

#608

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**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

Glendale Springs Inn

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Southeast corner of the junction of NC 16 and SR 1632  
-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Glendale Springs VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE North Carolina CODE 37 COUNTY Ashe CODE 009

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James Hickland

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Smith

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 116

P.O. Box 117  
Glendale Springs, NC

CITY, TOWN

Laurel Springs

VICINITY OF

North Carolina 28644

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ashe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

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

The Glendale Springs Inn stands on a broad, tree-shaded lot at the center of the small mountain community of Glendale Springs in southeastern Ashe County. The spacious two-story frame structure is built on a T-plan under steeply pitched, intersecting gable roofs, and is covered in plain white weatherboards. The stem of the T and the two wings forming the crosspiece of the T are all roughly of the same dimension; the stem projects to the east and its gable-end base provides the principal entrance to the structure. The first floor of this stem was the original portion of the building, constructed about 1895; in 1902 it was raised to two stories and the north wing was added. The completion of the south wing in 1905 gave the building its present overall form. The consistency of materials and details throughout the inn obscures the fact the form evolved through various stages of construction.

The present porch dates from the 1930s period of occupancy by the WPA during construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The one-story porch is supported by tapered, square-in-section posts; it wraps around all three sides of the projecting stem and continues along the east elevations of the two wings. The brick piers supporting the porch are connected by a latticework screen. Above the front entrance on the gable-end base of the stem, the porch roof breaks into a horseshoe arch. Flanking this entrance bay are two free-standing, tapered, square-in-section posts that rise two full stories and support balconies on the second floor and attic levels. Both balconies have simple balustrades with square-in-section members.

All windows are fitted with double-hung sash. Those of the east gable entrance and others on the first floor level of the stem and the east elevation of the wings have upper sash of four vertical panes, with small square panes at their tops; the lower sash is of one pane. All other windows are of two-over-two sash. Two small four-light windows flank the door onto the attic balcony on the east gable end. The front entrance is a single door, glazed with six lights flanked by sidelights and a twelve-light transom.

The north and south gable ends are each two bays wide. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the south, and an interior brick flue is on the north.

On the rear (west) elevation is centered the steep gable of the west end of the stem. A one-story, shed roof kitchen extension is set under this gable. A free-standing wooden stair rises along the west wall to the roof of this extension, upon which opens a door from the second floor level.

The spacious interior is finished with good quality, standard woodwork of the period. The first floor of the stem is occupied entirely by an open lobby. Here door and window frames are of wide boards trimmed with mitred moldings. A wainscot of narrow vertical boards extends throughout the room. Walls are sheathed with horizontal boards, though on the north and south side walls the sheathing becomes vertical above a wide molding that carries along the wall at door top level. Along the north side wall of the lobby is a closed stringer stair with paneled spandrel; this rises in one unbroken flight to the second floor level. The molded handrail is supported by square-in-section balusters and terminate in a heavy square-in-section newel with a simple cap.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE one

A large kitchen area is located behind the lobby through French doors. The north wing contains large rooms at either end separated by an entrance vestibule off the porch on the east side and a storage area on the west. In the south wing is a hallway along the porch side leading to a second interior stair, and giving access to two additional dining areas, restrooms, and a storage room.

The second floor contains bedrooms and baths for guests. A long hallway extends the full length of the crosspiece along the east wall and ends at large rooms on the north and south ends; on the west side of the hall are four additional smaller rooms and a short hallway leading to the rear exit on the west and an enclosed stair to the attic. Above the lobby in the stem is the stair hall along the north wall, two small bedrooms on the south, and a lounge room on the east that opens onto the second floor balcony.

The attic contains one long, narrow room under the gable of the stem.

No outbuildings associated with the structure survive.

# 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 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 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 1895; 1902; 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*D.W.*

In 1888 Colonel *R.S.* Adams acquired several thousand acres in southeast Ashe County, including lands along the peak of the Blue Ridge dividing Ashe and Wilkes counties. Colonel Adams began the Glendale Springs Inn in 1895 with a one-story frame structure; expansions made in 1902 and 1905 gave the building its present basic form. Through the first two decades of the twentieth century the inn flourished as a vacation resort and inn, and mineral waters from the nearby Glendale Springs were pumped to a tower on the grounds. In 1921 the inn and surrounding acreage were purchased by Thomas C. "Tam" Bowie, a prominent politician and developer of the region, who formed a development company with the intention of promoting the area as a major resort. The depression virtually destroyed this development scheme. From 1935 to 1938 the inn was leased by the Works Progress Administration as its headquarters for construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which passes the inn only 300 yards to the east. During this period the building saw some remodeling done at government expense, with the primary changes being the removal of the water tower and the alteration of the porch to its present form. Later efforts at private resort development were ended with the onset of the Second World War. Since that time the property has changes hands four times, and has been used variously as a hotel, boarding house, community center, and private residence. Recent efforts to reestablish it as a commercial operation have been unsuccessful, and though it remains in good condition, its future is uncertain.

### Criteria Assessment:

- A. The inn is representative of the nineteenth and early twentieth century resort spas of western North Carolina that were the forerunners of present vacation developments. In addition, the inn has significance for its role during construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- C. The rambling, spacious frame inn with its enveloping porches is representative of the character of early resorts of the region, few of which have survived. It is a landmark of southeastern Ashe County.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

The Glendale Springs Inn began as a one-story frame structure constructed in the spring of 1895 by Col. D. W. Adams on land inherited by his wife and sold to him in 1888.<sup>1</sup> Although it served primarily as a general merchandise store, it was called the Glendale Inn. Adams had earlier built an inn at Old Fort and hoped to transfer his success to Ashe County.

In 1902, the second and third floors were added to the original structure as well as the north wing. A United States Post Office was installed (where it remained until the 1930s) and the building was converted to a full-fledged inn with lodging and dining. Date of the 1902 additions was confirmed by the discovery of an order for building materials from a Wilkesboro company written on "Glendale Inn" stationary and dated May, 1902.<sup>2</sup> The document was found in the north wing of the building in the first floor ceiling.

In 1905 Colonel Adams remodeled the structure and added the south wing, a veranda porch, and a second floor balcony that wrapped around the front of the building. He reputedly employed a British architect for the remodeling, and created a tree-lined boulevard leading up to the inn. At that time Adams owned almost 10,000 acres surrounding the structure and it was the only edifice in that part of the county, remaining so until the 1920s.<sup>3</sup>

Because of the immense popularity of spas and resorts in the early 1900s, Colonel Adams launched an effort to convert the inn into a health spa. From 1905 until the mid 1930s water was pumped up from the Glendale Springs to a large water tower on the grounds where it fed into several bathing pools. The springs allegedly contained medicinal compounds; consequently, the water was for some time bottled and sold.

In 1908 the inn became a circuit courthouse and remained one for over ten years. From 1905 until the outbreak of the First World War, the inn was at its zenith also as a popular summer resort and way station for the North Carolina Piedmont, Tennessee, and western Virginia.

Shortly after the war Colonel Adams died. His widow ran the inn until 1921 when poor health forced her to give it up. She sold the inn and about 2,000 acres of surrounding land to her cousin, Thomas C. ("Tam") Bowie. Bowie was a very powerful local politician (seven terms as state legislator, incorporator of company that founded West Jefferson, and promoter of legislation leading to the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority) who viewed the development of the Asheville area to the south as a forerunner for the northern mountains.<sup>4</sup> In 1923 he formed the Glendale Development Company, selling stock to Messrs. McNeil, Jackson, and Barr. They subdivided the property around the inn and began the sale of lots. Most of the land

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

sales went to financial institutions and political figures. The depression all but destroyed the development scheme; however, the inn received a reprieve when Bowie was able to secure the construction of Highway 16 which passed right in front of the structure.

From 1929 until 1935 the inn fell on hard times. It served principally as a hotel, boarding house, country store, and chapel. In 1932 Bowie and Carl Miller bought out the interests of Barr, McNeil, and Jackson.

In 1934 an intriguing political event occurred that profoundly affected the history of Glendale Inn. Congress authorized the construction of a scenic parkway through the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Almost immediately the two latter states engaged in a bitter feud over which was to receive the lion's share of the road. In the political maneuvering that followed, North Carolina's Josiah W. Bailey and Robert L. "Bob" Doughton proved to be too skillful for the Tennessee delegation and North Carolina received the project which became known as the Blue Ridge Parkway.<sup>5</sup> Not too surprisingly, the final route of the Parkway passed only 300 yards in front of the Glendale Inn.

From 1935 until 1938, the inn was leased from Bowie and Miller by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) and the U. S. Corps of Engineers. It became their headquarter during the Parkway's construction. The WPA performed an extensive restoration and remodeling of the inn at federal expense. The water tower was torn down; a deep water well was dug (allegedly the first in that part of the country); the shingle roof was replaced with a tin roof; exterior chimneys were built; cesspools were dug; indoor plumbing added; an inside kitchen was installed; the second floor balcony was removed; and the round pillars were replaced with square ones. Between 1939 and 1942 lots were again sold and the inn began regaining some of its resort popularity.

The Second World War, however, brought the resort and development idea to an end. Bowie lost interest in it and let the inn become a hotel and community center until his death in 1946. His son, Thomas C. Bowie, Jr., inherited his share of the Development Company.<sup>6</sup> He and Miller reached an agreement; Miller assumed ownership of all land held by the company while Tom Bowie kept the inn.

During the next twelve years, the inn was a run down boarding house and then, in 1958, Tom Bowie decided to restore it. Between 1958 and 1960, he spent over \$60,000 in restoration, furniture, and fixtures and renamed the structure the General Adams Inn (having promoted Adams from colonel). It, however, never opened. Fully outfitted, it stood empty until Bowie's death when it was stripped of almost everything. A man named Herman Richardson bought it from the Bowie estate and sold it in 1968 to Mrs. Jessie Andrews, who in turn sold it to James and Flossie Hickland in 1976.<sup>7</sup> During the ownership of Richardson and Andrews, the place was used strictly as a private residence.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

The Hicklands hoped to restore and reopen the inn. Some work to that end was done on the first floor, but capital became short and the second and third floors remain largely untouched. Because of increasing taxes and the prohibitive costs of restoration the Hicklands can no longer afford the structure. Reluctantly they have placed the inn and 2.65 acres of surrounding land for sale.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Ashe County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Ashe County Courthouse, Jefferson, Deed Book HH, 449. Some of the deed books survived the later fire.

<sup>2</sup>The document was discovered by the Hicklands during their effort to renovate the first floor. It is now in their possession.

<sup>3</sup>The deed index which survived the fire indicates that Adams acquired much of the surrounding acreage between 1895 and 1903 to accompany the vast tract he inherited in 1888. See Ashe County Deed Books, cross index, 1799-1821.

<sup>4</sup>Information on Bowie taken from Arthur L. Fletcher, Ashe County: A History (Jefferson: Ashe County Research Association, 1963), 126-129, 237, 243.

<sup>5</sup>The establishment of the Parkway is excellently discussed in Harley E. Jolley, The Blue Ridge Parkway (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1969), 57-92, 122-128. For service of Doughton, see John L. Cheney, Jr., North Carolina Governance 1585-1974 (Raleigh: Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 711, 713, 714, 715, 717, 719, 720, 721, 723, 724, 725, 726, 745 n.

<sup>6</sup>There is no recorded will for Bowie in Ashe County, indicating that he either failed to record it or was not a resident of the county at the time of his death.

<sup>7</sup>According to James Hickland, the deed for clearance of sale to Richardson was made up from associated evidence since there was no record of the transfer to Bowie (it having burned in the '20s). Richardson failed to record the deed since no record of it appears in the index. Hickland obtained the information from the attorney who drafted the deed for Richardson.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashe County Records  
Deeds  
Wills

Cheney, John L., Jr. North Carolina Government 1585-1974. Raleigh: Department of the Secretary of State 1975

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.6

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	4, 6, 5, 8, 1, 0	4, 0, 2, 2, 0, 9, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the entire 2.621 acres that has remained in continuous visual and historic association with the inn building. It is bounded on the southeast by NC Highway 16, on the northwest by the John W. Luke Road (SR 1161) on the northeast by SR 1632, and on the southwest by the Delmer Rose property line (see attached plat).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY** Architectural Description by Michael Southern, Survey Specialist; Statement of Significance by James and Flossie Hickland; Edited by Jerry L. Cross, Researcher

ORGANIZATION	Archeology and Historic Preservation Section N. C. Division of Archives and History	DATE	March 8, 1979
STREET & NUMBER	109 East Jones Street	TELEPHONE	919-733-4763
CITY OR TOWN	Raleigh,	STATE	North Carolina 27611

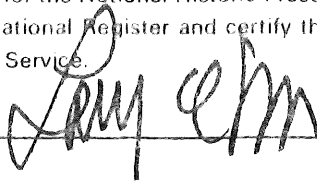
## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7/31/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

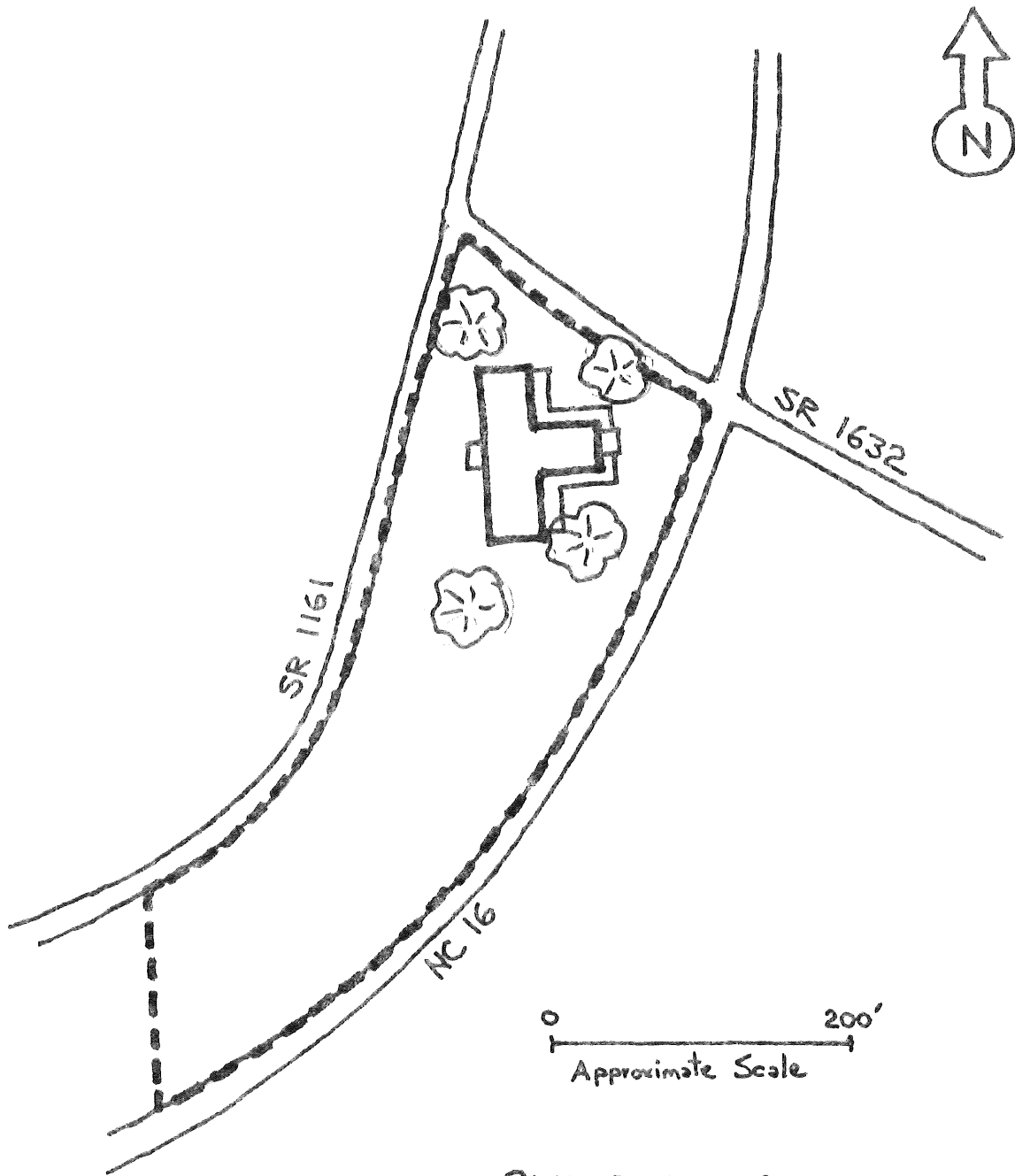
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

Fletcher, Arthur L. Ashe County: A History. Jefferson: Ashe County Research Association, 1963.

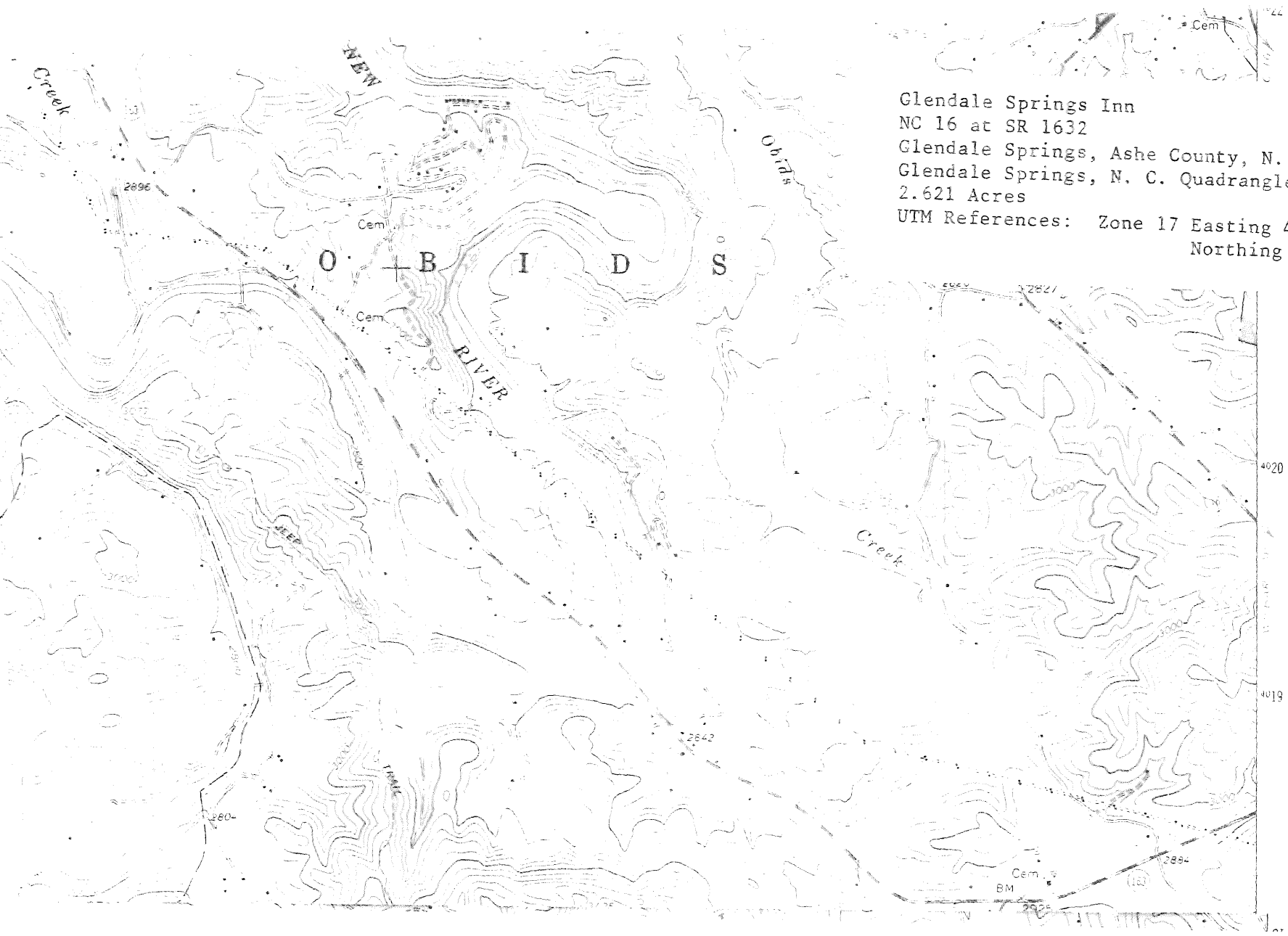
Hickland, James A. Interview, February 14, 1979.

Jolley, Harley E. The Blue Ridge Parkway. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1969.

Oral History of Glendale Springs Inn. Compiled by James and Flossie Hickland, 1976-1977.



GLENDALE SPRINGS INN  
GLENDALE SPRINGS  
ASHE COUNTY, N.C.  
MARCH 1979  
2.6 ACRES



Glendale Springs Inn  
NC 16 at SR 1632  
Glendale Springs, Ashe County, N. C.  
Glendale Springs, N. C. Quadrangle  
2.621 Acres  
UTM References: Zone 17 Easting 465810  
Northing 4022090

