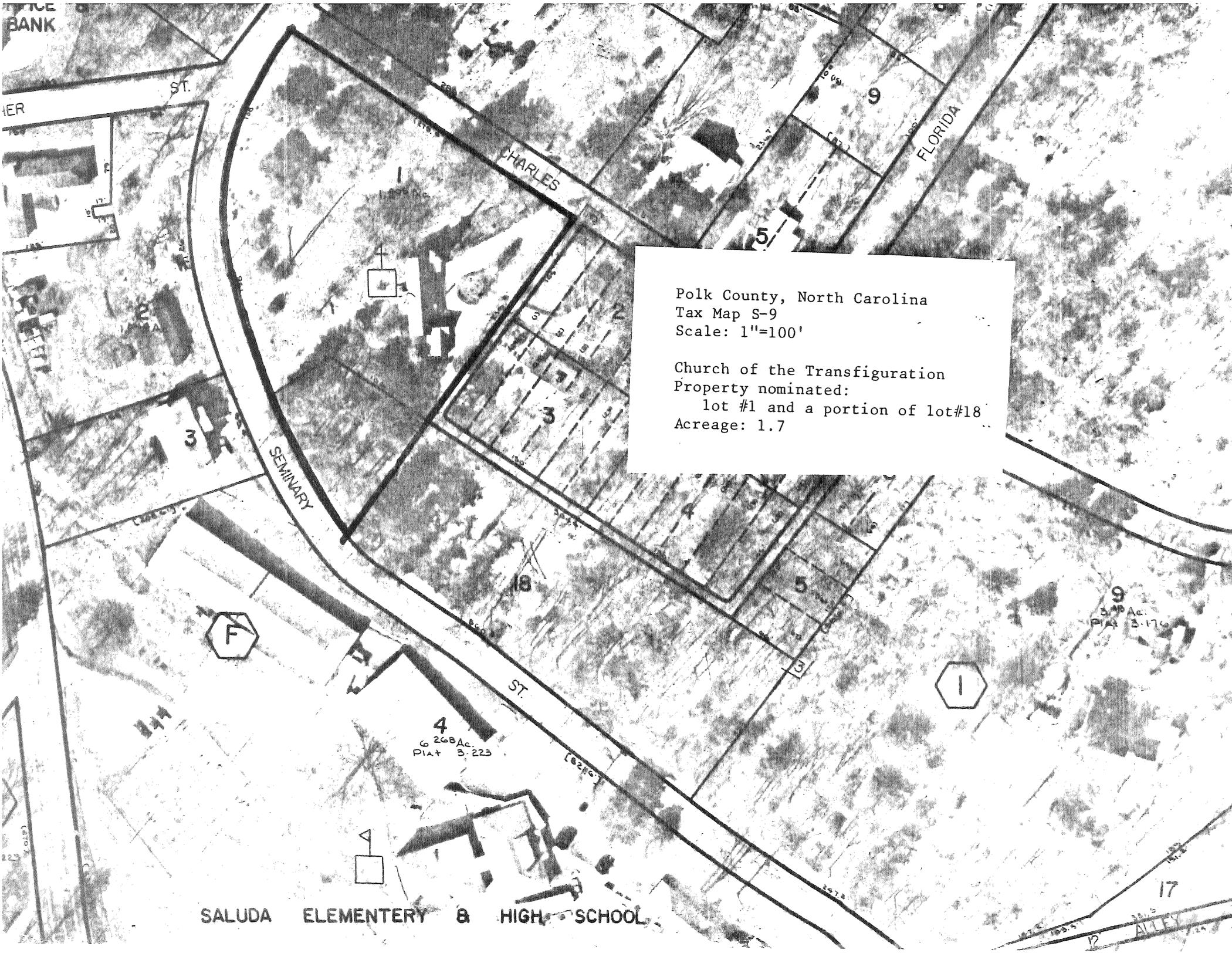
Patton, Sadie Smathers. Sketches of Polk County. Asheville: Miller Printing Company, 1950.

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Sill, James B. Historical Sketches of Churches in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Asheville: Publishing Office of the Church of The Redeemer, 1955.

Tryon Daily Bulletin. December 22, 1976.

Western Carolina Tribune (Hendersonville). March 8, 1968; November 1, 1968.



Polk County, North Carolina
Tax Map S-9
Scale: 1"=100'

Church of the Transfiguration
Property nominated:
lot #1 and a portion of lot#18
Acreage: 1.7

SALUDA ELEMENTERY & HIGH SCHOOL

F

I

4
6.268Ac.
PLAT 3.223

9
3.478Ac.
PLAT 3.176

17

ALLEY

TIGERVILLE QUADRANGLE
SOUTH CAROLINA-NORTH CAROLINA
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

45 94 I
(LAKE LURE)

376

20' (CLIFFFIELD MTN. 202-SE. 1:24 000) 382

1:62 000 FEET (S. C.)

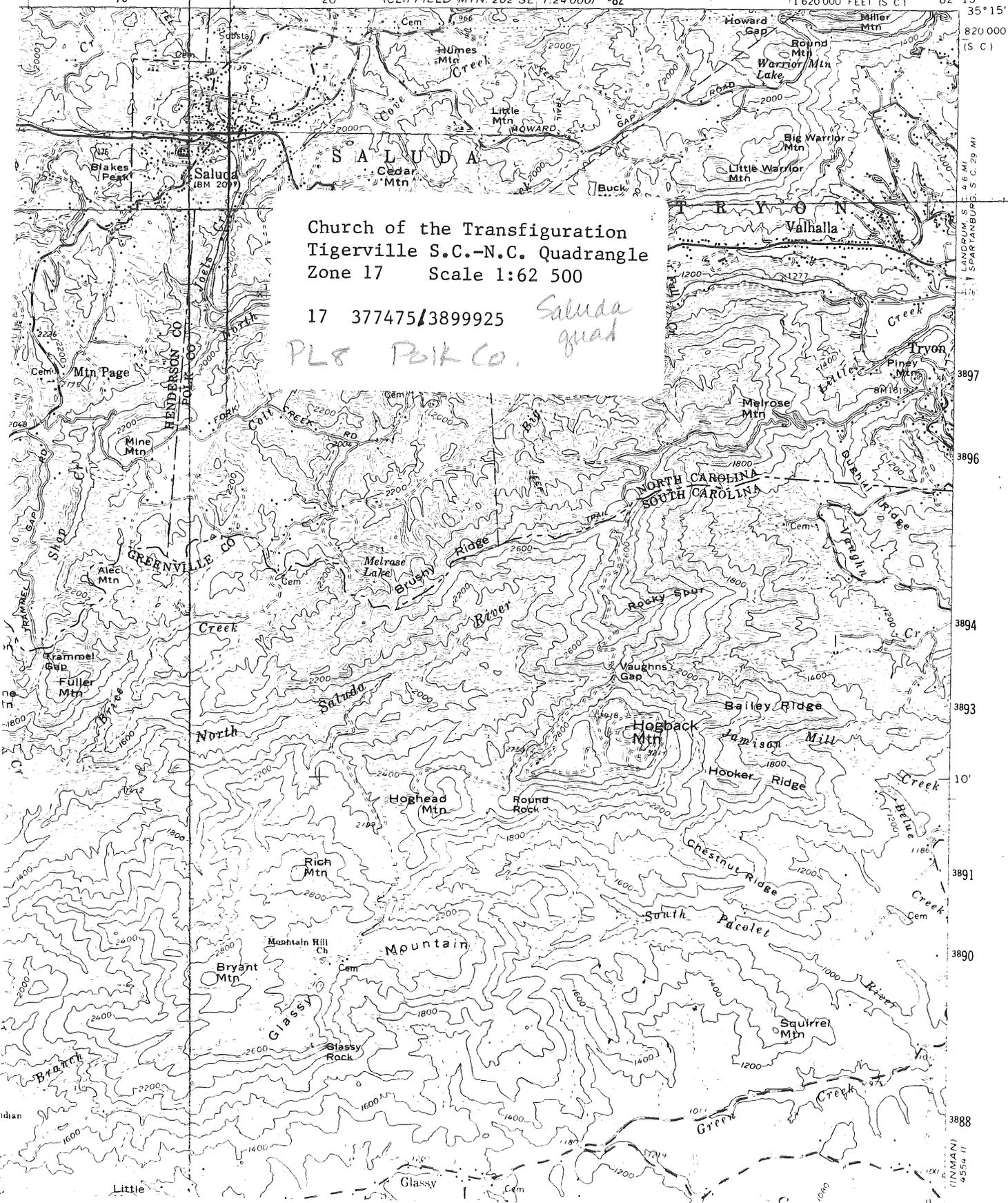
82° 15'

35° 15'

820 000 FEET (S. C.)

Church of the Transfiguration
Tigerville S.C.-N.C. Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:62 500

17 377475/3899925 *Saluda quad*
PL8 Polk Co.



LANDRUM S. C. 4.6 MI.
SPARTANBURG S. C. 29 MI.

(INMAN)
4554 II

