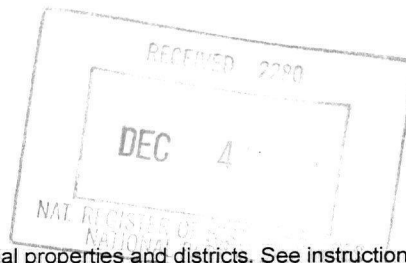


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1713

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name South Aspen Street Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 500-1000 blocks South Aspen Street, 114-130 East Rhodes Street, and 624-636 West Park Drive N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Lincolnton N/A ☐ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lincoln code 109 Zip code 28092

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 11/18/02

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Edson R. Ball

1/15/03

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
46	28	buildings
0	0	sites
1	3	structures
0	0	objects
47	31	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/V" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

HEALTH CARE/hospital

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

EDUCATION/college

RECREATION/sports facility

COMMERCE/business

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Queen Anne

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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South Aspen Street Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification

Classical Revival
Bungalow/Craftsman
Tudor Revival
Modern Movement
Other: Period Cottage
Other: Minimal Traditional

Materials

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Log
Shingle
Concrete
Vinyl

Roof: Metal

Other: Limestone
Metal
Cast Iron
Stucco
Concrete

Narrative Description

The South Aspen Street Historic District is an area composed primarily of residential buildings located along Lincolnton's historic southern artery. Beginning several blocks south of the Lincoln County Courthouse, the largely linear district encompasses the 500 through 1000 blocks of South Aspen Street. Although these street addresses suggest that South Aspen Street is broken into six distinct

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South Aspen Street Historic District
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blocks, there are actually only two side streets that interrupt the flow of the streetscape. One of these, Motz Avenue, runs into South Aspen Street from the west, between the 900 and 1000 blocks. The other, East Rhodes Street, runs into South Aspen Street from the east, between the 500 and 600 blocks. In addition to the buildings on South Aspen Street, the district contains three buildings on the south side of East Rhodes Street and two on the west side of West Park Drive, which runs parallel to South Aspen Street and runs into East Rhodes Street from the south. The district is located outside Lincolnton's original grid plan of orderly blocks and lots. As a result, it developed in a largely unplanned manner from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, with lots that vary in size and shape. An exception to the district's unplanned development is West Park Drive, which was part of Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr.'s Crowell Park development of the 1930s.

Roughly defined, the district is bounded on the north by the northern property lines of 502 and 511 South Aspen Street; on the east by South Academy Street, East Park Drive, West Park Drive, and the rear property lines of the 700-1000 blocks of South Aspen Street on the east side of the street; on the south by the southern property line of 1007 South Aspen Street and Massapoag Road; and on the west by the railroad tracks. The boundaries were drawn to include the span of houses and other buildings along South Aspen Street, as well as those buildings along East Rhodes Street and West Park Drive directly associated with the South Aspen Street properties, which form a cohesive collection of well-preserved architecture from the 1850s through the 1950s. The district is distinguished from its surroundings on all sides. On the west, the railroad tracks and South Government Street form an effective barrier between 502-816 South Aspen Street and those properties lying to the west. West of 904-1022 South Aspen Street are light industrial and commercial properties out of character with the district. Immediately south of the district is a combination of late-twentieth and early-twenty-first century construction. Also to the south, the road splits into South Aspen Street on the east and Laboratory Road on the west, adding further to the difference in character between the district and what lies to the south. East of the district is wooded land, later development in Crowell Park, and houses east of South Academy Street that are not associated with the development of the South Aspen Street District. North of the district, a large parking lot and railroad tracks separate the district from the buildings north of Congress Street.

The South Aspen Street Historic District contains a total of seventy-eight resources, of which seventy-four are buildings and four are structures (three swimming pools and one gazebo). There are also three vacant or wooded lots. Of the seventy-eight resources, thirty-five are primary (houses, school, hospital, etc.), and forty-three are secondary (garages, sheds, and other outbuildings). Sixty percent of the total resources contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district. However, of the thirty-five primary resources, eighty-nine percent contribute to the district's character. The four non-contributing primary resources include a small commercial building, an apartment complex, a mid-1950s house, and the 1954 Block Smith Memorial Gymnasium, non-contributing only because of its date of

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South Aspen Street Historic District
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construction.

The South Aspen Street Historic District evolved physically during its period of significance, 1852-ca. 1950, with most of its development taking place during the first half of the twentieth century. At the beginning of the period of significance, only two of the district's buildings had been erected—the Wallace H. Alexander House and the Barrett-Hoyle House—both in 1852. By the end of the period of significance, the district had essentially taken on its present appearance, with little construction or major changes after that.

The district's buildings vary in their relationship to the street and to each other. This results from a combination of factors, including the curve of the street, topography, and the ways in which the various lots were created. Most buildings directly face the street; however, the curve of South Aspen Street at the south end of the district and again just south of East Rhodes Street near the north end of the district means that some of the houses are not parallel to each other but, instead, are set at an angle to the adjacent house. Buildings vary in their set-back from the street. Some houses, like 828-924 and 815-825 South Aspen Street, are set in a row relatively close to the street. Others, such as 613, 619, 709, 805, 903, 927, 1007, 1010, and 1020 South Aspen Street are set farther back from the street. Some of these—613, 903, and 1022 South Aspen Street in particular—were among the earliest buildings in the district and were built on larger tracts of land than they presently occupy, so that being close to the street and in-line with neighboring houses was not a concern. Lot sizes in the district vary significantly. The largest lots are those associated with the former Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital and the former Lincolnton High School, both large institutional properties. The largest residential lots are those located at 805, 903, 1010, and 1022 South Aspen Street, all of which were among the earliest developed properties in the district. Most of the other, smaller, lots resulted from the division of larger tracts of land to create more house lots, a process that happened at various points throughout the period of significance. The topography within the district is not uniform, so that while many buildings are approximately at street grade, others—such as 605, 613, 619, 1010, and 1022 South Aspen Street and 624 and 636 West Park Drive—are raised on slight hills above the streets, sometimes with stone retaining walls. Although the district's streets are not tree-lined, the individual lots are endowed with numerous, mostly hardwood, trees. Most of the lots have well-maintained lawns with a variety of shrubs and flowers.

Nearly all the buildings in the district are domestic in scale, as in use; even the district's single commercial building is a small one-story structure. Only the former Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital and the former Lincolnton High School, including the Block Smith Memorial Gymnasium, are larger, institutional structures. Of the thirty-five primary resources, only the former high school is three stories in height. The others are equally divided between two-story buildings and one or one-and-a-half-story buildings. Twenty—more than half—of the primary resources are frame buildings. Most of these

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South Aspen Street Historic District
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are weatherboarded, but one is wood shingled. Of the remaining primary resources, twelve are brick, one is log, and two are of concrete block construction—one early-twentieth-century and the other modern. The majority of outbuildings are frame, but there are several brick and two log outbuildings. Replacement materials used in the district are relatively limited. In recent years, six of the weatherboarded frame houses have been covered with vinyl siding. Three were sheathed in asbestos-shingle siding during the mid-twentieth century, although one of these, 636 West Park Drive, may have been covered originally with asbestos shingles. Two frame buildings have been brick-veneered: the original building of the former Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital in the 1920s and the Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. House in the late 1930s.

Decorative detailing is consistent with the periods and styles in which the district's buildings were constructed or, in some cases, remodeled. Decorative features are executed both in the same material as the body of a building and in contrasting materials. Almost all buildings have at least some decoration. Classical details—such as pedimented gables, columned porches, entrances with sidelights and transoms, full entablatures, dentil moldings, and scrolled brackets—are found on buildings of the Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, and Classical Revival styles. Examples of buildings with classical detailing are the Wallace Alexander House, the Barrett-Hoyle House, the former Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital, the former Lincoln High School, the John D. Abernathy House, the Motz-Glenn House, and the Charles M. Sumner House. Several early-twentieth-century houses, including the John M. Rhodes House, the David P. Rhodes House, and the C. William Rhodes House, show such Queen Anne-style features as wraparound porches, multiple gables with metal roof cresting, bay windows, and Queen Anne sash. The John M. Rhodes House boasts rusticated concrete blocks for the main body of the house and smooth, ashlar-like concrete corner quoins. It and the David P. Rhodes House share the use of decorative lancet arches within the primary front gables. Decoration associated with bungalows and Craftsman houses built in the first quarter of the twentieth century consist primarily of heavy front porches and braced roof eaves. Along South Aspen Street, heavy, square, brick posts are frequently used as the porch supports. Six houses, among them the Reinhardt-Miller House, the Dr. William F. Elliott House, and the Georgette Brown Heavner House, use this porch feature. The Elliott House also obtains great decorative effect through the use of a Spanish-tile roof. Another feature found on several of the district's houses is the use of ornamental cast iron, mostly dating from the mid-twentieth century. The most outstanding example is on the John D. Abernathy House, whose front and side porches utilize elaborate ironwork balustrades, posts, brackets, friezes, and roof deck balustrades. The Dr. Lester A. Crowell Jr. House exhibits Tudor Revival details—such as stucco-and-timber gables, batten doors with decorative ironwork strap hinges, and period exterior light fixtures—that are not seen elsewhere in the district.

The names of any architects or builders associated with district buildings are not known. Even

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so, good representative examples of a variety of architectural styles are present in the district, where most buildings date from the first half of the twentieth century.

The only two buildings known to date from the nineteenth century were erected in 1852 and are rare survivors of mid-nineteenth-century buildings in Lincolnton. Both are located near the north end of the district, closest to Lincolnton's center. The Wallace H. Alexander House at 613 South Aspen Street is an example of the Greek Revival style popular in America during the mid-nineteenth century. It is particularly unusual in Lincoln County because it has a center-hall, double-pile plan, even though it is only one story in height. Its broad, flush-sheathed, pedimented-gable front gives the house the appearance of a small Greek temple. Adding to the Greek Revival appearance of the house are its large windows with cornerblock surrounds and its classical entrance porch with Tuscan columns and dentiled cornice that shelters the front entrance with its sidelights and transom. The nearby Barrett-Hoyle House at 120 East Rhodes Street has the same large windows, entrances with sidelights and transom, and center-hall double-pile plan of the Alexander House. However, it is a large, two-story house with a hipped roof. Although Greek Revival in form and in much of its detailing, the Barrett-Hoyle House has overhanging bracketed eaves that suggests an early transition to the Italianate style.

The earliest three houses in the district known to date from the twentieth century—all from ca. 1906—reflect elements of the Queen Anne style that was popular during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The most elaborate of the three is the John M. Rhodes House at 903 South Aspen Street. The one-and-a-half-story house features the style's typical irregular configuration with a multi-gabled roof, bay window, wraparound porch, and Queen Anne style windows. Three features of the house are particularly striking: the rusticated concrete-block construction with smooth, ashlar-cut corner quoins; the decorative pressed-metal sheathing of the gables and front dormer, and the decoration of the front gables—a narrow, round-arched board inscribed within the dormer gable and the boxed lancet arch within the front roof gable. Although two stories in height and more subdued in its detailing and overall character than the John M. Rhodes House, the David P. Rhodes House at 1022 South Aspen Street shares with it the same irregular configuration with multi-gable roof, front dormer, bay window, wraparound porch and, especially, the boxed lancet arch set within the front roof gable. Also reflecting the Queen Anne style is the one-story C. William Rhodes House at 913 South Aspen Street. Its irregular configuration features a steep, central hipped roof with multiple intersecting gables and a wraparound porch with projecting entrance bay.

Almost simultaneously with the Queen Anne style, but with a longer-lasting impact, the Colonial Revival style appeared among the district's buildings. Buildings in this style exhibit in form and/or in detail architectural elements derived from America's English colonial past or early republic years, sometimes used in conjunction with another style, such as the Queen Anne or the bungalow Craftsman. Two examples of the Colonial Revival style from the early twentieth century are the Charles M. Sumner

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House at 923 South Aspen Street and the Houser-Ruth House at 815 South Aspen Street. The Sumner House is a simple, but stately, two-story frame dwelling with a steep hipped roof, a pair of interior chimneys, a three-bay facade (broken into five bays on the first story), and a one-story, hip-roofed, front porch with classical columns. The irregularity created by the pedimented gables intersecting the main roof at the north end of the facade and east end of the north elevation interfere with the otherwise symmetrical plan of the house and suggest a holdover from the greater variety of the Queen Anne style. The Houser-Ruth House reflects the Colonial Revival in a different way, primarily through its gambrel roof and dentiled porch cornice. However, the asymmetry of its design and its porch with grouped posts set on brick plinths with a brick skirt, also suggest some influence from the Craftsman style. Across the street, the centerpiece of the former Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital reflects the Colonial Revival style, as old photographs suggest the original building to the north once did. The 1926 building is a two-story brick structure with a hipped roof and front dormer. Its decorative focal point is the well-detailed Colonial Revival entrance porch, which boasts fluted columns and pilasters, a full classical entablature with triglyphs at the corners of the frieze and a dentiled cornice, and a heavily balustraded flat roof. In the late 1930s, the home of Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. at 805 South Aspen Street, was brick veneered and remodeled in the Colonial Revival style. The symmetrical five-bay facade was designed with brick flat arches over the windows, a central entrance with sidelights and a fanlight transom, and a classical entrance porch with Tuscan columns and flat roof with an ironwork balustrade. Above the entrance, the central second-story window echoes the front entrance with its sidelights and fanlight transom. In the 1930s or 1940s, the Motz-Glenn House at 1010 South Aspen Street was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style. The house is dominated by a two-story classical portico across the facade which shelters the entrance with its sidelights and fanlight transom. Toward the end of the district's period of significance, the Colonial Revival was still considered a style of choice. Around 1948, John D. Abernathy built a two-story brick house in the style at 904 South Aspen Street. It has a side-gable roof with a classical, dentiled cornice; three gabled dormers across the front with round-arched windows; and a three-bay facade with a central entrance. The entrance is framed with sidelights and a fanlight transom, and above the entrance, the second floor features a stylized Palladian window. The entrance and north side porches of the Abernathy House are built from fancy ironwork preserved from the Ramsour-Phifer-Abernathy House, which stood in the 100 block of West Main Street.

The Classical Revival style was related to the Colonial Revival, but generally used larger-scale classical details. It was frequently utilized for public buildings. The former Lincolnton High School at 511 South Aspen Street is a relatively plain three-story brick structure, except for its central entrance on the west facade. Its classical design is three bays wide and has two-story fluted pilasters supporting a classical cornice. Directly above the door is a smaller cornice supported by scrolled brackets, a detail that is repeated above the secondary entrances at either end of the west facade.

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From the 1910s through the 1930s, bungalows were added to the district's housing stock. These popular early-twentieth-century houses, which were part of the Craftsman style, were frequently characterized by more informal plans, broad roofs, large porches, and a use of natural materials. One of the best examples in the district is the Dr. William F. Elliott House at 828 South Aspen Street, built ca. 1920. Wood shingles sheathe the one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling, which has an extremely broad side-gable roof covered with metal imitation Spanish tiles. The roof has widely overhanging braced eaves and a low shed dormer on the front. It encompasses a low, engaged porch across the facade. Similar in form to the Elliott House, the early-twentieth-century Nurses' Residence at 701 South Aspen Street and the ca. 1920 Georgette Brown Heavner House at 1007 South Aspen Street both feature a broad, side-gable roof, a shed-roofed front dormer, and an engaged front porch. More rustic in feeling is the bungalow built by Mary Hull Crowell at 624 West Park Drive around 1935. It is a log house with a stone foundation, a side-gable roof, an attached front porch, and a matching log garage.

Two houses built in the district in 1935 demonstrate the stylistic eclecticism popular at the time. At 709 South Aspen Street, the Dr. Lester A. Crowell Jr. House is an example of the Tudor Revival style. The one-and-a-half-story brick dwelling with stone foundation has a steep hipped roof that is intersected by multiple gables faced with stucco and timbers. Both the main and secondary entrances on the facade have wood batten doors with a small vertical window and decorative wrought-iron strap hinges. The doors are flanked by period light fixtures. The house built by Dr. S. H. Steelman at 619 South Aspen Street almost defies characterization with its eclecticism. The so-called period cottage is a one-and-a-half-story brick house with a steep side-gable roof and unusual gabled dormers that rise from the facade wall. A one-story ell projecting from the north end of the facade features a double-shouldered chimney with a picturesque hexagonal chimney pot. The center front entrance of the house has a limestone quoined surround and is given a sense of privacy by a low brick wall with a contrasting white ramped coping that partially shields the entrance and front steps. A large oriel window projects from the south bay of the facade adjacent to the entrance. A shallow one-story wing projecting from the north elevation of the house features a lancet-arched window in its gable end and has a rear corner porch with round-arched openings nestled beneath the rear swooping slope of the wing roof.

During the 1940s and 1950s, numerous minimal traditional houses were erected in neighborhoods across America. These simple one or one-and-a-half-story houses were reduced to the simplest of elements—almost devoid of stylistic details—while staying within a traditional form. Side-gable roofs were typical. The district contains three of these houses: the brick-veneered Hoke S. Heavner House, built ca. 1949 at 917 South Aspen Street; the brick-veneered ca. 1955 Reinhardt-Miller House at 114 East Rhodes Street; and the Frank Hull Crowell House, a ca. 1940 asbestos-shingled frame house at 636 West Park Drive.

In contrast to the minimal traditional houses of the mid-twentieth century, the Block Smith

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Memorial Gymnasium, built in 1954 at 130 East Rhodes Street, is a good example of mid-twentieth-century modernism. The two-level brick structure with concrete trim is dominated by its broad, barrel-vaulted roof. The roof, along with the projecting, concrete-bordered main entrance on East Rhodes Street with its three sets of paired glass doors; the low, flat-roofed wings that spread outward from either side of the central entrance; and the high, horizontal band of windows along the sides of the building give it a streamlined, modern appearance.

Several changes of note took place during the district's period of significance. Around 1922 the Barrett-Hoyle House was moved from its original location on the east side of South Aspen Street to its present location at 120 East Rhodes Street in order to make room for the construction of the Lincolnton High School in 1923-1924. Probably in 1926, when the Crowell Clinic Building of the Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital was built, the hospital's original frame building was brick veneered. In the late 1930s, the Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. House was moved back from the street on its lot at 805 South Aspen Street and was brick veneered and otherwise remodeled. When John D. Abernathy built his brick house at 904 South Aspen Street ca. 1948, he moved the older house that had stood on the site to the rear of the property, where it stood until the mid-1980s. In addition to the Dr. Lester a. Crowell Sr. House, two others were significantly altered during the period of significance. The James Howard Mauney House at 910 South Aspen Street was remodeled ca. 1925 and again ca. 1952. In the 1930s or 1940s, W. W. Glenn remodeled the Motz-Glenn House at 1010 South Aspen Street, at which time the house acquired its signature two-story classical portico.

After the district's period of significance, several additional changes took place. Three primary resources were constructed: the modern Block Smith Memorial Gymnasium at 130 East Rhodes Street in 1954, the Reinhardt-Miller House at 114 East Rhodes Street ca. 1955, and the Colony House Apartments at 702 South Aspen Street around 1983. Beginning in the 1920s and continuing until at least the mid-1980s, several modern additions enlarged the Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital at the center of the district, 816 South Aspen Street. Additionally, two gas stations were erected, probably both in the 1950s. The station at 518 South Aspen Street was remodeled and converted to a commercial building in the 1980s; the station at 602 South Aspen Street was demolished in the 1990s. In recent years, six houses in the district have been vinyl-sided: 605, 701, 819, 918, 923, and 1007 South Aspen Street.

Despite these changes, the district still presents a concentrated and generally well-preserved collection of Lincolnton houses and institutional buildings from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The district's buildings exhibit a chronological series of architectural styles, particularly from the first half of the twentieth century, but also including two Greek Revival houses from 1852 that are rare survivors of Lincolnton's mid-nineteenth-century architecture. With eighty-nine percent of the district's thirty-five primary resources contributing to the district's historic and architectural character, the South Aspen Street Historic District possesses sufficient integrity of location,

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South Aspen Street Historic District
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setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to qualify for listing in the National Register.

Inventory List

The following inventory list provides basic information on all properties in the South Aspen Street Historic District, including each property's name, location, date of construction, contributing or non-contributing status, and summary of its physical character and known history. Historic names—based on the first known owner or use of a building or on a building's most historically significant owner or use—are used whenever possible. Resources—buildings, sites, structures, or objects—which were built during the period of significance and have sufficient integrity contribute to the significance of the district. Those resources which post-date the period of significance or have been significantly altered are non-contributing resources. Listings for vacant lots indicate current usage; while they are included in the inventory list, they are not counted as contributing or non-contributing resources.

Information given in the inventory is based primarily on a combination of the on-site survey conducted in March, 2002, survey file materials, and research with a variety of sources. Sources that were particularly useful are listed in abbreviated form in parentheses at the end of each inventory entry. Full citations are given in the nomination bibliography. The following is a list of shortened citations for the sources used, followed by their abbreviated designations in parentheses, as used in the inventory list.

Sanborn Map Company maps for 1911, 1921, 1929, and 1929 updated to 1941 (SM)

Lincoln County Deeds (Deeds)

Census Records for 1910, 1920, 1930 (Census)

Research notes of Ann M. Dellinger (Dellinger)

Author's interviews with:

Martha Campbell (Campbell)

Dr. Gordon C. Crowell (Crowell)

Virginia Rhyne (Rhyne)

Dr. Martin Eaddy (Eaddy)

Betty Rhodes Gamble (Gamble)

Sybil Eurey (Eurey)

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Lincolnton Times (Times)

Lincoln County News (News)

Charlotte Observer (Observer)

Davyd Foard Hood, Study List application for Barrett-Cobb-Hoyle House (Hood)

Marvin A. Brown and Maurice C. York, *Our Enduring Past* (Brown and York)

William Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County* (Sherrill)

Gladys Childs, *People of Our Town Past and Present* (Childs)

Lincoln County Heritage (Heritage)

Remarks by Dr. L. A. Crowell Jr. May 30, 1973 (Crowell Remarks)

Frank P. Cauble, "A Biography of John Melancthon Rhodes" (Cauble)

Jason Harpe, *Images of America: Lincoln County, North Carolina* (Harpe)

The inventory begins at the north end of South Aspen Street and moves block by block, west side then east side within each block, to the south end of the street. Then it runs from west to east along the south side of East Rhodes Street and, finally, from north to south along the west side of West Park Drive.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - West Side 500 Block

M. A. McLean House

Contributing building

502 South Aspen Street

ca. 1922

Between 1917 and 1921, this property changed hands several times. However, on September 7, 1921, M. A. McLean purchased the lot and presumably built the house soon thereafter. The McLeans retained ownership until 1954, when they sold the property to Jack L. and Carolyn Dellinger. The house is a simple, two-story brick dwelling with a side-gable roof with overhanging eaves and a basement with windows. The two-bay facade has grouped one-over-one sash windows and an altered entrance porch at the south end. At some point, a porch appears to have run along the north side of the house, with French doors opening to it, but it no longer remains. Across the rear of the house are shed rooms and a service porch. (Deeds)

Trailer Home

Non-contributing building

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North of the house, below street grade, is a trailer home (1960s?) with an attached front porch and shed.

Shed

Non-contributing building

Immediately west of the trailer home is a small, modern, frame shed.

Shed

Non-contributing building

A modern frame shed stands southwest of the house at the rear property line.

John C. Ramsaur House

Contributing building

510 S. Aspen Street
ca. 1921

From 1921 to 1982, John C. and Fetna Ramsaur (Ramseur, Ramsour) owned this house. Since 1982 it has been owned and occupied by former Lincolnton mayor Jerry L. Campbell and his wife, Martha. John Ramsaur operated a lumber yard with his brother. He and his wife rented rooms in their home to teachers at the Lincolnton High School across the street, so that the house was known for some years as the teacherage. The Ramsaurs also had a lunch room in their home, not only for the teachers, but also serving other townspeople. Mrs. Ramsaur taught piano in a music room at the front of the house. The Ramsaur House is a two-story weatherboarded frame dwelling with a broad side-gable roof and an above-ground basement at the rear. Originally, a porch with square brick posts ran across the three-bay facade; since the late 1980s, the porch has been remodeled as a wraparound porch with turned posts and balustrade and simple brackets. A row of four cedar trees runs along South Aspend Street in front of the Ramsaur House. The row was one of two that originally flanked the barn associated with the Elisha Barrett House which stood across the street on the site of the former Lincolnton High School. (Deeds, SM, Campbell, Crowell, *Times*)

Garage

Non-contributing building

At the west end of the driveway on the south side of the house is a modern concrete-block and German-sided two-bay garage.

Studio

Contributing building

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Immediately south of the garage stands a small, one-story frame building with a front-gable roof, a front door and window, and a rear chimney. It appears to be contemporary with the house. According to the long-time present property owner, local oral tradition claims a woman used the little building to give art or music lessons, until one day her jealous husband killed her there.

Commercial Building

Non-contributing building

518 S. Aspen Street
ca. 1950; 1980s

This one-story concrete-block and frame building with low gable roof was originally a Texaco gas station frequented by high school students for drinks and snacks. In the 1980s it was enlarged and remodeled for a printing and copy business. (Campbell, SM)

Harrill-Hoyle House

Contributing building

526 South Aspen Street
ca. 1913

On January 4, 1913, Mrs. May Wright Cobb sold this lot to Mary E. Harrill. When widow Mary Harrill sold the property in 1944 to Roy C. and Eva Hoke Hoyle, it was referred to as "the homeplace of the late Charles H. Harrill." The Hoyles retained ownership of the house for the next fifty years, until after Eva Hoyle's death. The Harrill-Hoyle House is a one-and-a-half-story weatherboarded frame dwelling with a steep side-gable roof with corner cresting and a center-front dormer with a three-part window beneath a round ventilator. A hip-roofed porch with heavy brick posts and skirt carries across the three-bay facade and shelters the center-bay sidelighted entrance. (Deeds, SM, Crowell)

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - East Side 500 Block

(former) Lincolnton High School

Contributing building

511 South Aspen Street
1923-1924

The former Lincolnton High School, also known originally as the General Stephen D. Ramseur School, stands on the original site of the 1852 Elisha Barrett House. When the property was sold in 1921 to Lincoln County for the site of the new high school, the house was moved across East Rhodes Street to its present location. When Lincolnton High School was built in 1923-1924, it was one of three schools in

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the southeast quarter of Lincolnton. The grammar school (Kate C. Shipp School), built in 1907, was located in the same block as the high school, at the northeast corner of East Congress and South Academy streets. In the same year that construction of the high school began, the Aspen Street Primary School (General Robert D. Johnston School) was erected on the east side of South Aspen Street opposite Massapoag Road, just south of the historic district. Of the three schools, only the former high school building survives. In 1976 it became the Lincolnton Junior High School, and later, the Lincolnton Middle School. The building now serves as the Lincoln Campus of Gaston College. The architect of the high school has not been identified, but its construction cost \$200,000. The three-story fireproof building was erected of steel, concrete, and brick, and the exterior was clad in red brick with Indiana limestone trim. In addition to classrooms, it housed an auditorium and a library. The former high school has a flat roof and rows of paired sash windows. A classical two-story entrance in the center of the west facade bears the inscription "High School" across the frieze, which rests on four fluted Doric pilasters. The doorway itself has a projecting cornice supported by scrolled brackets. Projecting secondary entrances with the same cornice treatment are located at the north and south ends of the west facade. The north entrance is inscribed "Boys," while the inscription at the south entrance says "Girls." The area formed within the rear ell of the school has been remodeled to serve as the primary entrance to Gaston College's Lincoln Campus. The building is set back from South Aspen Street, and its large front lawn retains a variety of trees that were part of the lush setting of the Elisha Barrett House. A large landscaped parking area is located north of the building, but it is almost entirely outside the district boundary. A few parking spaces are located directly behind the building around the entrance. (*Times*, Hood, Brown and York, Deeds, SM)

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - West Side 600 Block

Vacant Lot

600 block, just south of 526 South Aspen Street

Sanborn Maps show that from at least 1929 to 1941, this lot was vacant. Its history prior to that time is not known. Probably in the 1950s, a Gulf gas station was built on the site, and it stood until recent years. (SM)

Wooded Lot

600 block, just north of 618 South Aspen Street

Like the adjacent lot to the north, this lot was vacant from at least 1929 to 1941; its history prior to that

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time is unknown. Now, tall pines line the street, with mostly newer growth behind. (SM)

Jacob A. Burgin House

Contributing building

618 South Aspen Street

First quarter twentieth century

Jacob A. Burgin, a construction supervisor, was the first known owner of this house. In 1920, he was living here with his wife, Jean Miller, and their three children. At that time, Odus B. Weaver, a lineman for the telephone company, was also living in the house with his wife and infant daughter. After the deaths of Jacob and Jean Burgin, the house continued in the ownership of their children until 1940, when they sold it to Arnold B. and Agnes Dellinger Cochrane. The Cochranes occupied the house until 1963, when they sold it to Paul and Virginia Rhyne. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Virginia Rhyne and her husband's first cousin, Sue Ramseur, operated a kindergarten for four-year-olds in the house. The Burgin House is a one-and-a-half-story weatherboarded frame dwelling with a steep front-gable roof with intersecting cross gables. Within the front and south side gables are triple windows beneath a bracketed cornice. An attached porch with classical posts stretches across the three-bay facade. (Deeds, SM, Census, Rhyne, Cochrane)

Garage

Non-contributing building

Southwest of the house stands a brick, gable-roofed garage which appears to have been built after 1950.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - East Side 600 block

James M. Reinhardt House

Contributing building

605 South Aspen Street

ca. 1920

On June 13, 1919, Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. purchased the thirty-three-acre tract known as the Alexander lands from Charles A. and Rosa Jonas. From this tract, Dr. Crowell and his wife carved out a 160 x 125-foot lot at corner of South Aspen and East Rhodes streets and sold it to James M. Reinhardt (1876-1949) of Gaston County on October 29, 1919. Presumably the house was built soon thereafter. Reinhardt was secretary of the Elm Grove Cotton Mill outside Lincolnton. When, in 1948, J. M. and Lelia R. Reinhardt (1879-1973) sold the property to Glenn Mills, Inc., the deed referred to "that part of

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said lot upon which is situated the house in which the parties of the first part have resided for many years." The Reinhardt House is a two-story frame dwelling (now covered with vinyl siding), with a combination of traditional and Craftsman features. It features a side-gable roof with widely overhanging braced eaves, an intersecting central front gable, interior chimneys, and a hip-roofed front porch with square brick posts and a solid brick skirt. The porch is complemented on the north by a matching porte-cochere and on the south by a sunroom. The center-bay entrance is flanked by sidelights, and nine-over-one sash windows are mostly in pairs. (SM, Deeds, Dellinger, Sherrill).

Outbuilding

Contributing building

East of (behind) the south end of the house is a one-story, weatherboarded-frame storage shed with a broad side-gable roof. Sanborn Maps suggests that it post-dates 1941, but if so, it appears to have been built soon thereafter.

Garage

Contributing building

Behind the house and north of the storage shed is a weatherboarded-frame garage with a broad front-gable roof. Although Sanborn Maps suggests that it post-dates 1941, it appears to have been erected by ca. 1950.

Wallace H. Alexander House

Contributing building

613 South Aspen Street
1852

In October, 1850, Wallace Henderson Alexander (1824-1872), a saddle and harness maker, married Mary Royal Robertson of Caswell County. Two years later, his father, J. T. Alexander, conveyed to Wallace Alexander a tract of approximately ten acres adjoining Lincolnton on the south side. The tract included "a new house lately erected," which became the Alexander home. By 1859 Alexander had acquired an additional twenty-four acres adjacent to his original tract. Following Alexander's death—at which time he was described as a well known and prominent citizen of Lincolnton—his wife and children continued to live in the family home on South Aspen Street. However, to supplement her income, Mary Alexander took in a boarder, Martha A. Robinson of Selma, Alabama, who was attending a private school in Lincolnton. Robinson later married John F. Anthony of Lincolnton. In 1884, Wallace and Mary Alexander's daughter, Ella, married Charles H. Motz, and the couple took up residence with Mary Alexander. Ella was a talented musician who taught piano and voice. After Mary

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Alexander's death in 1896, her mentally handicapped son, George, moved to Caswell County to live with his aunt. The Motzes remained in the Alexander home, but after Charles Motz's death, Ella also removed to Caswell County with her two children. On June 6, 1919, the Alexander heirs sold the family home and accompanying thirty-three acres in Lincolnton to Charles A. Jonas. The land had no buildings on it except for the Alexander House, which was said to contain four or five rooms. (At that time, South Aspen Street extension was known as York Road.) A week later, on June 13, Charles and Rosa Jonas sold the thirty-three acres, known as the Alexander or Motz lands, to L. A. and Mary H. Crowell. Lester A. Crowell was a prominent local physician who co-founded Lincoln County's first hospital in 1907. The Crowells soon began to develop the Alexander lands as individual house sites and as Crowell Park east of Aspen Street. In 1922, they carved out a lot that included the Alexander House and deeded it to Frances Geitner Crowell, who had married their son, Gordon Bryan Crowell, in 1921. Gordon Bryan Crowell was also a doctor who, upon completing his medical training in Philadelphia in 1922, returned to Lincolnton to join his father's practice. Gordon Crowell's well-respected career as a surgeon on the staff of Lincoln Hospital was cut short when he died unexpectedly during a severe illness. Soon thereafter, Frances Geitner Crowell returned with her two young children to Hickory to live with her parents, and the Alexander House was then rented for about a decade. In 1935 it was sold to Ralph W. Carter and his wife, John Anthony Carter. Ralph Carter owned an insurance agency, and his wife taught at Lincolnton High School. It was Mrs. Carter's mother, Martha Robinson Anthony, who had boarded with the Wallace Alexander family years before as a student from Alabama. The Carters continued to rent out the house for several years, but moved in themselves in 1940. In 1992, after both Carters had died, the house was sold to Joey M. Houser, who made several cosmetic changes. In 1997 the house was sold to Michael W. and Crystal P. Graham. The Wallace H. Alexander House is a rare surviving Greek Revival-style dwelling in Lincolnton. It is a one-story-with-habitable-attic, weatherboarded-frame house with a broad, pedimented, front-facing gable roof that recalls the appearance of a small Greek temple. The triangular pediment is flush-sheathed and has a central sash window with sidelights and cornerblock surrounds. The same treatment is found on the rear pedimented gable. In recent years, fake shutters have been added to the window of the front pediment and a dentiled band has been attached to the cornice surrounding the house. The three-bay facade of the Alexander House features a central classical entrance porch with a dentiled cornice which shelters the front door with its sidelights and multi-light transom. The house has unusual windows—large twelve-over-twelve sash with louvered shutters—that are like those of the neighboring Barrett-Hoyle House. The original portion of the house follows a center-hall, double-pile plan; shed rooms and an ell were added to the rear in the 1920s. (Dellinger, SM)

Outbuilding

Non-contributing building

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Behind the house is a small frame outbuilding, painted white, with a low gable roof and window shutters. It was built in recent years.

Dr. S. H. Steelman House
619 South Aspen Street
1935

Contributing building

On April 1, 1935, the *Lincoln County News* announced that Dr. S. H. Steelman was negotiating with contractors for the construction of a house on South Aspen Street. On July 8, the paper followed that the house was nearing completion, with only interior finishing touches needed. Dr. Steelman was a dentist. The house remained the Steelman home until it was sold after Lottie B. Steelman's death in 1981. The Steelman House is a one-and-a-half-story eclectic period cottage. Sheathed in Flemish-bond brick veneer, the house has a steep side-gable roof with unusual front dormers that rise from the facade wall. A projecting north front one-story ell features a front gable-end stepped-shoulder chimney that rises to a picturesque hexagonal chimney pot. A low wall with ramped top partially shields the center-bay front entrance, which has a limestone quoined surround. South of the entrance is a substantial oriel window. On the north side of the house, a one-bay-wide extension has a gable roof that echoes the main roof in its pitch but swoops lower with a curve to the rear to cover a small corner porch with arched openings. The peak of the extension gable has a lancet-arched window. A small, hip-roofed, latticed projection is located near the rear of the south side of the house. (*News*, SM, Deeds, Crowell)

Garage

Contributing building

Set at an angle behind the house is a frame, two-bay, side-gabled garage which appears to be contemporary with the house.

Outbuilding

Non-contributing building

Southeast of the house stands a small log outbuilding with an overhanging front gable. It may have been a smokehouse originally, but appears to be historically unrelated to the house and to have been moved to its present site from an unknown location at an unknown date.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - West Side 700 Block

Colony House Apartments

Non-contributing building

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702 South Aspen Street
ca. 1983

The Colony House Apartments contains twenty-four one-bedroom units located within a long, narrow, two-story building with stained weatherboard siding and a low gable roof with end to the street. A porch runs along the north side of the second story. The apartments replaced the early twentieth century Marcus L. Little House. (Census, SM)

B. C. Lineberger House

Contributing building

710 South Aspen Street
First quarter twentieth century

For years this was the home of Barnette Cornelius "B. C." Lineberger and his family, who were listed, along with his brother, Adrian S. Lineberger, at this location in the 1920 census. The 1921 Sanborn Map shows the house with much the same configuration as at present. B. C. Lineberger was married to Fleta Crowell, a first cousin of Dr. L. A. Crowell Jr. Lineberger was a cotton broker. His business, Lineberger Brothers Cotton, included his sons, Robert Henry, J. Walter, and Barnette Crowell, and probably his brother, Adrian, who was listed in the 1920 census as a cotton buyer. The Lineberger House is a two-story frame, L-shaped dwelling with asbestos-shingle siding, one-over-over sash windows, and a gabled roof with overhanging eaves. The house has an unusual orientation, facing north with its east gable end to the street. A terrace spans the east end of the house, while the primary, hip-roofed porch—now partially enclosed—is on the north side, within the ell. Shed rooms and a carport are attached to the west end of the house. (Census, Crowell, SM)

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - East Side 700 Block

Nurses' Residence

Contributing building

701 South Aspen Street
First quarter twentieth century

From its establishment in 1907 until shortly after World War II, the Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital had a training school for nurses. This house was built across South Aspen Street and just north of the hospital as a residence for the nurses. The 1920 census lists the occupants at that time as Annie Ramsey, hospital superintendent of nurses; Mae Baucom, hospital bookkeeper; Rhoda Beam, hospital housekeeper; and seven nurses, ages eighteen to twenty-three. The Nurses' Residence is a one-and-a-

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half-story frame bungalow, originally sheathed in wood shingles, but now in vinyl siding. It has a very broad side-gable roof, low shed dormers on front and rear, one-over-one sash windows, a projecting one-story sun room on the south side, and an engaged porch with plain brick posts and a heavy wooden balustrade across the front. (Sherrill, *Observer*, Census, SM)

Outbuilding

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a small, two-story frame building of a relatively recent construction date that appears to be a children's playhouse.

Dr. Lester A. Crowell Jr. House

Contributing building

709 South Aspen Street
1935

Dr. Lester A. Crowell Jr. planned this unusual Tudor Revival style house for himself and his wife, Elaine Deal. Its location provided him with easy access to the hospital, across the street and just to the south, where he practiced medicine. Crowell (1904-1985) was stricken with polio at the age of five. Though confined to a wheelchair, he attended and graduated from medical school at Tulane University in New Orleans. He began his medical practice in 1930, continuing for more than half a century. Crowell's house was built of fireproof construction. Sheathed primarily in brick, with a stone foundation and basement, the one-and-a-half-story dwelling has a steep hipped roof with small shed dormers and multiple intersecting stucco-and-timber gables. At the center of the facade is a projecting, vestibuled primary entrance. Secondary entrances are located in the north and south end bays of the facade, the north entrance being sheltered by a projecting corner porch. A tile terrace carries across the facade south of the corner porch. (*Observer*, *News*, Crowell, Brown and York)

Garage

Non-contributing building

At the east end of the driveway on the north side of the house is the garage. Although the brick first story may be contemporary with the house, its character has been altered by the addition, after the mid-1980s, of a second story apartment with a modern stucco-and-timber treatment and an exterior stair.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - West Side 800 Block

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South Aspen Street Historic District
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Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital

Contributing building

816 South Aspen Street

1907; 1910s; 1926; ca. 1955; 1973-74

Responding to a long-time need in Lincolnton, Dr. Lester A. Crowell and Dr. R. W. Petrie established and built the Lincoln Hospital, which opened to patients on March 11, 1907, with a bed capacity of twelve. At the time, it was one of only a handful of general hospitals in North Carolina, and was Lincolnton's only hospital until the Reeves Gamble Hospital opened in 1930. After about two years, Dr. Petrie sold his interest in the hospital to Dr. Crowell and left, but Dr. Crowell continued to practice there until his death in 1952 at age eighty-five. Over time, two of Dr. Crowell's sons, L. A. Crowell Jr. and Gordon B. Crowell, and his grandson, Gordon C. Crowell, also practiced medicine at the hospital. A third son, Frank Hull Crowell, served as hospital administrator. In 1936 the hospital was incorporated and re-named the Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital in memory of Dr. Gordon Bryan Crowell, who had died unexpectedly during an illness in 1926 at the age of thirty. From its earliest years until the end of World War II, a nursing school was operated in connection with the hospital. (The house at 701 South Aspen Street served as a residence for the nurses.) The Crowell family continued to run the hospital until 1969, when they sold it to a hospital management firm. In 1985 the hospital complex was sold to Brian Nursing Centers; it operated as a nursing home until recent years. The complex is currently unoccupied. The Lincoln Hospital opened in a large, two-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling with a hipped roof and dormers, interior chimneys, and a wraparound Colonial Revival porch. A comparison of period photographs, Sanborn Maps, and current appearance reveals that the original hospital survives at the north end of the present complex. According to Sanborn Maps, between 1911 and 1921 the original building was enlarged to the west, and between 1921 and 1929 it was brick veneered. In 1926 a building very similar to the original was erected to its south and was named the Crowell Clinic. Still plainly visible, it serves as the historic centerpiece of the present complex. The two-story, brick, Colonial Revival clinic building has a hipped roof with widely overhanging boxed eaves with flat brackets, a center front hipped dormer, and a classical front entrance porch with fluted columns, full classical entablature, and balustraded flat roof. Over the door is inscribed "Crowell Clinic," while the porch frieze is inscribed "Gordon Crowell Memorial." When built, the Crowell Clinic building was connected to the original building by a hyphen. Around 1955, the west end of the north (original) wing of the hospital was expanded for additional patient rooms, and a kitchen and cafeteria were added. The hospital's last additions came in 1973-74 and consisted primarily of a westward expansion of the central, Crowell Clinic wing for a surgical suite, and the construction of a modern medical arts wing at the south end of the hospital, which was connected by a hyphen to the center wing. Although a variety of additions have been made to the hospital over the years, the central Crowell Clinic wing provides an

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anchor that allows the complex to maintain its historic significance to the district. Between the hospital and the street is a lawn with trees. Behind the hospital and extending to the rear of the property is a large paved parking area. (Brown and York, Sherrill, Heritage, *Times*, *Observer*, SM, Crowell).

Outbuilding

Contributing building

Northwest of the hospital, at the edge of the parking area, is a small, brick veneered structure which appears to pre-date 1950.

Dr. William F. Elliott House

Contributing building

828 South Aspen Street
ca. 1920

This was the home of Cleveland County native Dr. William Forrest Elliott, a family practitioner and ear, nose, and throat specialist. After graduating from Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia in 1916, he moved to Lincolnton to join the staff of Lincoln Hospital. There he built a large practice over the next thirty years. In 1920, Dr. Elliott was listed in the census as a boarder at the home of Dr. Lester A. Crowell, co-founder of the hospital. However, Dr. Elliott's house must have been under construction at the time, for the 1921 Sanborn Map shows that the house had been erected by then. The Elliott House is an excellent example of a bungalow. A one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling, it is sheathed in wood shingles and has an extremely broad side-gable roof covered with metal or clay Spanish tiles. The roof has widely overhanging braced eaves, and the front slope has a shed dormer, while the rear has a gabled dormer. The north elevation of the house has a small, shed-roofed projecting bay, while an added sunroom projects from the rear of the south elevation. A broad engaged porch with plain brick posts and a wood balustrade carries across the front of the house. (Census, SM, Crowell, Crowell Remarks, Sherrill)

Garage

Contributing building

Behind the house, adjacent to the south property line, is a wood-shingled garage with overhead rooms and a gable roof which appears to be contemporary with the house.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - East Side 800 Block

Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. House

Contributing building

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South Aspen Street Historic District
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805 South Aspen Street

First decade of twentieth century; remodeled late 1930s

Dr. Lester Avant Crowell Sr. (1867-1954) attended the Baltimore Medical College beginning in 1886 and graduating in 1892 with time off to "read medicine" with his father, Eli Crowell, in Lincolnton. In 1894 Lester Crowell married Mary Jane Hull. Two of their sons, Gordon B. and Lester A. Jr. became doctors, and a third, Frank Hull Crowell, served as administrator of the family hospital. In 1907, Lester Crowell Sr. and Dr. R. W. Petrie opened Lincoln Hospital (called Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital since 1936) on South Aspen Street. After Petrie sold his interest in the hospital to Crowell a couple of years later, the Crowell family continued to operate the hospital until 1969. Lester Crowell Sr. is believed to have performed the first thyroidectomy and prostatectomy in North Carolina. He was elected president of the North Carolina Medical Society in 1930. The Crowell House was probably erected in the first decade of the twentieth century. The 1910 census lists Crowell at this location, and the 1920 census reveals that Dr. William F. Elliott, a physician at the hospital who later owned his own home at 828 South Aspen Street, was a boarder with the Crowells. Originally, the house was a two-story frame dwelling with two projecting front bays and a wraparound porch, as depicted on the 1921 Sanborn Map. However, in the late 1930s, Crowell moved the house back from the street and remodeled and brick veneered it, giving it essentially its present appearance. The Crowell House is designed in the Colonial Revival style. It features a steep hipped roof with two-story gabled wings on both north and south sides, a pedimented gable at the center of the five-bay facade, six-over-six sash windows, a classical entrance porch with ironwork-balustraded roof deck, and a classical porch at the northwest corner of the house. The central entrance has traceried sidelights and a fanlight transom, which are repeated in the second-floor center-bay window. The house is set within a well-landscaped lot with numerous boxwoods and trees. Brick and ironwork gates provide access to the driveway on the north side of the house and, southwest of the house, to a brick walk leading from the sidewalk to the front entrance. (Heritage, Harpe, Census, SM, Crowell)

Gazebo

Contributing structure

On the rear lawn southeast of the house stands a wood pergola-like gazebo with a hipped roof and Tuscan columns. It appears to predate the mid-twentieth century.

Houser-Ruth House

Contributing building

815 South Aspen Street
ca. 1910

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On January 10, 1910, Rannie D. Houser, wife of Robert A. Houser, purchased this property from D. L. and S. W. Yount. The Housers probably built the house soon thereafter. However, evidently within the next few years, Rannie Houser died, for the 1920 census recorded at this location Robert A. Houser, who was a tinner, his second wife, Julia, his three children from this first marriage, and his two children from his second marriage, the oldest of whom was born ca. 1917. The house is shown on the 1921 Sanborn Map. In 1945, after the death of Robert A. Houser, his heirs sold the property to Lewis H. Ruth, the husband of Martha Aileen Houser, one of Robert Houser's children by his first wife, Rannie. The Ruths retained ownership of the property until 1987. The Houser-Ruth House is a one-and-a-half-story, frame, Colonial Revival-style house. Covered with asbestos-shingle siding, the house has a front-facing gambrel roof with a gabled dormer on north and south sides, both two-over-two and bungalow-sash windows, and a partially-engaged wraparound bungalow porch with a dentiled cornice, paired and tripled Tuscan posts set on brick plinths, and a solid brick skirt. Picket fences run across the front and rear of the property. (Deeds, Census, SM, Dellinger, Crowell)

Playhouse

Non-contributing building

In the back yard stands a small frame children's playhouse of undetermined date of construction.

Huss-Harrill House

Contributing building

819 South Aspen Street

Early twentieth century

This property changed hands several times between 1906 and 1919, but the first time a house was mentioned in conjunction with it was in a deed of October 15, 1919, when J. A. and Nete Blackwell sold the "house and lot" to Ada Huss, a daughter of John M. Rhodes. On the 1920 census, Ada and George D. Huss, superintendent at the cotton mill, were listed at this location, along with their six children and a boarder, Florence Beam, who worked at the cotton mill. Later that year, in September, John Rhodes and his second wife, Nina Crowell, conveyed a twenty-five-foot-wide lot to Ada Huss that stood just south of Huss's home to give her "room to enlarge the present residence building now occupied by her."

Whether or not Ada Huss actually enlarged her home is not known—the same house is shown on the 1921, 1929, and 1941 Sanborn Maps—but apparently she decided to live elsewhere, for four months later, on January 24, 1921, Ada and George D. Huss sold the property to T. B. Smith. Smith seems to have used the house as rental property, for in the 1920 and 1930 censuses he was listed as living with his family at 923 South Aspen Street, and in 1930 Dr. A. M. Cornwell rented the house for his residence until his own could be built just south at 825 South Aspen Street. On December 15, 1933, Laura Dry

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Harrill purchased the property from the North Carolina Mortgage Corporation, and for the next thirty-four years she and her husband, dentist Dr. Charles H. Harrill, called this home. Since 1967, the house has been owned by William Warren and Margaret Melinda Daugherty. The Huss-Harrill House is a simple two-story frame dwelling with a side-gable roof, a three-bay facade, and a one-story, flat-roofed, front porch. Although the straightforward form of the house remains clearly evident, the house has replacement vinyl siding, ironwork porch posts and balustrade, and an ironwork balustrade around the porch roof deck (Deeds, Dellinger, Census, SM, Crowell)

Garage

Contributing building

At the east end of the driveway on the south side of the house is a shed-roofed frame garage that appears to date from the second quarter of the twentieth century.

Shed

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a metal-roofed open shed that appears to post-date 1950.

Storage Shed

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a modern, gambrel-roofed storage shed.

Dr. A. M. Cornwell House

Contributing building

825 South Aspen Street
ca. 1930

The 1929 Sanborn Map shows no house on this lot. However, on April 15, 1929, Dr. A. M. and Mary N. Cornwell purchased the lot from W. Edgar and Nina Crowell (John M. Rhodes's second wife) Flack. Presumably, Cornwell built the house soon thereafter, but by April 3, 1930, when the census was made, Cornwell and his young family were renting the house adjacent to his lot on the north (819). The Cornwells were probably renting the house until their own could be built. A. M. Cornwell was a physician at Lincoln Hospital—just north and across the street—and it would have been convenient for him to have been simultaneously close to his work and to the ongoing construction of his home. The house appears for the first time on the 1941 Sanborn Map, but without the north and south one-story

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wings, which were later additions. In 1946, Cornwell expanded his property to the east with another purchase from the Flacks. The Cornwell family retained ownership of the house until 1982. The Cornwell House is a two-story, brick-veneered, Colonial Revival-style dwelling. It features a side-gable roof, paired six-over-six sash windows, and a central entrance with sidelights and a fanlight transom. Sheltering the entrance is a classical porch with an elliptical-arched soffit. Small one-story wings on the north and south side of the house were added after 1941. A white-painted wood fence runs across the front of the property. (Deeds, SM, Census, Dellinger, Crowell)

Garage

Contributing building

At the east end of the driveway north of the house is a shed-roofed frame garage which appears to be contemporary, or nearly so, with the house.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - West Side 900 Block

John D. Abernathy House

Contributing building

904 South Aspen Street
ca. 1948

In 1922, M. C. Quickel and his wife, Georgia (daughter of John M. Rhodes), sold a lot on South Aspen Street to John D. Abernathy (1881-1973). The 1921 Sanborn Map shows that a one-story frame house was already on the lot. The Abernathys occupied that house for a quarter century. Around 1948 (elevator in house inspected in 1949), they built the present brick house, but even then, they continued to reside in the older frame house—which they had moved to the rear of the lot—for several years before moving into their new house. The frame house stood until the mid-1980s, when Jimmy and Doris Lail purchased the property from the estate of Grace DeBerry Abernathy. The Abernathy House is a large, two-story, brick Colonial Revival dwelling. It has a side-gable roof with dormers and a dentiled cornice, eight-over-eight sash windows, a three-bay facade, and a two-story rear ell. The central entrance has sidelights and a fanlight transom. Above the entrance, at second-story height, is a stylized Palladian window. Particularly striking are the front entrance and north side porches, built from fancy decorative ironwork which came from the Ramsour-Phifer-Abernathy House which stood in the 100 block of West Main Street. (Dellinger, Deeds, SM)

Garage

Contributing building

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Southwest of the house is a one-story brick garage with front-gable roof and tiny cupola. It is contemporary with the house.

Pool

Non-contributing structure

Behind the house is a modern swimming pool and tiny pool shed.

James Howard Mauney House

Contributing building

910 South Aspen Street

Early twentieth century; ca. 1925; ca. 1952

By 1920, James Howard Mauney was residing in this house with his wife, Annie, and young son, Howard, but how much earlier the house was built is not certain. The 1921 Sanborn Map shows the house as a one-story frame dwelling with a wrap-around porch. By 1929, the house had been remodeled, altering the front porch and replacing the south side porch with a greenhouse. The Mauneys operated a grocery store on Academy Street, and in conjunction with it grew flowers and produce in their backyard and in the greenhouse. Around 1952, the house was again remodeled, this time altering the front porch and raising the roof. Nevertheless, it still conveys ample evidence of its pre-1952 appearance. Since 1976, the house has been owned by the Martin Eaddys. The Mauney House is a one-and-a-half-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling with a side-gable roof, interior chimneys, a slight projection near the south end of the facade, a north-side wing, and a rear ell. The front of the house has an unusual shed-roofed dormer, and the front entrance is sheltered by a small porch with a shed-and-gabled roof and Tuscan columns. On either side of the entrance are grouped bungalow windows. (Eaddy, Census, SM)

Garage

Contributing building

At the end of the driveway southwest of the house is a one-bay brick garage with a shed roof. Based on the Sanborn Maps, it was built in the 1920s.

Victor N. Fair House

Contributing building

918 South Aspen Street

1910s-early 1920s

This house is most closely associated with the family of Victor N. and Mary D. Fair, who owned it from 1923 to 1982. Victor Fair was Lincolnton's postmaster. However, the house had already been built by the time Fair purchased the property from the Saxony Spinning Company. The house is shown on the

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1921 Sanborn Map, and the 1920 census indicates that at that time it was being rented by traveling salesman John C. Ramsaur and his family, who soon thereafter moved to 510 South Aspen Street. The Fair House is a one-story frame (now vinyl-sided) dwelling with a hipped roof with front and side gabled wings with pointed-arched louvered vents.. The south front wing features a rectangular bay window with wood frieze and skirt. Originally, an attached porch stretched across the remaining bays of the facade, but the northern third has been enclosed since 1941 and the remainder is screened. A portion of the rear ell porch has also been enclosed. (Deeds, SM, Census, Dellinger)

Motz-Gamble-Sappenfield House

Contributing building

924 South Aspen Street

Early twentieth century

The exact date of construction of this house is uncertain. A house of the same configuration is shown on the 1921 Sanborn Map, except that it is depicted as a one-story dwelling. Either the map was incorrect, or the house was later enlarged. Architecturally, it appears to date from the 1910s or early 1920s. The house was built by W. W. Motz, who owned the property from 1899 to 1923, but whether he ever lived in it is not known. According to the 1920 census, at that time the house was rented by Dr. Elliott Richard Lee, a physician, and his family. When the property was sold to J. Frank Gamble in 1923, it was described as "the same lot upon which is located a dwelling house occupied at present by Dr. Lea." The first known owner-occupant was J. Frank Gamble, a physician who, with his brother, Dr. Reeves Gamble, established the Gamble Clinic (later the Reeves Gamble Hospital) in 1930 on East Main Street. (It is interesting that Frank Gamble lived on South Aspen Street very near the Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Hospital and the homes of many associated with it, rather than near the hospital he founded.) After the deaths of Frank and Mattie Richardson Gamble, their daughter, Jessie, and her husband, Nick Sappenfield, continued to occupy the home until their deaths. In 1994 it was sold outside the family. The house is a two-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling with a low hipped roof, widely overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, and shallow two-story wings projecting from the front and south (side) elevations. On the rear of the house is a short, one-story ell. A one-story porch with Tuscan columns wraps around the southeast corner of the house; behind the porch on the south side is a sunroom. (Deeds, SM, Census, Gamble, Heritage)

Garage

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a three-bay, side-gable-roof, German-sided garage which appears to post-date 1950.

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SOUTH ASPEN STREET - East Side 900 Block

John M. Rhodes House
903 South Aspen Street
ca. 1906

Contributing building

John Melancthon Rhodes (1849-1921) built this house around 1906. Already a successful textile manufacturer (ultimately involved with the establishment of eight cotton mills), he moved with his wife, Margaret Aderholdt (1847-1917), from Gaston County to Lincolnton in the early years of the twentieth century. At about the same time, his brother, C. William Rhodes, and his son, David Polycarp Rhodes, also moved to Lincolnton. Their plan was to build a new mill about a half mile south of their homes on South Aspen Street. The Rhodes Manufacturing Company, later known as the Massapoag Mill, produced "Army Duck" cloth and, when built, was the only weave mill in Lincoln County. After the death of John Rhodes, the house continued to be occupied by his second wife, Nina Crowell, who was a niece of Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. (By 1929, Nina Crowell Rhodes had married W. Edgar Flack.) Subsequent occupants included Nina's parents, G. Edward and Katie Crowell, and her nephew, Harvey A. Jonas Jr. Set back from the street on a large lot surrounded by an ironwork fence, the Rhodes House is architecturally striking for two reasons. First, it is an unusual, early-twentieth-century, Lincolnton example of rusticated concrete block construction, which, having been successfully demonstrated at Rhodes's house was then utilized for the construction of the mill houses erected soon thereafter for employees of the nearby Rhodes Manufacturing Company. Secondly, the house appears to be derived from the same plan as the David P. Rhodes House at 1022 South Aspen Street and exhibits the same distinctive lancet-arched bargeboard in the front gable end. The Rhodes House is a one-and-a-half-story Queen Anne cottage with an irregular configuration and a multi-gabled roof. While the first story is built of rusticated concrete blocks, the upper half-story is frame, with gables and front dormer sheathed with pressed-metal shingles. A bay window projects from the south front ell, and a porch wraps around the northwest corner of the house. The porch, with turned posts and brackets, replaces a mid-twentieth-century ironwork porch, itself a replacement. The decorative Queen Anne-style windows are also replacements of earlier replacements. Small additions have been made to the sides and rear of the house. (Brown and York, Cauble, SM, Dellinger)

Guest House

Non-contributing building

At the east end of the driveway on the north side of the house is a one-story frame guest house.

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Although recently constructed, it is designed to reflect architectural features of the house.

Pool

Non-contributing structure

Behind the house is a modern swimming pool.

Pool House

Non-contributing building

Behind the house and slightly to the southeast is a frame pool house with a steep gable roof. It is designed to coordinate with the house and the quest house.

C. William Rhodes House

Contributing building

913 South Aspen Street
1906

Christian William Rhodes was the brother of John M. Rhodes and the uncle of David P. Rhodes. Shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, all three moved to Lincolnton and built houses on South Aspen Street (903, 913, 1022). Together they established the successful Rhodes Manufacturing Company, a cotton mill later known as Massapoag Mill. William Rhodes and his wife, Elizabeth, acquired this property in 1906 and probably built the house immediately thereafter. It remained in Rhodes family ownership until 1948. The William Rhodes House is a one-story, weatherboarded-frame dwelling typical of many built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its has an asymmetrical form, a steep, metal-shingled, hipped roof with multiple intersecting gables, and a north-side gabled wing. A wraparound porch with turned posts and small sawnwork brackets carries across the front the house and down the south side. The porch has a gabled projection at the center of the facade to emphasize the front entrance. (Deeds, Census, SM, Heritage)

Carport

Non-contributing building

Behind the northeast corner of the house is a two-bay frame carport with storage rooms. Although it is of modern construction, its weatherboarded gable end, steep metal-shingled gable roof, and turned posts are designed to be sympathetic with the design of the house.

Pool

Non-contributing structure

Directly behind the house is a modern swimming pool with a small frame pool shed surrounded by a

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wooden deck and fence.

Hoke S. Heavner House
917 South Aspen Street
ca. 1949

Contributing building

On November 15, 1948, Hoke S. and Betty Sue Heavner purchased a lot measuring approximately 62 x 561 feet on the east side of South Aspen Street that, until six months earlier, had been part of the property of the heirs of C. William Rhodes. This new lot was carved from the south side of the Rhodes property and stood between the Rhodes House and the Charles M. Sumner House. Hoke Heavner, who was the county surveyor, and his wife probably built the house soon after their purchase of the land. They retained ownership of the property until 1978. Typical of the minimal traditional houses built in the 1940s and 1950s, the Heavner House is a one-and-a-half-story brick veneer dwelling with a steep side-gable roof. A gabled ell projects from the south end of the facade, and a shed-roofed porch with ironwork posts carries across the remainder of the facade. The house has paired sash windows. (Deeds)

Garage

Contributing building

At the east end of the driveway just north of the house is a two-bay, brick-veneered garage with upper story rooms. It appears to be contemporary with the house.

Charles M. Sumner House
923 South Aspen Street
ca. 1910-ca. 1920

Contributing building

This house has its strongest historical association with the family of Charles McBee Sumner (ca. 1856-1929), who owned the property from 1919 to 1970. Its date of construction is not certain, but stylistically it is typical of many traditional two-story houses erected from ca. 1910 to ca. 1920. The house had definitely been built by 1920, when the census recorded the Sumner family at this location, and a house of the same configuration was depicted on the 1921 Sanborn Map. Sumner purchased the property from George D. and Ada Huss on October 10, 1919, and could have built the house immediately thereafter. However, it is also possible that the house could have been built earlier. Ada Huss, daughter of industrialist John M. Rhodes, acquired the property in 1917 from the Rhodes Manufacturing Company. She could have built the house during the short period of her ownership, or it could have been erected earlier by the Rhodes Manufacturing Company for one of its managers. The

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Rhodes Manufacturing Company was established ca. 1907 by Ada Rhodes Huss's father, brother, and uncle, who had all moved to Lincolnton for that purpose ca. 1906 and built houses for themselves along this stretch of South Aspen Street. The 1920 census lists Charles M. Sumner as a sixty-four-year-old retired farmer. His household included his wife, Margaret, their four unmarried children—Mary, Sallie, Edith, and Benjamin—their one married daughter, Myra, and her husband, Tennyson B. Smith (who was born at Magnolia Grove in the county), and the Smiths two young children. After Charles Sumner died in 1929, the Tennyson Smith family continued to live in the house, along with widow Margaret Sumner. Tennyson Smith was a bookkeeper at the cotton mill. Between 1949 and 1952, the five children of Charles Sumner conveyed their shares of the property to Sallie Sumner, who had never married. She continued to occupy the family home with her unmarried sister, Mary Wood Sumner, until selling the house outside the family in 1970 to the George Rosenbaum family, who still owned it in 2002. The Sumner House is a two-story frame (now vinyl-sided) Colonial Revival house with a steep hipped roof with intersecting gables on the north end of the facade and east end of the north elevation and interior chimneys. A hip-roofed porch with classical posts carries across the five-bay first story of the facade (three bays on second story), sheltering the original center-bay entrance with its oval-glass and wood-paneled door. Windows are two-over-two sash. A short one-story ell above an exposed basement projects from the south end of the rear of the house. (Deeds, Census, SM, Dellinger, Heritage)

Shed

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a small, modern, metal shed.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - West Side 1000 Block

Motz-Glenn House

Contributing building

1010 South Aspen Street

First decade of twentieth century; 1930s-1940s

The original house at this location is believed to have been built during the first decade of the twentieth century. It was the home of building contractor William W. Motz and his wife, Edna. During the Motzes' ownership, the house was a large, two-story frame dwelling with a wraparound porch. In 1929 Edna and W. W. Motz, who had moved to Florida, sold the house to Mary Love Glenn, wife of William Wilson Glenn (1875-1955); the following year the census listed the Glenns and their four daughters at this location. W. W. Glenn, who was from Gaston County, was a prominent textile executive. In 1929 he moved to Lincolnton, where he was manager of the Saxony and Melville Mills. In 1932 he

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incorporated the Glenn Manufacturing Company and Melville Mills under one ownership. In 1933, the year of Daniel E. Rhyne's death, Glenn was listed as manager of Rhyne's Laboratory and Southside-Lincoln mills, in addition to being manager of Melville Mill. In 1941, he entered the hosiery field, acquiring the Saxony Hosiery Company. In 1947, Glenn combined the interests of this mill, along with the Wisteria Mills and the Glenn Thread Company, to form Glenn Mills, Inc. Unfortunately, around the same time, Glenn's health began to decline. After W. W. Glenn's death in 1955, Mrs. Glenn sold the property in 1959 to Dr. Ray A. and Hazel Cox Warren. In 1978, they sold the house to the present owners, Charles W. and Sybil L. Eurey. During the Glenns' ownership, the house was significantly remodeled, acquiring much of its present appearance. It is an imposing two-and-a-half-story weatherboarded-frame dwelling with a steep side-gable roof, two-story side-gable projections on either side, and a two-story, gabled rear ell with two-story hip-roofed extension. One-story rooms project from the south side of the house, while the north elevation features a porte-cochere. The dominant architectural feature of the house is the two-story, flat-roofed, classical portico across the entire facade. It shelters a Colonial Revival entrance with sidelights and fanlight transom. Above the main entrance is a second-floor doorway which opens to a balcony with bracket supports. The Motz-Glenn House sits on a large corner lot within a garden-like setting. (Deeds, SM, Census, Gamble, Eurey, *News*, *Sherrill*)

Carport

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a two-bay, weatherboarded-gable carport of later twentieth century origin.

At the rear of the property are three outbuildings in a row which appear to have been erected in the late twentieth century:

Outbuilding

Non-contributing building

At the south end of the row is a weatherboarded frame, gable-roofed building of house-like appearance, but with garage doors and an attached shed. It is probably a workshop.

Greenhouse

Non-contributing building

Adjacent to the north side of the workshop is a small, modern, glass greenhouse.

Outbuilding

Non-contributing building

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At the north end of the row is what is probably a storage building, with fiberboard siding, a gable roof, and a garage door.

David P. Rhodes House
1022 South Aspen Street
1906

Contributing building

When David Polycarp "Polie" Rhodes (1871-1936), along with his father, John M. Rhodes, and his uncle, C. William Rhodes, moved to Lincolnton soon after the turn of the twentieth century to establish a new textile mill, all three built houses on South Aspen Street. The houses of Polie and John Rhodes were very similar, but Polie's was significantly larger and two stories instead of one. Having earlier been associated with his father at Kings Mountain Mill and the Cherryville Manufacturing Company, both at other locations, Polie Rhodes worked with his father in Lincolnton on establishing the Rhodes Manufacturing Company (later called Massapoag Mill). Later, Polie Rhodes and his son, Paul, built and operated the Rhodes-Rhyne Manufacturing Company in Lincolnton and bought and operated the Indian Creek Mills outside Lincolnton in the county. These mills continued to be operated by the Rhodes family until the mid 1940s. A Republican, Polie Rhodes was a member of the Board of County Commissioners from 1928 to 1930 and again from 1932 until his death in 1936. Like his first wife, Mary Juetta "Mamie" Thornburg, and other members of the Rhodes family, Polie was actively involved with Emmanuel Lutheran Church and with the Lutheran denomination. Polie and Mamie Rhodes had seven children; Paul was their only son. Paul Rhodes (1897-1982) married Pearl Davidson, a nurse at Lincoln Hospital, and they had two daughters. In 1940 Paul moved with his family back to his parents' home on South Aspen Street to live. After selling the Rhodes-Rhyne and Indian Creek mills, Paul Rhodes bought and operated the DeSoto-Plymouth automobile dealership in Lincolnton. The house remains in Rhodes family ownership. The David P. Rhodes House is an L-shaped, two-and-a-half-story, weatherboarded-frame dwelling with a pedimented-gable roof. The pedimented gable of the two-story projecting bay at the south end of the facade is enlivened by a boxed-in, lancet-arched bargeboard that frames a Queen Anne-style window. A one-story porch with brick posts, brick plinths, and a wooden balustrade wraps around the northeast corner of the house. The south side of the house has a one-story wing with an ironwork-balustraded roof deck; shed rooms project from the rear of the house. The Rhodes House sits on a rise back from the street at the northwest corner of South Aspen Street and Massapoag Road. Its expansive lot is landscaped with lawn, numerous boxwoods, and a variety of trees. A two-layer stone retaining wall borders the yard along Massapoag Road; the bottom part has grapevine mortar joints, while the top part is dry-laid stone. Behind the house, a circular drive leads to the garage and other outbuildings. Stone edging borders the drive, and a low stone wall separates the backyard

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proper from the now-overgrown rear lot associated with the house. Between the yard and the rear lot is an area enclosed by large shrubbery that appears to have been a garden at one time. (Cauble, Heritage, Brown and York, Gamble)

Garage

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a two-story frame garage which appears to have been enlarged from one story to two post-1950.

Shed

Contributing building

Behind the house and northeast of the garage is a one-story, German-sided, shed-roofed shed of unknown use that appears to date from the first half of the twentieth century.

Outbuilding

Contributing building

Just beyond (west of) the low stone wall that separates the back yard from the rear lot is a one-story, German-sided, shed-roofed outbuilding with window openings along the south elevation. It may have been a chicken house or a flower house and appears to have been built during the first half of the twentieth century.

SOUTH ASPEN STREET - East Side 1000 Block

Georgette Brown Heavner House

Contributing building

1007 South Aspen Street
ca. 1920

The longest-known owner of this bungalow was Georgette Brown Heavner, from 1941 to 1970. Both before and after her ownership, the house had a succession of many owners. From 1932 to 1941, when Heavner purchased the property, there were four owners, the first being J. R. and Willie Donaldson. It is not known, however, if the Donaldsons were the first owners. The same house is depicted at this location on Sanborn Maps from 1921 through 1941. Since the house does not appear in the 1920 census (although those on either side are), it may have been under construction at that time. It is a one-and-a-half-story frame (now vinyl sided) bungalow with a broad side-gable roof with overhanging eaves and a low shed dormer on the front. An engaged porch with brick posts and wooden balustrade stretches

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across the facade, and extends northward to form a porte-cochere. (The porte-cochere appears original but is not depicted on the Sanborn Maps.) Both north and south sides of the house have shallow projecting rooms. (Deeds, SM, Census)

EAST RHODES STREET - South Side 100 Block

Reinhardt-Miller House

Non-contributing building

114 East Rhodes Street
ca. 1955

Lelia Rendleman Reinhardt and the other heirs of James M. Reinhardt sold a fifty-foot lot just east of their family home at 605 South Aspen Street to Henry Reece Miller and her daughters, Barbara Ann Miller Chaplin and Julia Miller, in 1959. The deed described the lot as being "lands upon which is situated a brick dwelling, garage, and other improvements." It may be that after J. M. Reinhardt's death in 1949, Mrs. Reinhardt eventually built this little house for herself behind the larger family home at the corner of South Aspen and East Rhodes streets. In 1957, the city directory listed Lelia R. Reinhardt at this location. After it was sold in 1959, the house remained in Miller family ownership until 1975. The house is a one-story, minimal traditional, "Cape Cod" brick dwelling with a side-gable roof, a gable-end chimney, a rear ell, and a simple classical front entrance. (Deeds, CD)

Garage

Contributing building

Behind (south of) the house is a frame garage with overhead rooms. It is German sided and has a side-gable roof. The garage appears to pre-date 1950 and may originally have been associated with the adjacent James M. Reinhardt House.

Barrett-Hoyle House

Contributing building

120 East Rhodes Street
1852; moved ca. 1921

In late 1851, Elisha S. Barrett, a partner in the Laurel Hill cotton factory—one of the early successful textile mills in Lincoln County—purchased several lots located south and southwest of the Female Academy which stood at the southwest corner of what is now East Congress and South Academy streets. It appears that he built his substantial house the following year, for a deed of additional land to Barrett in January, 1853, makes reference to "Barrett's new building." Set back from and facing South Aspen

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Street on the present site of the former Lincolnton High School, Barrett's house was a large, two-story, double-pile, weatherboarded frame dwelling of transitional Greek Revival-Italianate stylistic detailing. A photograph of the house on its original site shows it with a hipped roof with overhanging bracketed eaves, a pair of interior chimneys, and a symmetrical three-bay facade with a one-story classical entrance porch with balustraded roof deck. The house had large, shuttered windows and a center-bay entrance with sidelights and transom that was repeated at the second-floor level. The original house site was a lush setting with a variety of trees and shrubs. By 1857, Barrett was heavily in debt, so to secure his debts, he assigned all his real and personal property to Charles C. Henderson. His real property included approximately seven acres on which stood his dwelling house, barn, stable, and ice house. By 1860, Elisha Barrett and his family had moved from Lincolnton. From C. C. Henderson, the house passed, in succession, to Jasper Stowe, Judge David Schenck, and the Cobb family into which Schenck's daughter had married: Lucy and John L. Cobb, and then Mrs. May Wright Cobb in 1907. In 1921 May Wright Cobb sold the Barrett House property to the Board of Trustees of the Lincolnton Graded School District for the site of the town's new high school. Soon thereafter, the house was moved around 150 feet to its present location on the south side of East Rhodes Street, across from the high school, and was rotated to face north. From 1921 to 1929 the house was the property of Mrs. Hettie Abernathy. On its new location, the exterior of the house retained most of its original features, including its unusually large twelve-over-twelve sash windows and bracketed eaves, but the original porch was replaced with a one-story Colonial Revival porch stretching across the full facade. The interior kept much of its original antebellum detailing, while acquiring a Colonial Revival-style stair, bookcases, china cupboard, and other detailing. In 1929, Mrs. W. Fitzhugh Hoyle purchased the house and lived here until 1975. (Hood, survey file notes)

Garage

Non-contributing building

Behind the house is a two-story, two-bay garage which appears to post-date 1950. It is sheathed with asbestos shingles, has a side-gable roof, and has second-story rooms.

Playhouse

Non-contributing building

On the lawn southeast of the house is a diminutive children's playhouse with weatherboard siding, a gable roof, a three-bay facade, and a front porch with corner support posts and a balustrade. It likely post-dates 1950.

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Block Smith Memorial Gymnasium

Non-contributing building

130 East Rhodes Street
1954

In 1954 Lincolnton High School made a significant expansion to its facilities through the construction of a modern gymnasium across East Rhodes Street from the main school building. Dedicated on December 8, the gym was named for Charles D. "Block" Smith (1901-1944), a beloved coach and teacher at the high school from 1925 to 1937. With the school district no longer occupying the main building on South Aspen Street, the gym is currently used by the Lincoln County Parks and Recreation Department. Although at the time of the preparation of this nomination, the gym is less than fifty years old and therefore non-contributing to the historic and architectural character of the district, with time that designation will likely change. The brick building is a good example of mid-twentieth-century modernism. A broad segmental-vaulted roof dominates the two-level structure. The symmetrical facade on East Rhodes Street has a tall, concrete-bordered, projecting lobby with three pairs of double-leaf glass doors surmounted by glass panels. Projecting one-story rooms flank the lobby. The interior of the lobby has striking tile walls with a gray background and red zig-zagging lines. Plain brick pilasters line the sides and rear of the gym, and the east and west side elevations have a band of metal tilt windows positioned high on the wall.

WEST PARK DRIVE - West Side 600 Block

Vacant Lot

600 block, between 120 East Rhodes Street and 624 West Park Drive

No buildings are known to have occupied this hillside lot, which was once part of the land associated with the Wallace H. Alexander House.

Crowell-Pollock House

Contributing building

624 West Park Drive
ca. 1935

On October 31, 1934, Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. conveyed two lots on West Park Drive to his wife, Mary Hull Crowell. When, in 1937, the northern half of the first lot was conveyed to Frank Hull Crowell, the deed identified it as the land "upon which is located what is known as the Mary Hull Crowell dwelling

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built there by her." Why Mrs. Crowell built the house and whether she ever occupied it are not known. Frank Hull Crowell is believed to have lived there until building a house for himself just to the south several years later. The Stanley Z. and Frances J. Pollock family owned the house from 1943 to 1996. The Crowell-Pollock House is a rustic one-story log dwelling with a stone foundation, a side-gable roof, a gabled wing projecting from the south elevation, and a shed-roofed front porch with rustic pole construction. A low stone retaining wall with a jagged upper edge borders the property along West Park Drive. (Deeds, SM)

Garage

Contributing building

At the end of a driveway northwest of the house is matching one-bay log garage with a front-gable roof. Its construction appears to be contemporary with that of the house.

Frank Hull Crowell House

Contributing building

636 West Park Drive
ca. 1940

On September 15, 1939, Frank Hull Crowell purchased this lot from his parents, Dr. Lester A. and Mary Jane Crowell. At the time, he had been married for three years and is believed to have been living in the log house on his adjacent property, 624 West Park Drive. Frank Hull Crowell apparently built his new house soon after his purchase of the land, for the house is depicted on the 1941 Sanborn Map. Crowell was the administrator and president-treasurer of the Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital which his father had co-founded. He was a member of or served on the board of directors of numerous civic organizations in Lincolnton. When Frank Crowell and Dorothy McConnell married in 1936, she was a student nurse at the hospital. In 1956 the Crowells sold their house to Howard R. and Florida McCurry; since then there have been two additional owners. The house is a one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling with asbestos-shingle siding and a broad side-gable roof intersected in the front by a large gabled dormer. One-story, hip-roofed wings, which contain the entrances to the house, project from the north and south-side elevations. The house sits on a hillside with numerous boxwoods. A stone retaining wall borders the property along West Park Drive and lines the uphill side of the curved driveway that leads from the street and past the house to a parking terrace south of the house. (Deeds, SM)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark 'x' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1852-ca. 1950

Significant Dates

1852

ca. 1906

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

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SIGNIFICANCE

Significant Dates

1923-1924

Summary

Lincolnton was established as the county seat of Lincoln County in 1785. It was laid out with a central courthouse surrounded by a grid plan of streets, blocks, and lots, with four primary streets—East and West Main streets and a north-south cross street, now called North Aspen and South Aspen streets—leading from the courthouse and dividing the town into quadrants. Over time, development in Lincolnton filled the original grid plan, expanded it, and eventually moved beyond it, while maintaining the four principal arteries like compass points. The South Aspen Street Historic District, located several blocks south of the courthouse, forms a cohesive and distinctive area of residential and institutional buildings that reflects the character of Lincolnton's development from the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The two oldest houses in the district—the Wallace H. Alexander House and the Barrett-Hoyle House—were built in 1852 at the end of Lincolnton's first period of prosperity that stretched from the late eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. The next half century was a fallow time for Lincolnton, with the population actually decreasing from 1860 to 1900. With the arrival of the new century, however, came renewed vitality for Lincolnton, filled with energy and new economic and community endeavors. The development of the area encompassed by the South Aspen Street Historic District parallels and reflects this renewal. Of major importance to the community was the 1907 opening of Lincoln's first hospital on South Aspen Street in the center of the district. Over time, the Lincoln Hospital (after 1936 the Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital) spurred a significant amount of additional building activity in the district, including the Nurses' Residence, the home of hospital co-founder Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr., three other houses built by members of the Crowell family, and the homes of at least two other doctors and two dentists. Almost simultaneously with the construction of the hospital, the Rhodes family arrived in Lincolnton to establish a new textile mill, the Rhodes Manufacturing Company. John M. Rhodes, C. William Rhodes, and David P. Rhodes all built houses on South Aspen Street at the south end of the district near their mill. Houses continued to be built from the 1910s through the 1930s, undoubtedly boosted during the latter half of that period by the completion in 1924 of the Lincolnton High School at the north end of the district. By 1940, few openings remained in the district for new construction, but several additional buildings were erected in

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the 1940s and 1950s. Of particular significance was the construction ca. 1948 of the large, brick, Colonial Revival, John D. Abernathy House at 904 South Aspen Street. It clearly indicated that in the mid-twentieth century, South Aspen Street was still considered a fashionable place to live. The South Aspen Street Historic District is locally significant in the area of Social History and fulfills Criterion A for listing in the National Register because it is a distinct area that reflects through its institutional buildings and domestic architecture the development of Lincolnton—and the often-important role of families in that development—as the town transcended from a mid-nineteenth-century community to a mid-twentieth-century community.

The district is architecturally significant at the local level and meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register because its buildings include good examples of a variety of architectural styles popular in Lincolnton from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The two oldest houses in the district—the Wallace H. Alexander House and the Barrett-Hoyle House—erected in 1852 in the Greek Revival and transitional Greek Revival-Italianate styles, respectively, are among a small and important surviving collection of mid-nineteenth-century buildings in Lincolnton. Among striking examples of other styles represented in the district are the Queen Anne-style John M. Rhodes House; the Colonial Revival-style Houser-Ruth House; the Classical Revival-style former Lincolnton High School; the bungalow/Craftsman-style Dr. William F. Elliott House; the Tudor Revival-style Dr. Lester A. Crowell Jr. House; the Dr. S. H. Steelman House, an example of the eclectic period cottage; and the Hoke S. Heavner House, which exemplifies the mid-twentieth-century minimal traditional style. These and other buildings in the district contribute to the district's character as a spectrum of the architectural styles associated with Lincolnton's development from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

The South Aspen Street Historic District's period of significance spans the century from 1852 to ca. 1950. The period encompasses the construction of the district's oldest houses in 1852, the houses built by members of the industrialist Rhodes family ca. 1906, the opening of the Lincoln Hospital in 1907, the construction of the former Lincolnton High School in 1923-1924, and the construction of other architecturally significant houses built prior to ca. 1950.

Historical Background and Social History and Architecture Contexts

In 1779 the North Carolina General Assembly carved Lincoln County out of the larger Tryon County. Initially including 1800 square miles, the county became a leader statewide in the value of many farm products. In addition, furnaces and forges produced large quantities of ironware, and other industries, such as textiles, enlivened the economy (Brown and York, 244, 246).

After several unsuccessful tries to establish a seat of government for the new county, the General Assembly identified three hundred acres for the county seat, and on December 29, 1785, Lincolnton was

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established. Located initially on fifty of the three hundred acres, Lincolnton was laid out symmetrically with a grid plan of streets, blocks and lots, with the courthouse at the center. The town was divided into quadrants by four principal streets—East and West Main streets and a north-south cross street now called North and South Aspen streets—that led from the courthouse square like compass points. Lincolnton soon grew into a prosperous center of government, commerce, and culture. Stores and professional offices encircled the courthouse and spread out along West Main Street and, particularly, East Main Street. As the town grew, it filled the original grid plan, expanded it, and eventually moved beyond it. By 1820, the sale of new town lots provided for the construction, ca. 1821, of the Pleasant Retreat Academy for boys on the north side of town and, in 1825-26, a female academy on the south side of town just north of the South Aspen Street Historic District (Brown and York, 246-247; Heritage, 253).

During the 1840s, three new counties were pulled from Lincoln County, leaving it with 305 square miles, only a fraction of its original 1800. Until the mid-nineteenth century, numerous fine houses and other buildings were erected in Lincolnton, but with the diminution of the county, the momentum for growth—in both the county and the town—was curtailed. Lincoln County's population and economy remained static in the mid-nineteenth century and grew slowly in the second half of the century. In Lincolnton, however, the population actually diminished from 1860 to 1900, and building activity was limited when compared with earlier times (Brown and York, 263, 271).

With the beginning of a new century, Lincolnton began to flourish once more. A variety of new businesses improved the local economy, yet they were surpassed in their impact by a growing number of textile mills located in and around Lincolnton that took advantage of the South Fork of the Catawba River and two rail lines. The town's population increased from 828 in 1900 to 2,413 in 1910; by 1920 it had reached 3,390. The early twentieth century saw greatly increased building activity in Lincolnton, with brick stores replacing frame structures around the courthouse and one- and two-story frame houses proliferating beyond the center of town (Brown and York, 272-273).

Being one of the primary arteries leading to and from the center of Lincolnton, South Aspen Street developed over time, reflecting Lincolnton's continuum of growth. Located several blocks south of the courthouse and encompassing the 500-1000 blocks of South Aspen Street, 114-130 East Rhodes Street, and 624-636 West Park Drive, the South Aspen Street Historic District is a cohesive and distinctive area whose collection of thirty-five primary and forty-three secondary resources form a microcosm of Lincolnton's residential and institutional development from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

The oldest surviving buildings in the South Aspen Street Historic District are the Greek Revival-style Wallace H. Alexander House (613 South Aspen Street) and the transitional Greek Revival/Italianate-style Barrett-Hoyle House (130 East Rhodes Street). Located just south of the Female

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Academy, both were erected in 1852 at the end of Lincolnton's long first period of prosperity. When built, these were outlying houses in the community, possessing more land than did the dwellings erected within Lincolnton's original grid. Because many buildings dating from Lincolnton's late-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth-century development were lost during mid-to-late-twentieth-century re-development in the town, the Alexander and Barrett-Hoyle houses are part of a small and significant group—composed also of several houses in the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street and a few elsewhere—of mid-nineteenth-century houses in Lincolnton. The two-story form and hipped roof with overhanging eaves of the Barrett-Hoyle house gives it an appearance related to that of the Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House on West Main Street, and the broad, pedimented, front-gable temple form and overall proportions of the one-story Alexander House are very similar to the William H. Michal House, also on West Main Street.

The economic stagnation that Lincolnton experienced during the second half of the nineteenth century is evident in the South Aspen Street Historic District. No buildings known to date from that period survive.

The early twentieth century, particularly during the first decade but also, to some extent, during the 1910s, was a different story. The South Aspen Street Historic District bears witness to the renewed energy that was seen in Lincolnton as a whole during those years.

The influx of new textile mills in and around Lincolnton had a direct effect on building activity in the district. Shortly after the turn of the century, members of the Rhodes family moved to Lincolnton to establish a textile mill. John Melancthon Rhodes (1849-1921) was already a successful manufacturer who, ultimately, was involved with the creation of eight cotton mills in North Carolina's western Piedmont. His son, David Polycarp "Polie" Rhodes (1871-1936), worked with him to establish several of those mills, and later worked with his own son, Paul, to build and operate the Rhodes-Rhyne Manufacturing Company in Lincolnton and to purchase and operate the Indian Creek Mills outside Lincolnton, both of which continued to be operated by the Rhodes family until the mid-1940s. Christian William Rhodes, brother of John and uncle of Polie, moved with his kinsmen to Lincolnton right after the turn of the century. Together the three men established the Rhodes Manufacturing Company, later known as the Massapoag Mill, about a half mile south of the district. The mill produced "Army Duck" cloth and, when built, was the only weave mill in Lincoln County. All three Rhodes men built houses along South Aspen Street in or around 1906. The most striking of these is the John M. Rhodes House at 903 South Aspen Street. The one-and-a-half-story Queen Anne-style dwelling is an early and unusual example in Lincolnton of rusticated concrete-block construction. After successfully using this construction material for his own home, Rhodes soon thereafter used rusticated concrete blocks in building the employee housing at the Rhodes Manufacturing Company. Typical Queen Anne-style features such as an irregular configuration and plan, a multi-gabled roof, a bay window, a wraparound porch, and a variety of materials are utilized at the John M. Rhodes House. One of its most distinctive

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features is the lancet-arched boxed bargeboard in the front gable end. William Rhodes built his house adjacent to his brother's at 913 South Aspen Street. More typical of many Queen Anne-style cottages built in North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it is a one-story, weatherboarded-frame dwelling with an asymmetrical form, a steep hipped roof with multiple intersecting gables, and a wrap-around front porch with turned posts and small sawnwork brackets. Down the street at 1022 South Aspen Street, Polie Rhodes built his house, apparently from the same plan as his father's house. It differs, however, in being a two-and-a-half-story, weatherboarded-frame dwelling. While it is more simple in its detailing than the John M. Rhodes House, exhibiting more of a stylistic transition between the Queen Anne and the Colonial Revival, it displays one of the signature features of the John Rhodes House—the unusual lancet-arched, boxed bargeboard in the front gable end.

Several other properties in the 800 and 900 blocks of South Aspen Street also bear connections with the Rhodes family. These include the Huss-Harrill House at 819 South Aspen Street (Ada Huss was a daughter of John M. Rhodes); the M. C. Quickel House, which stood at 904 South Aspen Street until ca. 1948, when the John D. Abernathy House was built, and then remained on the rear of the lot until the mid-1980s (Georgia Quickel was a daughter of John M. Rhodes); and the Charles M. Sumner House at 923 South Aspen Street, which may have been erected by Ada Rhodes Huss between 1917 and 1919 or earlier by the Rhodes Manufacturing Company (Cauble, 16-18, 35, 39; Deeds 122/238 and 93/272; Census, 1910 and 1920; Gamble Interview; Brown and York, 179; Heritage, 186).

Around the same time that the Rhodes men were building their houses, Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. (1867-1954) moved from West Main Street to South Aspen Street. There, responding to a long-time community need, he and Dr. R. W. Petrie opened the Lincoln Hospital in 1907 at what is now 816 South Aspen Street. It was one of only a few general hospitals in North Carolina at the time and was Lincolnton's only hospital until 1930, when the Reeves Gamble Hospital opened in another part of town. After a couple of years, Dr. Petrie sold his interest in the hospital to Dr. Crowell, who continued to practice medicine there until his death at the age of eighty-five, all the while living in a two-story house across the street. The Crowell family continued to operate the hospital for another fifteen years, until it was sold to a hospital management firm in 1969. Period photographs show that the original hospital was a large, two-story, weatherboarded-frame former dwelling of Colonial Revival influence with a hipped roof and dormers, interior chimneys, and a wraparound classical porch extended on one side to form a porte-cochere. From the hospital's earliest years until the end of World War II, a nursing school was operated in conjunction with the hospital, and Dr. Crowell built a one-and-a-half-story frame bungalow at 701 South Aspen Street as a residence for the nurses and nursing students (Sherrill, 310-311; Sanborn Maps, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1929/1941; Brown and York, 180; Census, 1920; *Lincoln Times*, October 7, 1935; *Charlotte Observer*, March 15, 1982.)

Another influential event, which was nearly simultaneous with the construction of the Lincoln

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Hospital and the Rhodes houses, doubtless had an impact on development in the South Aspen Street Historic District. In 1907, the Lincolnton Graded School was erected on the site of the Female Academy, just beyond the north end of the district at the southwest corner of East Congress and South Academy streets. It no longer stands, having been demolished in recent years for a parking lot, but during its years of operation, the school added to the attractiveness of South Aspen Street as a residential neighborhood (Brown and York, 282).

Ten other surviving houses were built along South Aspen Street during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Several of these provide an additional view of the frequently interwoven character of property ownership in the district as well as a sense of the occupations represented by the owners. During the period, building contractor William W. Motz and his wife, Edna, occupied a large, two-story frame dwelling with a wraparound porch located at 1010 South Aspen Street. Motz also built the two-story frame house on property he owned from 1899 to 1923 on the opposite side of Motz Avenue at 924 South Aspen Street. Whether he ever lived in this house is not known, but in 1920 it was being occupied by a physician, Dr. Elliott Richard Lee, and his family. In 1923, the house was sold to another physician, Dr. J. Frank Gamble (Deeds, 139/379 and 158/560; Census, 1910, 1920; Sanborn Map, 1921; Gamble Interview; Eurey Interview). For years, the two-story frame house at 710 South Aspen Street was the home of Barnette Cornelius "B. C." Lineberger and his family. Lineberger, a cotton broker in business with his three sons, was married to Fleta Crowell, a first cousin of Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. (Crowell Interview; Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929, 1929/41; Census, 1920, 1930). The ca. 1913 one-and-a-half-story-frame house at 526 South Aspen Street was the home of Charles H. and Mary E. Harrill during its first three decades. The Harrills were likely the parents of dentist Dr. Charles H. Harrill, who with his wife, Laura Dry Harrill, purchased the house at 819 South Aspen Street in 1933, and lived there for several decades. This same house had been owned for several years around 1920 by Ada Huss, daughter of John M. Rhodes, and her husband, George D. Huss, who was superintendent at the cotton mill (Deeds, 117/554, 129/270, 133/262 and 468, 175/631, 235/641, 449/136; Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929/41; Census, 1920, 1930; Dellinger notes). From 1919 until 1970, the family of Charles McBee Sumner owned the two-story frame, Colonial Revival house at 923 South Aspen Street. Who built the house is not clear. Sumner purchased the property from George D. and Ada Rhodes Huss, but Ada had acquired the property from the Rhodes Manufacturing Company in 1917. It may be that the mill built the house to serve as a company house, perhaps for the mill superintendent. After Sumner's death, the house was occupied for some years by his daughter, Myra, and her husband, Tennyson B. Smith, who was a bookkeeper at the cotton mill (Deeds, 262/284, 286/347; Census, 1920, 1930; Sanborn Map, 1921). Other houses believed to have been built in the first two decades of the twentieth century include the Jacob A. Burgin House at 618 South Aspen Street, the Colonial Revival-style Houser-Ruth House at 815 South Aspen Street, the home of grocer James Howard Mauney at 910 South Aspen Street, and the

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long-time home of Lincolnton postmaster Victor N. Fair and his family at 918 South Aspen Street. Prior to the Fairs' purchase of the house in 1923, it was rented—at least in 1920—by John C. Ramsaur, who soon thereafter built his own home at 510 South Aspen Street (Deeds, 98/573, 138/58, 139/299, 209/362, 213/637; Census, 1910, 1920, 1930; Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929/41; Eaddy Interview; Campbell Interview; Dellinger notes). By 1920, half of the district's thirty-five primary resources had been built.

Development within the South Aspen Street Historic District continued at a steady pace in the 1920s, mirroring that in Lincolnton as a whole. The most significant addition to the district during this decade was the construction in 1923-1924 of the Lincolnton High School at 511 South Aspen Street. It was built at the north end of the district on the site of the 1852 Barrett-Hoyle House, which required the removal of the house from the property. Instead of being demolished, the house was moved to the south side of East Rhodes Street, across the street from its original site, and turned forty-five degrees to face north. Although the architect of the Lincolnton High School has not been identified, the building is an impressive three-story brick structure which exhibits the influence of the Classical Revival style. A classical, two-story entrance with fluted pilasters and a frieze inscribed with "High School" centers on the west facade. Projecting secondary entrances at either end of the facade are inscribed with "Boys" and "Girls." The building no longer serves as the high school, but it retains its educational use, now being the Lincoln Campus of Gaston College (*Times*, October 7, 1935; Hood; Brown and York, 167; Deeds, Sanborn Map, 1929). Immediately outside the south end of the district, 1923 also saw the construction of the South Aspen Street Primary School. Thus, beginning in the 1920s, the Lincolnton Graded School and the Lincolnton High School on the north end and the South Aspen Street Primary School on the south end served as bookends to the historic district, surely an encouragement to its continued development (*Times*, October 7, 1935). Of the three schools, only the former high school survives.

Five of the district's houses were built between ca. 1920 and ca. 1922. At the north end of South Aspen Street, the M. A. McLean House (502) and the John C. Ramsaur House (510) were built ca. 1922 and ca. 1921, respectively, across the street from the site of the future high school. John Ramsaur operated a lumber yard with his brother, but he and his wife also rented rooms in their home to teachers, so that the house came to be known as the teacherage. Additionally, the Ramsaurs operated a lunch room in their home, not only for the teachers, but also for the townspeople in general (Deeds, 134/338, 138/58, 309/95, and 593/104; Campbell Interview). Around 1920, James M. Reinhardt built a two-story frame house of Craftsman-style influence at 605 South Aspen Street, across East Rhodes Street from the site of the high school. The construction of the Reinhardt House signaled the break-up of the thirty-three-acre Alexander tract (Wallace H. Alexander House, 613 South Aspen Street), purchased by Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. and his wife, Mary Hull Crowell, on June 13, 1919. The Crowells began to divide

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the Alexander land into lots, selling a corner lot to Reinhardt on October 19, 1919 (Deeds, 129/126 and 277; Sanborn Map, 1929). Also around 1920, two bungalows were erected in the 800 and 1000 blocks of South Aspen Street. Dr. William F. Elliott built the district's finest bungalow just south of the Lincoln Hospital, at 828 South Aspen Street. The one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling is sheathed in wood shingles and has a broad, side-gable roof covered with metal imitation Spanish tiles that shelters a broad engaged porch across the east facade. Elliott was a family practitioner and an ear, nose, and throat specialist who served on the staff of Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital for some thirty years. When he first moved to Lincolnton after completing medical school, Elliott boarded with Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. until he could build his own home (Census, 1920; Sanborn Map, 1921; Crowell Interview; Crowell Remarks). The frame bungalow built at 1007 South Aspen Street is very similar in form to the Elliott House. Its original owner is not known, but the longest-known owner, from 1941 to 1970, was Georgette Brown Heavner (Sanborn Map, 1921, 1929; Deeds, 226/15, 478/205).

The success of Lincoln Hospital and its importance to the Lincolnton community was clearly demonstrated in 1926, when a significant addition was built to the hospital. (The original building had already been expanded to the west in the 1910s.) The new building—a two-story, brick, Colonial Revival structure—was very similar in design to the original frame building and serves, today, as the historic centerpiece of the hospital complex. Its decorative focal point is a classical front entrance porch with fluted columns, full classical entablature, and balustraded flat roof. “Crowell Clinic” is inscribed over the door, while “Gordon Crowell Memorial” is inscribed on the porch frieze. Probably at the same time the new building was constructed, but certainly by 1929, the original building was brick veneered, and the two were joined by a hyphen (Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929; Brown and York, 180; Heritage, 317). In 1936, the hospital was incorporated and re-named the Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital in memory of Dr. Gordon Bryan Crowell. He was a son of hospital founder Dr. L. A. Crowell Sr. and a member of the hospital medical staff who had died unexpectedly at the age of thirty in 1926, during construction of the hospital annex. During the last four years of his life, Gordon Crowell and his young family lived in the Alexander House at 613 South Aspen Street (*Observer*, March 15, 1982; *Times*, October 7, 1935; Dellinger, Alexander House report, 7-8).

The 1930s—especially during the mid-to-latter part of the decade as the Great Depression receded—brought the construction or remodeling of a group of architecturally interesting houses in the district, several of which had connections with the hospital or with the Crowell family. Around 1930, Dr. A. M. Cornwell, a staff physician at Lincoln Hospital, built a two-story, brick-veneered, Colonial Revival house at 825 South Aspen Street. While their house was being completed, the Cornwell family rented the adjacent Huss-Harrill House at 819 South Aspen Street. The Cornwells retained ownership of their house until 1982 (Deeds, 157/194 and 587/129; Sanborn Maps, 1929 and 1929/41; Census, 1930; Crowell Interview). In 1935, two architecturally striking houses were erected on South Aspen Street, as

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reported in the April 1 and July 8 editions of the *Lincoln County News*. Both houses demonstrated the stylistic eclecticism popular in Lincolnton and North Carolina at the time. Dr. S. H. Steelman, a dentist, built an eclectic period cottage at 619 South Aspen Street. The one-and-a-half-story brick house with steep, side-gable roof features an unusual collection of features, including a double-shouldered chimney with a picturesque hexagonal chimney pot, a large oriel window, a limestone quoined surround around the front entrance, a low ramped wall in front of the entrance and front steps, and a lancet-arched window in the gable of a side wing. Dr. Lester A. Crowell Jr. (1904-1985), son of the founder of the hospital and a long-time hospital staff physician in his own right, built a Tudor Revival house at 709 South Aspen Street adjacent to his father's house. The one-and-a-half-story brick house of fireproof construction has a steep hipped roof with shed-roofed dormers, multiple intersecting gables faced with stucco and timbers, and wood batten doors with wrought-iron strap hinges and flanking period light fixtures, among other Tudor Revival features (*News*, April 1 and July 8, 1935; Sanborn Map, 1929/41; Crowell Interview). Around 1935, another house was built by the Crowell family. In 1934, Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. conveyed two lots to his wife, Mary Hull Crowell on West Park Drive, which was part of the land Crowell was beginning to develop as Crowell Park. When the northern half of the land was sold in 1937 to the Crowell's son, Frank Hull Crowell, it was described as the land "upon which is located what is known as the Mary Hull Crowell dwelling built there by her." Owned from 1943 to 1996 by the Pollock family, the Crowell-Pollock House at 624 West Park Drive is architecturally unique in the South Aspen Street neighborhood, for it is a rustic log and stone bungalow with a matching garage (Sanborn Map, 1929/41; Deeds, 180/714, 197/565, 234/787, and 959/740). Two significant remodelings of earlier houses also occurred in the district during the 1930s. In the late 1930s, Dr. Lester A. Crowell Sr. moved his house at 805 South Aspen Street back from the street and brick-veneered and remodeled it in the Colonial Revival style. Crowell's remodeled two-story house has a steep hipped roof with gabled wings, a five-bay facade, and a classical entrance and entrance porch (Crowell Interview). Near the south end of the district, the house that W. W. Motz built in the early twentieth century at 1010 South Aspen Street was sold in 1929 to Mary Love Glenn, wife of William Wilson Glenn (1875-1955). W. W. Glenn was a textile executive associated with several Lincolnton mills in the 1930s and 1940s, including the Saxony and Melville Mills, the Glenn Manufacturing Company, the Saxony Hosiery Company, the Wisteria Mills, the Glenn Thread Company and, finally, Glenn Mills, Inc. During their ownership—probably in the 1930s but possibly not until the 1940s—the Glenns remodeled their two-story frame house, giving it its present Colonial Revival appearance with its dominant, classical, two-story, front porch (Deed, 158/560; Census, 1930; Gamble Interview; Eurey Interview; *News*, January 10, 1955).

Sanborn Map Company maps show that by 1941 very few lots in the South Aspen Street Historic District remained open for building. Only three houses in the district date from the decade of the 1940s—one at the beginning of the decade prior to the country's entry into World War II, and the other

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Lincoln County, North Carolina

two near the end of the decade, after the war. Frank Hull Crowell, administrator of the Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital, was living with his wife, a former student nurse at the hospital, in the house built by his mother at 624 West Park Drive when, in September of 1939, he purchased the lot at 636 West Park Drive from his parents. Apparently he built his new house soon thereafter, for it was depicted on the 1941 Sanborn Map Company map. The house is a simple, one-and-a-half-story frame, minimal traditional house with asbestos-shingle siding (Deed, 207/189; Sanborn Map, 1929/1941). In 1948, county surveyor Hoke S. Heavner and his wife purchased a narrow lot at 917 South Aspen Street that had been carved from the lot associated with the C. William Rhodes House at 913 South Aspen Street. Probably very soon thereafter they built the house they owned until 1978. Another minimal-traditional house typical of those built across North Carolina in the 1940s and 1950s, the Heavner House is a simple, one-and-a-half-story, brick-veneered dwelling with a steep side-gable roof, a gabled front ell, a shed-roofed front porch, and almost no decorative detailing (Deeds, 258/254, 262/74, 541/677). The most significant house built in the 1940s was the one erected at 904 South Aspen Street by John D. Abernathy around 1948. The Abernathys had been living in a frame house on the site since the early 1920s when they moved it to the rear of the property in order to erect their large, brick, Colonial Revival-style house. The house is particularly striking because of its front entrance and north-side porches constructed with elaborate ornamental ironwork re-used from the Ramsour-Phifer-Abernathy House which had stood in the 100 block of West Main Street (Deeds, 135/560 and 599/752; Dellinger). The Abernathys' decision to build such a substantial house on South Aspen Street at mid-century is a strong indicator that the neighborhood was still considered a fashionable place to live in Lincolnton.

After around 1950, there was little building activity in the district. In 1954 the modern Block Smith Memorial Gymnasium was constructed at 130 East Rhodes Street. The last house erected was the Reinhardt-Miller House at 114 East Rhodes Street. Built in 1955, it is a small, minimal traditional, brick dwelling. Two gas stations were built in the district, probably in the 1950s or 1960s, at 518 South Aspen Street and between 526 and 618 South Aspen Street. The one at 518 South Aspen was enlarged and remodeled in the 1980s and now serves as the only commercial building in the district. The other gas station was demolished in the late 1980s or 1990s, leaving a vacant lot (Campbell Interview). In 1983, the Colony House Apartments were built at 702 South Aspen Street, replacing the early-twentieth-century Marcus L. Little House (Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929; Census, 1920). Although it contains twenty-four units, its negative effect on the district streetscape is lessened by the fact that the two-story, stained-weatherboard building runs westward on the lot, away from the street, rather than being spread north and south along South Aspen Street. The Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital was enlarged around 1955 and again in 1973-74. The last addition necessitated the demolition of a one-and-a-half-story frame house between the hospital and 828 South Aspen Street. In 1985, the hospital was sold to Brian Nursing Centers; it now stands vacant (Crowell Interview).

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Lincoln County, North Carolina

Having developed primarily from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, the South Aspen Street Historic District is a strong reflection of Lincolnton's continuum of residential and institutional growth and social development during that hundred years. The district survives as a cohesive collection of thirty-five primary resources, many of which are linked by their connections with the Crowell and Rhodes families or with the district's institutions—the Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital and the former Lincolnton High School. In addition, the district's well-preserved buildings display a chronological sampling of the architectural styles that were popular in Lincolnton, as in the rest of North Carolina, during those years.

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South Aspen Street Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

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- Campbell, Martha (Owner of 510 and 518 South Aspen Street). June 25, 2002.
- Crowell, Dr. Gordon C. (son of Dr. Lester A. Crowell Jr. and former resident of 709 S. Aspen Street). April 12 and September 1, 2002.
- Eaddy, Dr. Martin (owner of 910 South Aspen Street). June 25, 2002.

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Eurey, Sybil (owner of 1010 South Aspen Street). June 24, 2002.
Gamble, Betty Rhodes (granddaughter of David Polycarp Rhodes and former resident of 1022 South Aspen Street). June 24, 2002.
Rhyne, Virginia (former owner of 618 South Aspen Street who operated a kindergarten for four-year-olds there). June 25, 2002.

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April 8, 1935.
January 10, 1955.

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Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Insurance Maps for Lincolnton, North Carolina, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1929 updated to 1941.

Sherrill, William L. *Annals of Lincoln County, North Carolina*. Charlotte: Author, 1937.

United States Census, Lincoln County, North Carolina. 1910, 1920, 1930.

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Approx. 36**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 7 6 7 9 0	3 9 2 4 7 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 7	4 7 7 0 9 0	3 9 2 4 8 7 0

3	1 7	4 7 7 0 3 0	3 9 2 4 0 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 7	4 7 6 7 0 0	3 9 2 4 0 0 0

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historianorganization Consultant to City of Lincolnton date August 12, 2002street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 336/727-1968City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

City or town _____ state _____ Zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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South Aspen Street Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the South Aspen Street Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying district map, based on Lincoln County Tax Maps 362316 and 362320, and drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the South Aspen Street Historic District is drawn to encompass the span of houses and other buildings along the 500-1000 blocks of South Aspen Street as well as those buildings on the south side of the 100 block of East Rhodes Street and the 600 block of West Park Drive that together form a cohesive collection, distinguished from its surroundings, of well-preserved and historically interrelated architecture from the 1850s through the 1950s.

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Section Number

Photos

Page 53

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Lincoln County, North Carolina

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) South Aspen Street Historic District
- 2) Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) March, 2002
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: E side 900 block S. Aspen St., view to SE
 - B: W side 500 block S. Aspen St., view to NW
 - C: E side 600-700 blocks S. Aspen St., view to SE
 - D: E side 800 block S. Aspen St., view to SE
 - E: W side 800-900 blocks S. Aspen St., view to SW
 - F: S side 100 block E. Rhodes St., view to SW
 - G: (former) Lincolnton High School, 511 S. Aspen St., view to SE
 - H: Wallace H. Alexander House, 613 S. Aspen St., view to NE
 - I: Dr. L. A. Crowell Jr. House, 709 S. Aspen St., view to E
 - J: Lincoln/Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital, 816 S. Aspen St., view to NW
 - K: John M. Rhodes House, 903 S. Aspen St., view to E
 - L: David P. Rhodes House, 1022 S. Aspen St., view to SW
 - M: Barrett-Hoyle House, 120 E. Rhodes St., view to SE
 - N: Block Smith Memorial Gymnasium, 130 E. Rhodes St., view to SE
 - O: Frank Hull Crowell House, 636 W. Park Dr., view to SW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY South Aspen Street Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH CAROLINA, Lincoln

DATE RECEIVED: 12/04/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/23/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/08/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/18/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001713

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1/15/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



N. 2002. 6. 331

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

A



N. 2002. 6. 240

1-25 B
SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

B



N. 2002.6. 268

4-10
SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

C



N. 2002. 6. 315

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

D



N. 2002. 6. 296

745.32 E

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLN, NC

E



N. 2002.6.375

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

F



N. 2002.6.242

1-2 9-6
SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLN, NC

6



N. 2002. 6. 257

4-9

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

H



N. 2002. 6. 323

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

I



N. 2002. 6. 292

5-285
SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLN, NC

J



N. 2002. 6. 336

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLN TOW, NC

K



N.2002. 6. 360

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

L



N. 2002.6.369

11-27 M

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

M



N. 2002.6. 376

11-34 N
SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, NC

N



N. 2002.6.388

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLN, NC

0



LINCOLN COUNTY, N.C.
OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR

Plot from the County's Land Records/Geographic Information System (GIS) Division
Based on the North Carolina State Plane Coordinate System 1983 NAD
LINCOLN COUNTY AND ITS MAPPING CONTRACTORS ASSUME NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR LAND CONVEYANCE.
Permanent Drainage Easements (PDE) added as of 01/01/2001 forward. Only shown if metes
and bounds described on recorded plot. Not all Rights-of-Way/Easements are shown.



SHADED PIN#1:

PLOT FROM MAP(S)# 362316 362320

SCALE: 1" = 200'

DATE: 23 May 02 11:47:46 Thursday

Prepared for:

SOUTH ASPEN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
LINCOLNTON, LINCOLN Co., NC

123 STREET ADDRESS

C CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

N NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

V VACANT LOT

A > PHOTO I.D. + VANTAGE POINT

— DISTRICT BOUNDARY



