

# Hoop Hole or Hoop Pole?

By JB Bagby

We Pine Knoll Shores residents have all seen it. On our drive into or out of Atlantic Beach, at the Atlantic Station Shopping Center stoplight (Hwy 58 Mile Post 2), is the North Carolina historical marker for HOOPHOLE CREEK. Last year, the name changed to HOOPPOLE CREEK with a little black and silver tape modification. Which is correct? And what is a hoop pole?

The 31 acres along the east end of Atlantic Station Shopping Center that the highway marker

commemorates was purchased by the North Carolina Coastal Federation in 1997 with a grant from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

The information below is taken directly from the trail brochure provided by the coastal federation at the trail entrance across from Hardees at the shopping center. This seems to answer the question of the name change.

## The History of Hoop Pole Creek

Time has a way of muting details of the past. This property has held a variety of common names throughout history, including: Cheesman's Inlet, Hoop Pole Creek, Hoop Hole Creek, Hog Hill, Sugarloaf Properties and other names.

"The name of Hoop Pole came from a section of bark peeled from a young sapling or pole that was then used to secure the ends of wooden barrels before metal hoops came into use. These poles were gathered from a forested area near this location that we now refer to as Hoop Pole Creek. Some where in time it is possible that the name Hoop Pole was accidentally misspelled as Hoop Hole, thus adding to the list of names now used for this property. As late as 1946, local people remember the area referred to as Hog Hill and considered Hoop Pole Creek to be a few miles to the west."

The location of Hoop Pole a few miles to

the west can be corroborated on an area map that can be seen on the wall in the Carteret County Library just past Mile Post 7 in Pine Knoll Shores. This Coast and Geodetic Survey Map also shows most of what is now Pine Knoll Shores labeled as "Hoop Pole Woods."

The United States Geological Survey is the repository for "named places." The name Hoop Hole does not appear in their Geographic Names Information System database for any feature in Carteret County. Hoop Pole Woods, Hoop Pole Landing, and Hoop Pole Creek are all listed. I would say that the historical marker has been correctly modified except for the cost of adding a space between words.

The brochure at the trailhead continues: "Supporting the mission of the trust fund, the coastal federation placed a conservation easement on the property, forever protecting this area for its outstanding water quality benefits, as well as preserving its historical and

recreational values." The site also has a marker from the Clean Water Preserve.

This is a wonderful little piece of land with trails leading down to Bogue Sound through the woods. Take advantage of the cool days ahead and explore this area before the mosquitoes and snakes wake up.

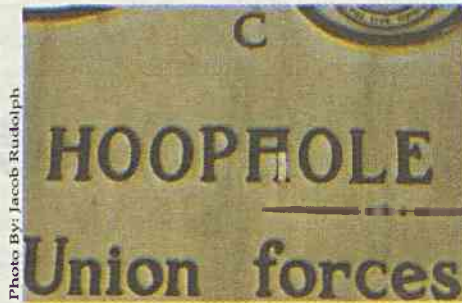


Photo By: Jacob Rudolph

Presto Changeo! - Is it "HOOPHOLE" or "HOOP POLE"? A bit of tape recently appeared to put in a vote for the "HOOP POLE" designation on the historical marker in Atlantic Beach.

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