

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hughes, J.G., House
other names/site number Fieldstone

2. Location North Peak Street

street & number N/A not for publication
city, town Columbus N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Polk code 149 zip code 28722

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

William S. Pin, Jr.
Signature of certifying official

3-22-89
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The J.G. Hughes house, North Park Street, Columbus, NC, presents itself as a small architectural jewel against a mountain backdrop. It is sited at the western end of Peak Street, which has been closed by an extension of NC Highway 108. White Oak Mountain rises above the highway and the thickly wooded half of the property provides additional mountain background on the southwest side of the house. Several large trees still stand around the house and there are remains of rock walls which once outlined garden paths and served as retaining walls on the southeast side of the lot.

The Hughes house is an "ebullient example of Queen Anne style house."¹ It was fashioned according to restrictions placed on the deed by Frank M. Stearns, Polk County benefactor. It is a two-story, gable with single cross-gable house of weatherboard, approximately 13 feet by 29 feet, with the cross-gable projecting from the southeast elevation about 10 feet. The house rests on a stone foundation which has been replaced in part with concrete. Originally the house contained two rooms on each floor with a kitchen in a one-story addition to the rear. The house presents a gable to the front or Peak Street facade and to the rear. The front gable shows half-timbering above a pair of two-over-two sash windows in the second floor; the first floor in that gable presents a cutaway bay window with drop pendants. To the southeast is the cross-gable with a pair of two-over-two sash windows on the second floor under staggered shingles. That gable contains on the first floor a pair of two-over-two sash windows with diagonally sheathed bottom panels instead of a doorway, which one might expect. The main doorway is in the Peak Street facade. Of great interest is the wraparound porch, turned away from Peak Street and covering the southeast side of the first floor. The porch is enclosed by a squared balustrade connecting chamfered wooden posts and has bawn, wooden brackets and sawtooth frieze. The porch roof rises in a small

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gable to emphasize the pair of windows with diagonally sheathed bottom panels. The cross-gable in this elevation contains an elaborate vent. Other major windows are two-over-two sash; however, a small Queen Anne, multi-paned window is situated on the south facade, giving light to the entrance hall. All window and door surrounds on the exterior are plain.

The roof of the house, once of tin shingles but now covered with asphalt shingles, has exposed rafters, sawn roof brackets and shows one stepped brick chimney stack at the center of the house. To the rear of the house, a small detached well house is connected to the kitchen by a covered breezeway which has brackets with trefoil motifs.

The interior of the house consisted originally of two rooms on each floor, an entrance hall on the first floor and bath and small hall on the second, and a rear kitchen. About 1925 owners Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Cloud added a one-story dining room to the northwest elevation, approximately 18 by 15 feet, and also extended the old kitchen with its shed roof along the southwest wall of this addition. A wide doorway was made between sitting room and dining room, replacing a double window. At that time, a bathroom was added at the top of the stairs on the second floor. These changes are not easily visible from the Peak Street approach to the house and do not influence its integrity.

The interior of the house retains the original pine and oak floors, and bull's eye door and window surrounds, and six-panel oak doors. The original front door of colored glass panels remains and opens to an oak stairway with oak hand rail and turned balusters and newels. There are no mantels in the house; four stove-pipe openings were let into the central chimney. Changes made to the interior of the Hughes house include the construction of a brick fireplace in the sitting room, the addition of a double opening from sitting room to dining room about 1925, and the extension of the original kitchen along the side of the dining room. These alterations are not intrusive.

About 1925 a board and batten garage was constructed on the northwest edge of the lot. Today it is deteriorating and empty. It is counted as a noncontributing resource.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1896.

Significant Dates

1896

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Eligible for the National Register under criterion C, the J.G. Hughes House located in Columbus, Polk County, North Carolina, is an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture in the late 19th century in Polk County. In fact, it may be the only remaining example of that sub-type in the northern half of Polk County. The two-story, irregularly-massed house was built in 1896 by local civic leader, John G. Hughes.

Historical Context:

Ted Alexander, in his 1985 historic site survey of Polk County, says "the house (Hughes house) is easily one of the most architecturally and historically significant buildings in Columbus."² This Polk County example of the Queen Anne style features wraparound porch with sawn brackets and sawtooth frieze, gabled entry from North Peak Street, cutaway bay window, overhangs with drop pendants and "various exuberant combinations of decorative detailing."³ Originally the house contained two rooms on each floor and a kitchen at the rear under a shed roof. A one-story dining room wing was added to the west elevation in 1925 and the kitchen extended along the length of the dining room but neither addition influences the integrity of the house. The interior has a decorative oak stairway rising from a small entrance hall. Door and window surrounds feature bull's eye corner panels.

Historic Background:

Polk County, North Carolina, was established by the state legislature in 1842.

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However, there was so much heated discussion between the northern and southern halves of the county about the site of the county seat that the legislature repealed the act establishing the county. It was not until 1855 that a second bill to establish Polk County was passed. At that time, commissioners were appointed to lay off a town into lots near the geographic center of the county and to construct public buildings. The town was named Columbus for Dr. Columbus Mills, local resident and legislator, who struggled for the establishment of county and town.⁴ A handsome brick courthouse was erected in Greek Revival style in 1857, designed by Ephraim Clayton.⁵ This building is in use today and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mild climate and fertile bottom lands of the southern half of Polk County encouraged settlement and development there, beginning shortly after the Revolution.⁶ Tryon and Saluda, the county's largest towns, thrived on tourism and summer residents, and the coming of the railroad to those towns in the 1870s assured the rapid development of the southern half of the county. Columbus, the county seat, occupied itself with county business and its supporting businesses but it is best known as the site of the Central Industrial Institute, a local coed school founded in 1891 by Frank M. Stearns, industrialist from Berea, Ohio, who was "charmed with the scenery and impressed with the native intelligence of the people and the lack of educational opportunity."⁷ Before the turn of the century, Stearns had purchased more than 3,000 acres of land in and around Columbus and sold off a number of lots in the town for the benefit of the Central Industrial Institute.⁸

On December 3, 1894, John G. Hughes, of Columbus, purchased lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Stearns's recently-opened development on the north end of Peak Street.⁹ Hughes had been born in Ohio in 1846 and married Mary Roberts, also of Ohio, in 1876.¹⁰ Miss Eunice Cloud, Columbus resident, relates that Hughes first came to Columbus in the timber business,¹¹ but in the 1890s he joined W.S. Cannon in the clothing business in Columbus.¹² In 1903 Hughes was president of the Polk County Telephone Company, located then in the Cannon store building.¹³

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He was a city councilman, and a member of the first Board of Trustees of the Central Industrial Institute, later becoming chairman of that Board.¹⁴

The deed J.G. Hughes signed in 1894 called upon him as purchaser to refrain from polluting water on the property and from "... manufacturing, storing or selling intoxicant liquors or beverages..." It ordered him to plant shade trees "...of reasonable size and kind not to exceed one rod apart", renewing "...the same to maturity when necessary", and to construct a sidewalk in front of the premises. The deed also required that any house on the lot be a "...two story frame building containing not less than five rooms resting upon a stone foundation, the whole structure properly finished to cost not less than eight hundred dollars which said building shall front upon Peak Street and Shall Set back not less than twenty-five feet from the line of Said last named street..."¹⁵

But apparently Hughes found the restrictions too harsh for the construction of a house to fit his budget. On the 14th of May, 1896, Stearns made a second deed to Hughes for lots 1,2,3, and 4 in Block A of the Stearns addition to the town of Columbus. This deed allowed Hughes to construct a one-story frame building containing "...not less than rooms (sic) resting upon a solid foundation, the whole Structure properly finished to cost not less than Five Hundred dollars."¹⁶ Sometime in 1896 Hughes completed the house on North Peak Street, of Queen Anne design, befitting the president of the Polk County Telephone Company, city councilman and trustee of the Central Industrial Institute. In 1901 his wife purchased lot number 5, adjoining the house site to the northwest.¹⁷

Mary Roberts Hughes died in 1912¹⁸. and some time before 1918 Hughes re-married. On October 20, 1918 he completed the sale of the Peak Street house, for \$10,000 to Dr. H.H. Edwards of Polk County, and moved with his bride across Peak Street into a new house purchased from Sears, Roebuck.¹⁹ Hughes died in 1921.²⁰

On October 25, 1925, E.B. Cloud and his wife Ada purchased the Queen Anne house on Peak Street, which Mrs. Cloud had always admired.²¹ Edgar Burgess Cloud was born in Columbus in 1872, son of Vann Cloud. In the Census of 1900 he is

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listed as a "mason",²² but shortly thereafter he attended Wake Forest Law School and began the practice of law in Columbus. He represented Polk County in the state House of Representatives in 1931 and 1935, and was a member of the state Senate in 1915 -1916 and 1919-1920. He was "...generous with his legal services for Stearns School, the Town of Columbus and Polk County."²³ Cloud was mayor of Columbus in 1905, 1923 and 1925, and was active in the service of the Columbus Presbyterian Church. He died in 1958.²⁴

After the death of Mrs. Cloud in 1985, the house was purchased by Dudley Strange of Spartanburg, SC, who has restored the "ebullience" of the house and garden.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Alexander, Ted, Survey of Historic Properties in Polk County, NC, NC Division of Archives and History, 1985.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Polk County Historical Association, History of Polk County, 1983, p. 32.
5. Alexander, op. cit.
6. Ibid.
7. Van Noppen, John and Ina, Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, 1973, page 138.
8. Polk County Historical Association, op. cit., page 34.
9. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 11, page 467
10. United States Census of 1900, Polk County, NC.
11. Miss Eunice Cloud, Columbus, interview, September 15, 1987.
12. Thermal Belt News Journal, commemorative edition, 1855-1980.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 11, page 467.
16. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 13, page 168.
17. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 18, page 242.
18. Columbus Baptist Church cemetery tombstone.
19. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 38, page 484.
20. Polk County Register of Deeds, death certificate.
21. Polk County Register of Deeds, Book 55, page 245.
22. United States Census of 1900, Polk County, NC.
23. Polk County Historical Association, op. cit., page 159.
24. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alexander, Ted, Survey of Historic Properties in Polk County, NC, Division of Archives and History, 1985.
 Cloud, Miss Eunice, Columbus, interview, September 15, 1987.
 Columbus Baptist Church cemetery tombstone.
 Patton, Sadie Snathers, Sketches of Polk County History, Miller Printing Company, Asheville, 1950.
 Polk County Historical Association, Polk County History, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, 1983.
 Polk County Register of Deeds, Polk County Courthouse, Columbus, NC.
 Thermal Belt News Journal, commemorative edition, 1855-1980, Columbus, 1980.
 Van Noppen, John and Ina, Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, Appalachian Consortium Press, Boone, NC, 1973.
 United States Census of 1900, Polk County, NC, Pack Library, Asheville.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 1.92 acres

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

A 17 13901862 16910116701
 Zone Easting Northing
 C

B
 Zone Easting Northing
 D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the 1.92 acre town lot shown on the attached survey dated 1985, prepared for Ada Cloud.

☐ See continuation sheet

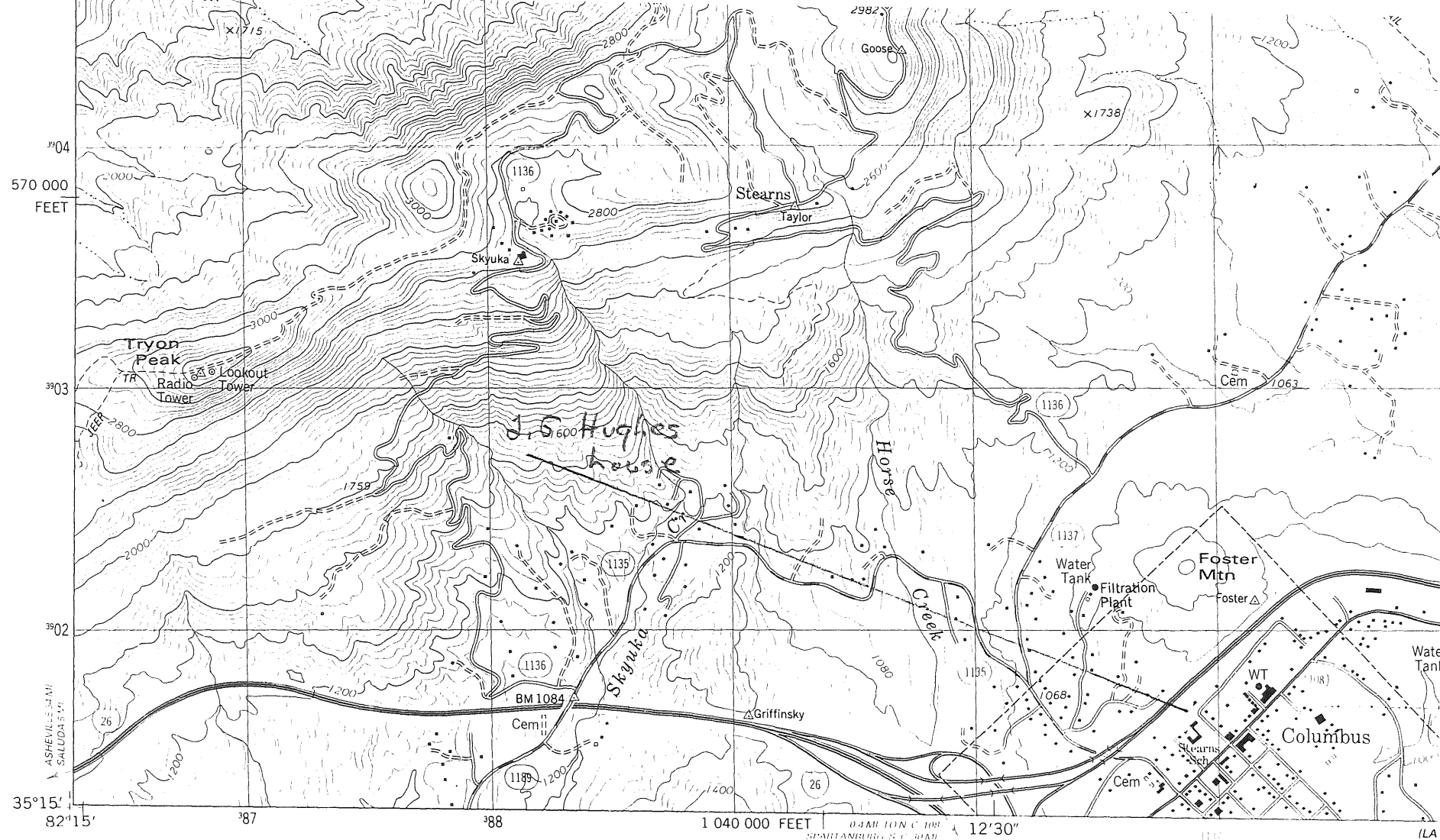
Boundary Justification

The boundary consists of the entire parcel that has historically been associated with the house.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn A. Humphries
 organization NC Div. of Archives & History date December 1, 1987
 street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone 704: 526-9462
 city or town Raleigh, state NC zip code 27611



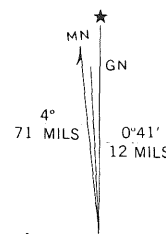
(SALUDA)
4254 MINE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, Tennessee Valley Authority, North Carolina Geodetic Survey, and North Carolina Highway Commission

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1982

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina coordinate system (Lambert conformal conic). 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 9 meters south and 14 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks



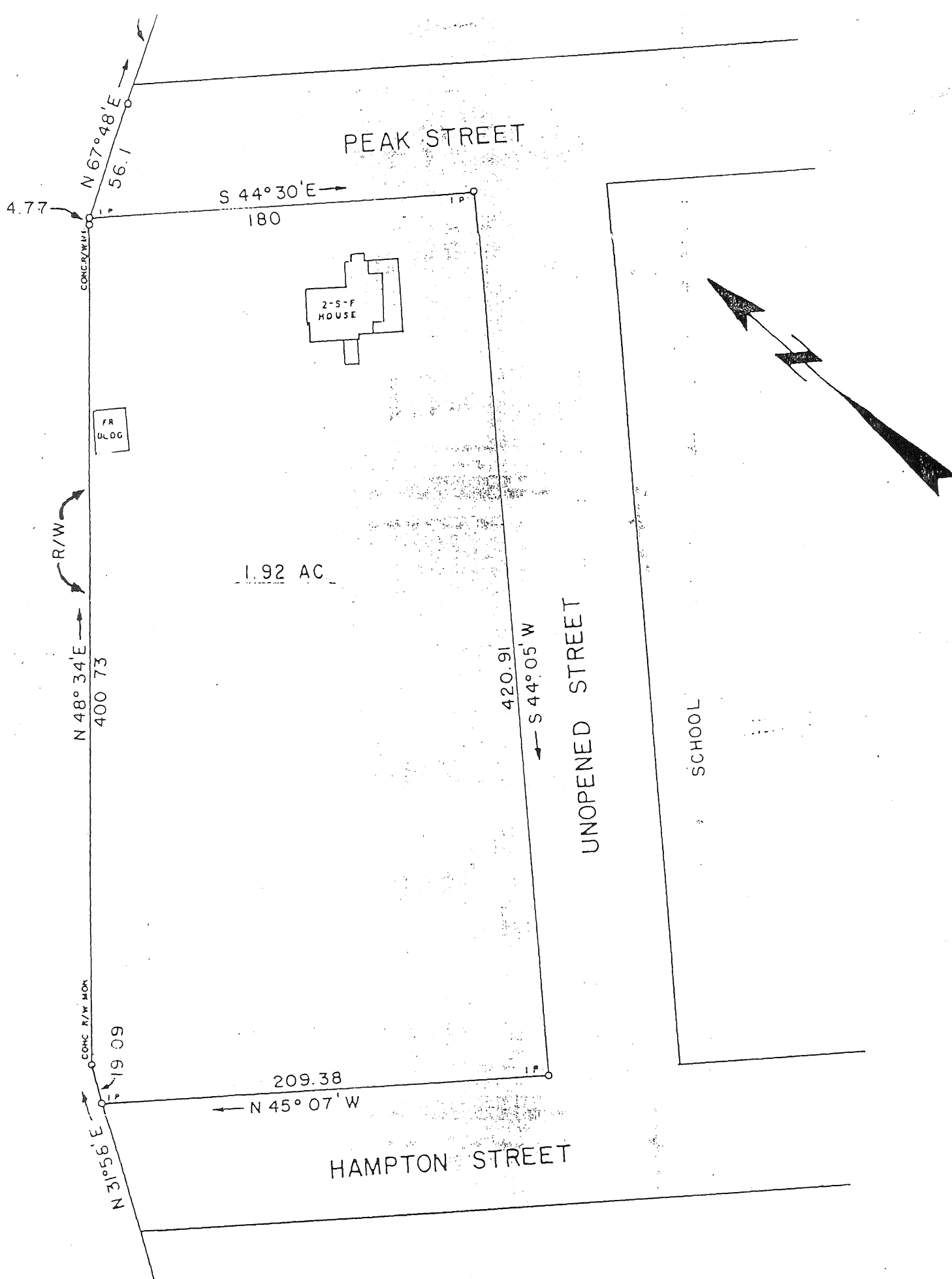
UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

MILL SPRING CREEK

Zone 17
Scale 1:24,000
Easting 390860
Northing 3901670

CONTOUR IN
NATIONAL GEODETIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NA
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS



THIS MAP WAS DRAWN (UNDER MY SUPERVISION)(BY ME) FROM AN ACTUAL SUR-
 N)(BY ME); THAT THE RATIO OF PERCISION AS CALCULATED BY LATITUDES AND
 ; THAT THIS MAP WAS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH G. S. 47-30 AS AM-
 AND SEAL THIS 6th DAY OF APRIL, 1985

G. A. Wolfe

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, CERTIFY THAT G. A. WOLFE, A REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR,
 IE ME THIS DAY AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXECUTION OF THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT.
 AL STAMP OR SEAL THIS 6th DAY OF APRIL, 1985

Mc

V 19, 1986

SURVEY FOR			
ADA CLOUD			
LOCATED AT COLUMBUS			
COUNTY:		STATE:	
POLK		NORTH CAROLINA	
DATE: MARCH 21, 1985	FIELD CHIEF:	DRAWN BY:	
REVISED:	G A W	E M R	
SCALE 1" = 60'			
WOLFE & HUSKEY, INC. - ENGINEERING and SURVEYING P. O. BOX 35 - LYMAN, S. C. 29365			

