

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Preparing Your Application:

Please type or use black ink and use paper no larger than 11" x 17" for the required supporting information. Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission (HPC) staff is available to provide advice in the preparation of this application.

Filing Your Application:

When completed, the attached application will initiate consideration of a property for designation as a local historic landmark. The application will enable the HPC to determine whether the property qualifies for designation.

Mail the application to Lincoln County HPC, 302 N. Academy St., Lincolnton, NC 28092. Submitted materials become the property of the HPC and will not be returned. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for revision. HPC staff will contact applicants after receiving an application to discuss the next steps of the designation process (see Landmark Designation Q & A for more information). Please feel free to contact HPC with any questions at 704-748-9090, or e-mail at lcmh@bellsouth.net. HPC can be found on the web at www.lincolncountyhistory.com.

Thank you very much for your interest in protecting HPC's historic resources!

**The guidelines developed for this application are based on the evaluation process used by the National Register of Historic Places. National Register evaluation principles regarding criteria, category classifications, and integrity have been adapted for local applications.*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: John L. and Mary G. Thompson House

Current Name: David G. and Elizabeth M. Thompson House

2. Location

Please include the full street address of the property, including its local planning jurisdiction. HPC Identification (PIN) and Real Estate Identification (REID) Numbers can be found at the Lincoln County GIS property information website at www.lincolncounty.org. Click on "County Government", then "Online Services" then click on "Lincoln County GIS System".

Street Address: 130 Woodvale Circle

Planning Jurisdiction: Lincolnton PIN Number: 16858 REID: _____

3. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)

Name: David and Betty Thompson

Address: 130 Woodvale Circle, Lincolnton, NC 28092

Phone: (704) 735-2636 Email: Thompsond@ibankatfmb.com or thompsondg130@gmail.com

4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner)

Name: Jason L. Harpe

Address: 1035 Conestoga Road, Charlotte, NC 28270

Phone: (704) 477-0987 Email: jason@harpeconsulting.com

5. Signatures

I have read the general information on landmark designation provided by the Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission and affirm that I support landmark designation of the property defined herein.

Owner: _____ Date: _____

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: Received by: _____ Date: _____

6. General Date/Site Information

A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: 1955-19566

B. Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: 1956

C. Approximate lot size or acreage: 6.28

D. Architect, builder, carpenter, and /or mason: Architect: John L. Beam, Cherryville, North Carolina; Builder: Herman-Sipe and Company, Inc., Conover, North Carolina; Landscape Architect: Aiji Tashiro, Lenoir, North Carolina

E. Original Use: Dwelling

F. Present Use: Dwelling

G. Significance for Landmark Designation: Architecture

7. **Classification**

A. Category (fill in type from below): Building

- **Building** – created principally to shelter any form of human activity (i.e. house, barn/stable, hotel, church, school, theater, etc.)
- **Structure** – constructed usually for purposes other than creating human shelter (i.e. tunnel, bridge, highway, silo, etc.)
- **Object** – constructions that are primarily artistic in nature. Although movable by nature or design, an object is typically associated with a specific setting or environment (i.e. monument, fountain, etc.)
- **Site** – the location of a historic event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value, regardless of the value of any existing structure (i.e. battlefields, cemeteries, designed landscape, etc.)

B. Ownership (check one): ☒ Private ☐ Public

C. Number of Contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non-contributing</u>
Buildings	<u>3</u>	<u> </u>
Structures	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
Objects	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Sites	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom): N/A

Please contact Jason Harpe at the Historic Properties Commission to determine if the property is included in the Lincoln County survey (704-748-9090)

E. National Register Status and date (listed, eligible, study list): N/A

Please contact Jason Harpe at the Historic Properties Commission at (704-748-9090)

8. **Supporting Documentation** (Please type or print and attach to application on separate sheets. Please check box when item complete.)



A. Required Photographs

All photographs are required to be **digital, in JPEG (.jpg) format, and submitted on a recordable CD or DVD.** Please note the following requirements:

- **Minimum Standard:** 6.5" x 4.5" at a resolution of 300ppi (a pixel dimension of 1950 x 1350)
- **File Size:** There is no maximum or minimum for the file size of an image; however, smaller file sizes may be necessary when emailing images.
- **Proof Sheet:** Proof sheets are still required to show what is on a CD or DVD without having to load to disk. Proofs may be printed in either color or black and white as long as the images are crisp and legible. There should be a minimum of four

and a maximum of six proofs per 8.5" x 11" sheet, with no image smaller than 3.25" on its longest side. Proofs should be labeled as they appear on the disk.

- **Naming Images:** Please label image files for the Local Designation Application as follows:
LN_PropertyName_Description.jpg (ex. LN_ABCHouse_front_façade.jpg)

For buildings and structures, include all elevations and at least one (1) photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources, as well as at least one (1) photo showing the main building or structure within its setting. For objects, include a view of the object within its setting, as well as a variety of representative views. For sites, include overall views and any significant details.



B. Floor Plan (for buildings and structures)

Please include a detailed floor plan showing the original layout, dimensions of all rooms, and any additions (with dates) to the building or structure. Drawings do not have to be professionally produced nor do they need to be to exact scale, but should accurately depict the layout and dimensions of the property.



C. Maps

Include two (2) maps: one (1) clearly indicating the location of the property in relation to the local community, and one (1) showing the boundaries of the property. Tax maps with the boundaries of the property are preferred, but survey or sketch maps are acceptable. Please show street names and numbers and all structures on the property.



D. Historical significance (Applies to all classifications)

Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Please clearly define the significance of the property in the commercial, social or political history of Lincoln County or of the local community. Include all major property owners of the property, if known. Include a bibliography of sources consulted.



E. Architectural description, significance and integrity (for buildings, structures and objects)

For **buildings and structures**, describe significant exterior architectural features, additions, remodeling, alterations and any significant outbuildings. For **objects**, describe the physical appearance of the object(s) to be designated in context of the history of the local community or of Lincoln County. For example, a building or structure might be a community's only surviving example of Greek Revival architecture or it may be a unique local interpretation of the Arts and Crafts movement. An object might be a statue designed by a notable sculptor. Include a description of how the building, structure or object currently conveys its historic integrity. For example, does it retain elements of its original design, materials, location, workmanship, setting, historic associations, or feeling, or any combination thereof? Please include a bibliography of sources consulted.



F. Property boundary, significance and integrity (Applies to all classifications)

Describe the land area to be designated, address any prominent landscape features. Clearly explain the significance of the land area proposed for designation and its historical relationship to the **building(s), structure(s) or object(s)** located within the property boundary or, in the case of **sites**, the historical event or events that make the land area significant. For **buildings and structures**, the designated land area may represent part of or the entire original parcel boundaries, or may encompass vegetative buffers or important outbuildings. For **objects**, the designated land area may continue to provide the object's historic context (i.e., a statue's historic park setting). For **sites**, the designated area may encompass a landscape that retains its historic integrity (i.e. a battlefield encompassing undisturbed historic view sheds).

8 A. Photographs



LN_ThompsonHouse_westelevation_frontentryandcarport



LN_ThompsonHouse_westelevation_formal living room and bedrooms



LN_ThompsonHouse_northwest corner_bedrooms



LN_ThompsonHouse_northwestcorner_bedrooms



LN_ThompsonHouse_north elevation_bedrooms, living room, and sunroom



LN_ThompsonHouse_northeast corner_retaining walls



LN_ThompsonHouse_northeast corner_retaining walls



LN_ThompsonHouse_northeast corner_courtyard and sunroom



LN_ThompsonHouse_northeast corner_courtyard



LN_ThompsonHouse_northeast corner_sunroom and carport



LN_ThompsonHouse_west elevation_natural area



LN_ThompsonHouse_west elevation_storage building



LN_ThompsonHouse_west elevation_storage building



LN_ThompsonHouse_west elevation_storage building



LN_ThompsonHouse_south elevation_grapevine



LN_ThompsonHouse_east elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_east elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_driveway_east elevation_camera facing south



LN_ThompsonHouse_front entry_west elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_living room_west elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_dining room_west elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_dining room_west elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_dining room_west elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_dining room_central entryway



LN_ThompsonHouse_dining room_central entryway



LN_ThompsonHouse_dining room_central hallway to bedrooms and den



LN_ThompsonHouse_bathroom



LN_ThompsonHouse_hallway_north to south orientation



LN_ThompsonHouse_bedroom closet and built-in drawers (detail)



LN_ThompsonHouse_bedroom_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_bedroom_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_bedroom_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_bathroom_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_bedroom and bathroom_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_den_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_den_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_den_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_den_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_sunroom_northeast corner



LN_ThompsonHouse_storage room_north elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_storage room_north elevation



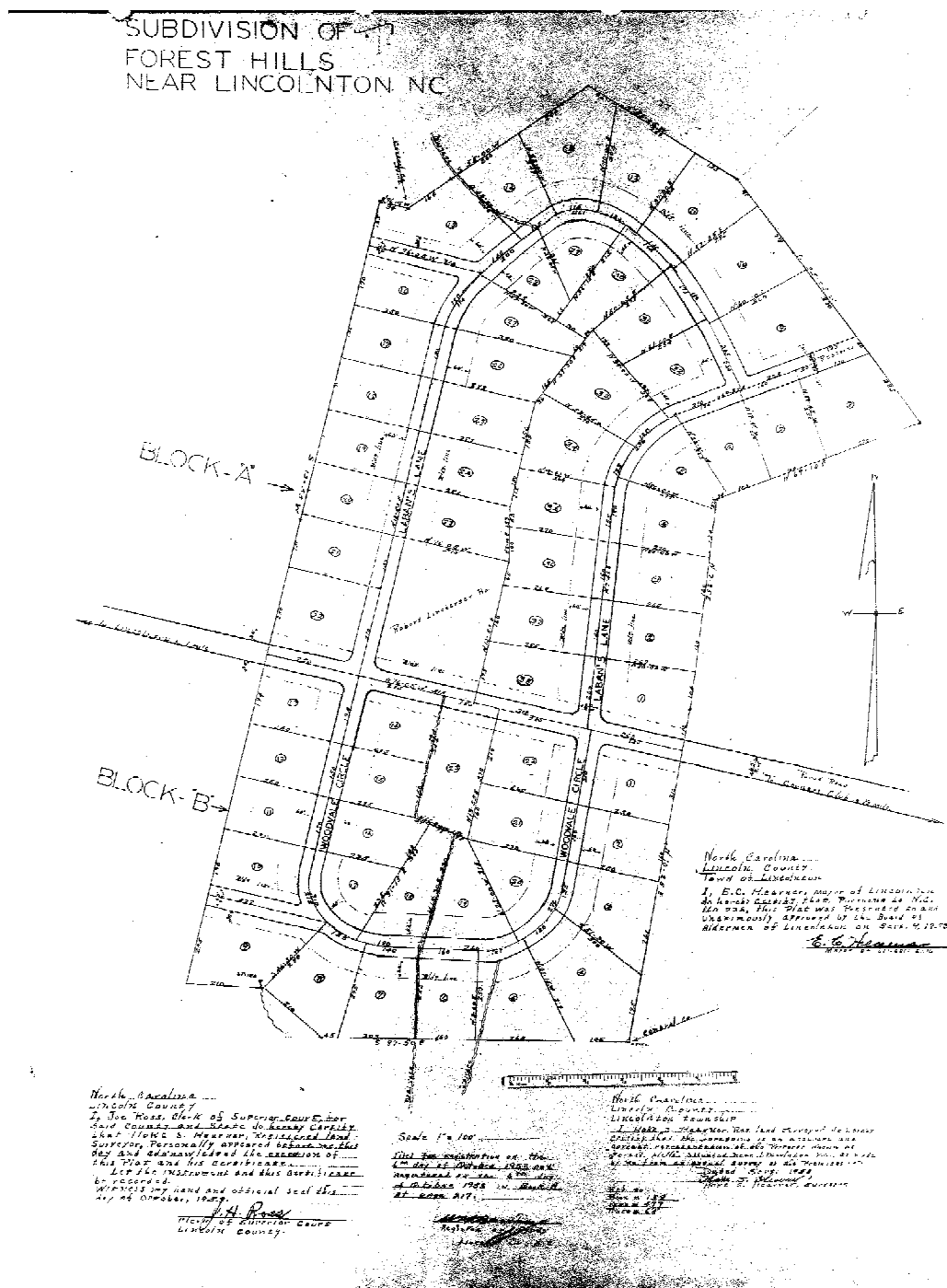
LN_ThompsonHouse_laundry room_east elevation



LN_ThompsonHouse_Kitchen_south elevation

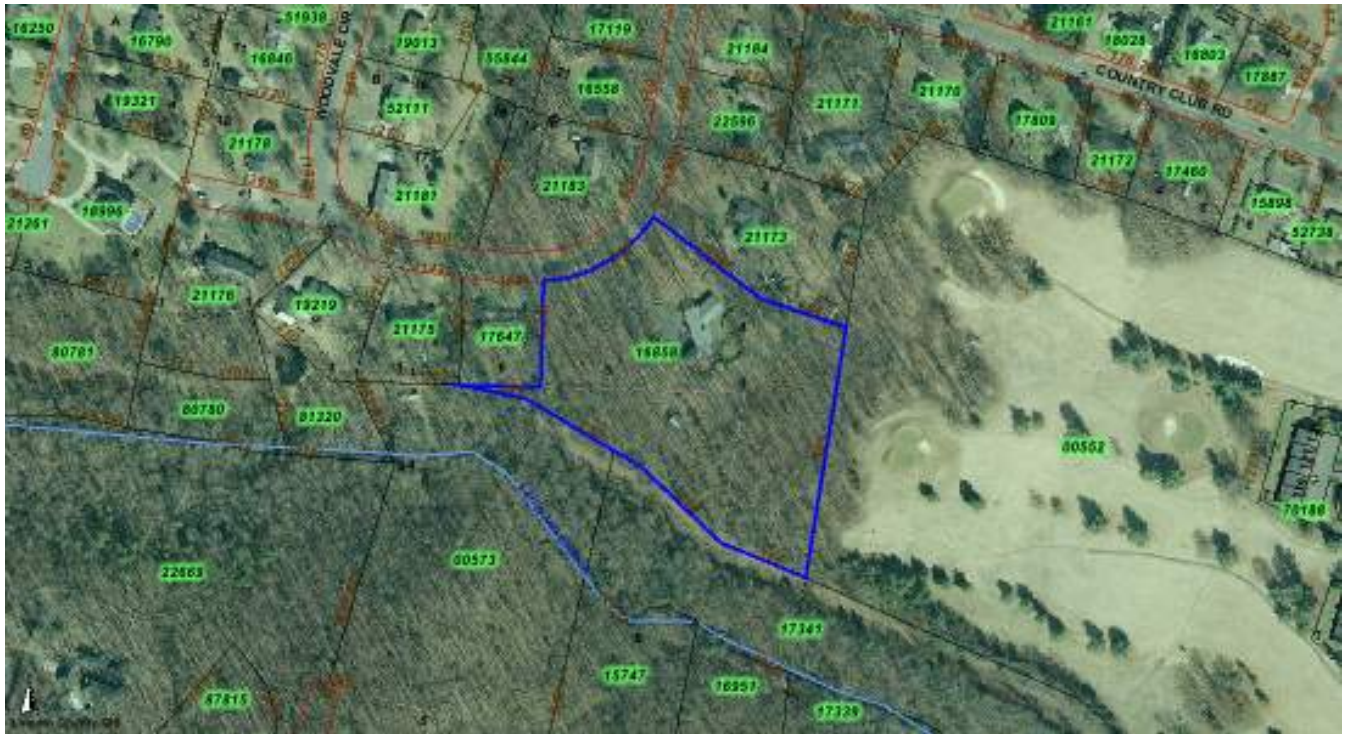
No floor plan is included.

8 C. Maps



A-217

Forest Hill Subdivision, ca. 1953



Landmark Map 1



Landmark Map 2

Summary Statement of Significance

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House, at 130 Woodvale Circle, in Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina is being considered for designation as a local historic landmark because of its architectural significance. The house has distinctive characteristics of a Ranch style house and it ranks well in terms of its designs, finishes, and integrity against other Ranch style houses in Lincoln County. The house's character-defining features include one-story horizontal massing; low-pitched roof with deep eave overhangs; recessed front entrance; planters and patios; a sunroom with large sliding glass doors; bands of windows and large expanses of windows; and attached and covered breezeway and carport that projects into the driveway.¹ Equally significant is the house's construction in Lincolnton's first Post-World War II suburban neighborhood with protective covenants and layout according to recommendations of the Federal Housing Authority, and the design of the landscape surrounding the house by noted Japanese landscape architect Aiji Tashiro. With the exception of plantings, the property retains all of its original hardscape features such as retaining walls, courtyards, and patios designed by Tashiro.

Completed in 1956, the John L. and Mary G. Thompson was designed by John L. Beam, of Cherryville and Gastonia, who graduated from the School of Architecture at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he worked on a team, under the direction of their engineering professor, that designed Reynolds Coliseum in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Upon graduation from North Carolina State in 1942, Beam attended Officer Training School (OCS) at Fort Schuyler, in the Bronx, New York City, and was enrolled in the Naval Design School at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was one of only twenty-two OCS candidates nationally to attend the Naval Design School.

8 D. Historical Background

John L. and Mary G. Thompson

John L. “Jack” Thompson was born on January 24, 1918, the son of John Lloyd Thompson, Sr. and Martha “Mattie” Abernethy Thompson, in Lincolnton, North Carolina, and was the descendant of Bartholomew Thompson, who moved to the Beatties Ford area in Lincoln County from Currituck

¹ Emily Pettis, *A Model for Identifying and Evaluating the Historic Significance of Post-World War II Housing* (Washington, D.C.: Transportation Research Board, 2012), 17, 103.

County during the 1780s. Jack was the grandson of Daniel G. Thompson and Mary Asbury, the daughter of Methodist minister Henry Asbury. Daniel Thompson served the Confederacy during the Civil War, and worked as a sharecropper in the Little Egypt section of eastern Lincoln County upon his return from the war. He moved his family to Mount Holly around 1900 and is buried there. Daniel's son, John Lloyd Thompson, Sr., was born in eastern Lincoln County in 1888. John L. Thompson, Sr. was educated at King's Business College, and he first worked as superintendent of a textile mill in Eufaula, Alabama. In 1916, he returned to Lincolnton and rented a house at the intersection of East Main Street and North Cedar Street where the Lincoln Cultural Center is now located. During the same year, Thompson partnered with Julius Abernethy and opened a mercantile store in the 100 block of East Main Street in Lincolnton (southeast corner of the building at the intersection of East Main Street and South Academy Street), in the Wampum Mill store. Thompson and Abernethy sold the store in 1920, and Thompson ran an auto painting company the following year. From 1921 to 1947, the year of his death, Thompson operated J. L. Thompson's Insurance Company in Lincolnton.²

Jack Thompson received his earliest education at local schools and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1938 with a degree in Business Math. Upon graduation, he received his license and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1940. He worked as a public accountant for George Dunbard and Company in Charlotte, North Carolina. He married Mary Wilson Glenn, daughter of textile magnet W.W. Glenn, in 1942. John and Mary lived in Statesville during this year because Jack worked for his father's former business partner and uncle, Julius Abernethy. The following year Jack and Mary moved to Lincolnton so that Jack could work for his father-in-law at Glenn Mills. The Thompsons made their home in a relatively small, two-story, brick dwelling at the intersection of North Cedar Street and East Pine Street in Lincolnton. They remained at this location until they purchased the six-acre lot in the Forest Hills neighborhood from David Clark.³

In 1987, Thompson retired from Carolina Mills, Inc. of Maiden, North Carolina as secretary and treasurer, and he continued to serve as a director until 1995. In addition to his work in textiles, Thompson was also a director of The First National Bank of Lincolnton, which eventually became

² David Thompson, interview with author, July 1, 2010.

³ Ibid.

Carolina First National Bank. He remained a local board member even after NCNB acquired Carolina First National. His bank directorship culminated in over thirty-five years of service.⁴

Jack Thompson was not only active and successful in his local business endeavors, he also helped build social capital in Lincoln County by volunteering with a myriad of civic organizations. A lifelong member and lay leader of First United Methodist Church of Lincolnton, he was a Sunday School teacher, Chairman of the Administrative Board, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Treasurer, Auditor, and member of other church committees. He was a trustee at Brevard College and at the United Methodist Home (Aldersgate) in Charlotte for over thirty years, where he was a resident at the time of his death in 2004. He was a founding Trustee of Lincoln County Hospital (Lincoln Medical Center). From the Boy Scouts of America he earned the Eagle Rank with three palms, and he served this organization as Chairman of the Lincoln District of the Piedmont Council and board member of the Piedmont Council for many years. He received the Silver Beaver, the highest award a council can impart, from the Piedmont Council. He was also a founding member of the United Way of Lincoln County, and served this organization for many years.⁵

Mary Wilson Glenn was born in Gastonia, North Carolina to William Wilson Glenn and Mary Love Glenn. The family lived in Gastonia and Winter Haven, Florida prior to their move to Lincolnton. Mary graduated as valedictorian at Lincolnton High School in the Class of 1939. She graduated from Randolph Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, and continued her studies at Duke University. Similar to her husband, Mary was very active in the local chapter of the American Red Cross and in the community as a church, school, and hospital volunteer.⁶

8 E. Architectural description, significance and integrity

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House has architectural characteristics that define it as a great example of the Ranch style in Lincolnton and Lincoln County. Built in 1956, the house has a one-story layout that afforded an indoor/outdoor living arrangement that popularized the Ranch style house, with a sunroom, projecting bay windows, and patios and a courtyard in the back yard.⁷ Designed by John L.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "Jack Lloyd Thompson, Jr "Jack" January 24, 1918 - June 21, 2004." Document prepared by David Thompson.

⁶ "Mary Wilson Glenn Thompson July 5, 1918 - August 2006." Document prepared by David Thompson.

⁷ Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York: Henry Holt and Co, 1994), 236.

Beam of Gastonia and Cherryville, the Thompson House is a rectangular brick dwelling with low-pitched roof with deep eave overhangs, recessed front entrance, large expanses of windows, and one-story, gabled-roof wings that extend in opposite directions at the house's gable ends. The wing at the house's north elevation has a central hallway flanked by bedrooms and bathrooms, and the wing at south elevation is an attached and covered breezeway and carport that projects into the driveway. The Thompson House is significant as a relatively early Ranch house built in one of Lincolnton's first Post-World War II suburban neighborhood with protective covenants and layout according to recommendations of the Federal Housing Authority. Equally significant is the property's hardscape design by Japanese landscape architect Aiji Tashiro. The current landscape plantings are not original, but the retaining walls, patios, and courtyards are original to the site.

The Paul C. Rhyne House on Laboratory Road and the Dr. Leary Reid on North Cedar Street are the only comparable examples of early Ranch style houses in Lincolnton. The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House occupies a spacious lot in one of Lincolnton and Lincoln County's earliest residential suburban developments from the 1950s. The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House was designed by noted North Carolina architect John L. Beam. Beam is responsible for designing numerous residential buildings such as the Dan Boyd House; governmental buildings such as the James W. Warren Citizens Center and C.R. Jonas Public Library, both in Lincolnton; and, the Carolina First National Bank building in downtown Lincolnton. Aiji Tashiro, prolific and reputable landscape architect, designed the physical landscape of the John L. and Mary G. Thompson House, which included plans for plantings, brick walls, patios, and courtyards. The original plantings are no longer growing in the designated areas of Tashiro's plans, but the hardscape features such as brick walls, patios, and courtyards are extant.

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House is situated on 6.28 acres in Lincolnton, North Carolina at 130 Woodvale Circle. The property is bordered on the north and west by contiguous properties that are consistent with the architectural integrity and setting of the Thompson House, on the south by wooded property that provides a naturalistic setting, and on the east by the Lincoln Country Club property. The nominated property includes the Thompson House, two appurtenant buildings, one structure (grapevine) and the 6.28 acres of original landscape designed by Aiji Tashiro. The current owners are David G. and Betty Thompson, who have owned the property since 1995. The most recent deed to the John L. and Mary G. Thompson House is listed in the Lincoln County Deed Book 922 at page 383. The tax parcel identification number is 16858.

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House is a residential one-story dwelling on Woodvale Circle that occupies a large lot in Forest Hills, one of Lincolnton and Lincoln County's first residential developments built after World War II, that measures 4,057 square feet. Developed jointly by Mrs. J. L. (Sadie) Lineberger and David and Walter Clark, the Forest Hills development includes both Woodvale Circle and Labans Lane and measures a total of sixty acres. The development was one of the first in Lincoln County to contain restrictive covenants that included an average lot size of one acre that was restricted to single-family residences with a minimum size of 1,400 square feet.⁸

The house is the most integral historic resource at the site, but is closely connected to the landscape design that circumvents the entire property. The house is S-shaped with a low-pitched gabled roof and returns and louvered attic vents at each gable end. The apex of each gable end is covered with vinyl siding. John and Mary Thompson replaced the original wood siding at each gable end when they replaced the wood siding at the front entrance. Rectangular interior chimneys with hoods rise from each end of the house's den, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The rectangular main section includes a dining room, interior chimney, foyer, den, kitchen, sunroom, and laundry room, and gabled-roof wings extend from each end (north and south elevations). The north wing has a central hallway with two bedrooms on each side, and two bathrooms are located on the east side of hallway. The gabled-roof south wing is a covered breezeway and two-car carport.

The facade (west elevation) features a front entrance with a double-leaf front doors flanked by glass sidelights, and a recessed porch supported by square, wooden columns. A portion of front entrance is sided with vinyl, but the vinyl is the exact size of the wood siding that the replaced. Rectangular bay windows with five vertical lites project from the west and north elevations. Pairs and ribbons of wooden, horizontal rolling windows provide ample light to the bedrooms on the east and west sides of the wing at the north elevation. John and Mary Thompson replaced the house's original aluminum windows with the current wood windows in the 1970s.⁹

The house and property are located to the east of Woodvale Circle on a lot slopes drastically to the west from the house to Woodvale Circle. The long paved drive extends from Woodvale Circle at the property's west elevation to the front of the house and ends at an open, two-car carport at the house's

⁸ Lincoln County Deed Book 301, Page 42. Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

⁹ David Thompson, interview with author, July 1, 2010.

south elevation. Large trees are located at the property's west and south elevation, and large brick retaining walls designed by Aiji Tashiro and built in 1956 are located at the north and east elevations. The retaining walls contain more individual bricks than the house.¹⁰ A chain link fence separates the house from a contiguous house at the property's northern boundary, and concrete pavers lead from this boundary to a courtyard and sunroom at the house's southeast corner.

A small brick front gabled-roof outbuilding and grapevine are located to the north of the house, and a small frame side-gabled barn situated on a concrete block foundation, built by Seth Lumber Company (later Howard Construction), that serves as storage for the family is located to the east of the dwelling. The two outbuildings and grapevine date to 1955-56, the date that the house was built. The house has changed hands only once since the time of its construction in 1956, with the current owner being the son of the house's builder, John L. and Mary G. Thompson. The current owners are committed to the future preservation of the house's architectural integrity, and the landscape details designed by renowned landscape architect Aiji Tashiro.

John L. and Mary G. Thompson built their home in 1956 after purchasing the property designated in the Forest Hills Subdivision as lot number 5 on December 31, 1955, from David and Kathryn Goode Clark and Walter and Caroline Webster Clark.¹¹ The Thompsons secured Cherryville architect John L. Beam after visiting a number of the residents whose homes were designed by Beam in neighboring Gaston County. John and Mary's son David believes that his parents learned of landscape architect Aiji Tashiro from John's uncle, Peter Link Abernethy, who worked and moved in social networks in Hickory during the 1930s and 1940s.

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House has 4,057 square feet, and was designed to provide "private areas and informal and formal living areas."¹² The house's formal living room and dining room are located at the front of the house, and the bedrooms are located away from the formal areas in the extension at the house's north elevation. These bedrooms are accessed by a long hallway, which is the only part of the extension visible upon entry through the central doorway at the front of the house. A second long hallway extends from the foyer at the front of the house to a spacious den at the house's

¹⁰ David Thompson, interview with author, July 1, 2010.

¹¹ Lincoln County Deed Book 322, Page 617. Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

¹² Emily Pettis, *A Model for Identifying and Evaluating the Historic Significance of Post-World War II Housing* (Washington, D.C.: Transportation Research Board, 2012), 54.

north elevation. The formal dining room is located at the front of the house, to the east of the foyer, and connects to the kitchen and utility room at this elevation. Located to the east of the den, accessed by sliding glass door is a sunroom, and a playroom joins this room at the house's east elevation.

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House has a masonry foundation of Robetone wire cut brick made by Chattahoochee Brick Company of Chattahoochee, Georgia. The structural beams and floor framing was made from fir. The sub-floor is yellow pine, and the wood for wall, ceiling, and roof framing is Douglas fir. The exterior wood trim including the siding, casings, boxing, trim, louvers, and moldings are fir.¹³

John L. and Mary G. Thompson not only had a very clear vision of what they wanted for their house's exterior, they were very precise on their decisions for the design of the interior and the material used in each room. The house has five bedrooms, each measuring eleven by fourteen feet, with built-in dressers to maximize space. The fronts of the dressers were made to resemble exterior weatherboard siding. The floors in each of the bedrooms and living room were made of quarter sawn red oak with a 2 1/4" face and 25/32" thick. The floors, walls and wainscot of the baths are covered with ceramic tile, and the cabinet in the dining room, window stools in the baths and kitchens and thresholds at the bath doors all have marble tops. The sunroom has a quarry tile floor by Carlisle Tile Company, and all of the bathroom accessories such as the grab bars, towel bars, soap dishes, and tumbler holders are all ceramic.¹⁴

The beautiful cabinets in the dining room were built of walnut from the Mary G. Thompson's father's farm in Gaston County's Crowder's Creek area, and the floors in the hallways are rubber tile.¹⁵ The walls of the den are covered with tongue-and-grooved Lauan Philippine Mahogany, and ceiling has exposed beams. The Thompsons had the den's fireplace built to fit andirons and a screen made by Daniel Boone, VI of Daniel Boone's Forge, Burnsville, North Carolina.¹⁶ The paneling in the

¹³"Specifications: Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thompson, Lincolnton, North Carolina, October 8, 1955, Office of James L. Beam, Jr., A.I.A. Architect, Cherryville, North Carolina." John L. and Mary G. Thompson House Reference File, Lincoln County Historical Association, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid. David Thompson, interview with author, July 1, 2010.

¹⁶ John and Mary Thompson purchased "1 Pr. 30" high Ball Andirons, Fire Screen 39" x 64", Fire Set 5-Piece, 3-cup "S" Scroll Candlabra" from Daniel Boone's Forge on August 15, 1952 for a total of \$168.00. John L. and Mary G. Thompson House Reference File, Lincoln County Historical Association, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

"playroom" is Idaho pine that is 3/4 inches thick. The floor in the den is vinyl cork tile made by Dodge Cork Company of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and the playroom has Kentile Cork Tone Asphalt Tile made by the Kentile Company. Interior door frames are yellow pine and the casing and trim are white pine. Window casings and trim, cornice work, base, and other interior trim are white pine except in the den. The entire house has low voltage wiring, and the builder installed rounded quarter round in each of the house's corners to make it easier to clean. The door to each room has its own light switch, and the house's door bell is coded with a different ring for each exterior door.¹⁷

Architect J.L. Beam

James Lorn "J. L." Beam was born in Gaston County on January 27, 1918, the son of the late James Lorn Beam, Sr. and Ola Carpenter Beam. J.L. Beam, Sr. started Beam Construction Company in Gaston County during the 1920s, and J.L. Beam, Jr. began working for his father after World War II. J.L. Beam, Jr. was a well known architect in Cherryville and Gastonia. He attended Lenoir-Rhyne College, graduated from the School of Architecture at N.C. State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He joined the Navy after graduating from N.C. State in 1942, and attended Officer Training School (OCS) at Fort Schuyler, in the Bronx, New York City. He was enrolled in the Naval Design School at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and was only one of only twenty-two OCS candidates nationally to attend the Naval Design School.¹⁸ While at N.C. State, Beam worked on a team, under the direction of the architecture professor, possibly Ross Shumaker, that designed Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh, North Carolina.¹⁹

Beam began his professional career as an architect after graduating from N.C. State and completion of his duties with the U.S. Navy in World War II. During his career, he designed many churches, schools, businesses and residences in North Carolina and South Carolina. Among the churches that designed were Boger City First Methodist Church in Lincolnton, and First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Wesleyan Church, and First Baptist Church, all in Cherryville. He also

¹⁷ "Specifications: Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thompson, Lincolnton, North Carolina, October 8, 1955"

¹⁸ *The Eagle*, "Beam Remembered," 15 December 2010.

¹⁹ Jim Beam, interview with author, 10 June 2011. J.G. Vann's "Historical Data of the William Neal Reynolds Coliseum", contained within Box 7: "Reynolds Coliseum, 1941-2009", North Carolina State University, University Archives Reference Collection, University Buildings, Sites, & Landmarks Files, 1888-2009, mentions that the architecture professor Ross Shumaker developed tentative plans for Reynolds Coliseum (probably in 1940 or 1941), and the A. C. Lee Construction Company was the design engineer. Construction of the steel frame started shortly after but was halted in 1943. Construction picked up again in 1947 or 1948, at which point Northup & O'Brien become the architects and civil engineering professor

designed churches in Gastonia and Mooresville.²⁰ He designed schools such as East Lincoln High School in Denver (Lincoln County), West Lincoln High School in Vale (Lincoln County), Cherryville High School, East Elementary School in Cherryville, and the earliest buildings and bell tower at Gaston College in Dallas (Gaston County). Government and municipal buildings that Beam designed include the Post Office in Cherryville, and James W. Warren Citizens Center and Charles R. Jonas Library, both in Lincolnton. In addition to his work on the John L. and Mary G. Thompson House, his residential designs are still extant in Lincolnton, Cherryville, Gastonia, and Conover. Some of these include the Dr. Cavelero House, Albert Myers House, Prue Houser House, John Fraley House, and Rudisill House.²¹

For eighty-three years, Beam was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Cherryville, where he was a member of the Men's Bible Class and also served on various committees of the church. He was an active volunteer and served on the board of Cherryville Area Ministries, the Salvation Army, Gaston County Economic Development Board and was a 64-year member of the Cherryville Masonic Lodge # 505 A.F. & A.M. and the Cherryville Rotary Club. According to his family, J.L. Beam was a devoted family man and took great pride in the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. He was a very humble man and viewed everyone as an equal and a friend. He showed love and kindness to everyone he met. He died on November 24, 2010, and is buried in City Memorial Cemetery in Cherryville.²²

Aiji Tashiro and the Landscape of the Thompson House

Born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island in 1908, Aiji spent the majority of his formative years in New Haven, Connecticut and Seattle, Washington. Tashiro received a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture in 1933 from the College of Applied Arts at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio after five years of study in landscape architecture and architecture. Upon graduation, Tashiro worked as the architectural and landscape architectural designer for the City of Cincinnati's Parks and Recreation Commission and the Ohio Historian and Archaeological Society. He worked in private practice in Cincinnati from 1936 to 1938, and then he moved to North Carolina to draft a campus plan for the Appalachian Teachers College (now Appalachian State University) in Boone. During this time, he was

Theodore S. Johnson became the "liaison officer" between the college and the new architects. Todd Kesmerick, email to author, 1 March 2013.

²⁰ "Beam Remembered."

²¹ Beam, interview with author.

²² "Beam Remembered."

employed in the college's history department to teach History of Western Civilizations and assisted in the design for the science building and faculty residences.²³ Living in a small North Carolina town, Tashiro avoided internment during World War II, but his siblings, Kenji, Arthur, Saburo, and Aiko, were not as lucky.²⁴

Before enlistment in the United States Army in 1942 to serve in World War II, Tashiro had an office in Lenoir, North Carolina. He was associated with the Howard-Hickory of Hickory, and in 1945 became a partner of Hickory architect D. Carroll Abee.²⁵ The firm Abee and Tashiro practiced both architecture and landscape architecture at the Hollar building in Lenoir. On August 8, 1947 Tashiro received from the North Carolina Board of Architectural Examination and Registration his certificate of registration for the practice of architecture after passing a four-day written examination and the necessary requirements for practical experience in the field.²⁶ Less than one year later he received his certificate of membership in the American Institute of Architects.²⁷ From 1947-1952, Tashiro and his wife Florence resided in Hudson, located near Lenoir in Caldwell County, and moved to Lenoir in 1953 after he and D. Carroll Abee dissolved their partnership on December 31, 1952.²⁸

From 1948-1952, the partnership of Abee and Tashiro designed and built a myriad of building in and around Hickory, where the firm principal office was located. They were responsible for the planning of grounds and buildings at the Lutheridge assembly ground in Arden, North Carolina, and the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. They first executed educational buildings for churches that include the First Baptist Church of Lincolnton, N.C., West Hickory Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C., Penelope Baptist Church in Longview, Valdese Baptist Church, and Bethany Lutheran Church and Highland Baptist Church in Hickory. They designed the plans for and supervised the construction of the first school construction program completed under the state school construction program that was financed by state funds and bonds. This program included additions to and alterations of, seven Alexander County schools, and the construction of a new gymnasium at Taylorsville High School. The firm was commissioned to build Lenoir High School's athletic field, the Municipal

²³ *Hickory Daily Record*, "Tashiro Is Licensed as Architect in N.C.; Passes 4 – Day Exam," 8 August 1947.

²⁴ Eugene (Gener) Tashiro, interview by the author, 2 April 2010.

²⁵ Aiji Tashiro was listed in the Hickory, N.C. Business Directory, 1943-1944, working as a landscape architect for the Howard-Hickory Company, and his residence was listed as Lenoir, N.C.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ *Hickory Daily Record*, "Tashiro Is Now Member of Architects Institute," 22 March 1948.

²⁸ City directories

swimming pool and colored pool for Lenoir, renovate the Old Davenport dining hall as an assembly hall and band practice rooms to be used by the Lenoir Junior High School. They also renovated the Shell's motel, which was the first motel in the area to utilize radiant electric heat, the Hickory Dry Cleaners, Better Homes Furnishing Store, J.L. Jones Furniture Manufacturing plans and the American Legion building in Lenoir.²⁹

The firm of Abee and Tashiro also specialized in residential architecture and landscape design. During their four-year partnership, Abee and Tashiro developed plans for the C.L.S. Morgan House, the Lee George House, and the Lynch Cline residence, built in 1953. In addition to the aforementioned residential buildings, they were also responsible for plans and the construction of houses in Hickory, Morganton, and the surrounding areas of the North Carolina foothills and mountains. Some of these include the William T. and Mary McLauchlin House in Conover, Bernard Rabold House in Newton, and the William and Aileen Stevens House in Lenoir.³⁰

The Thompsons hired Cherryville architect J.M. Beam to design and build the house, with their input, after seeing a few of his residential designs in Cherryville and Lincolnton, and they hired noted North Carolina landscape architect Aiji Tashiro to design the physical landscape of the six-acre property.

Forest Hills and 20th Century Residential Developments in Lincolnton

Prior to the 1940s, Lincolnton's earliest residential neighborhoods were developed around downtown Lincolnton and meet the housing needs of a growing number of people who moved from farms to towns to seek work in mills. Few in number, these neighborhoods consisted of small one-story, brick or frame bungalows. These neighborhoods also feature a few houses built of an eclectic mix of styles such as Colonial Revival and Queen Anne dating to the nineteenth century that were located in the area around which developers built their neighborhoods. Reinhardt Heights and Oakland Heights were the two earliest neighborhoods developed near downtown Lincolnton during the first decade of the nineteenth century, and much of their original architectural integrity has been retained by past and current owners. Other neighborhoods such as the one on South Mill Street, now South Grove Street of fifty-three lots,

²⁹ *Hickory Daily Record*, "Abee, Tashiro Announce Partnership Dissolution," 13 March 1953.

³⁰ <http://www.trianglemodernisthouses.com/tashiro.htm>. Accessed October 1, 2012.

and the Edwards sub-division of twelve lots were developed during the 1920s and 1930s, but most sizable suburban neighborhoods were developed after World War II.³¹

Real estate developer and textile manufacturer Robert S. Reinhardt developed Reinhardt Heights in northwest Lincolnton around Lincoln County's "most complete expression" of the Craftsman Bungalow, the Reinhardt-Brown House, that he built for his daughter Lena Reinhardt Brown between 1907-1908.³² The property encompassing the Reinhardt Heights neighborhood is located just south of the South Fork of the Catawba River, on which Reinhardt's Elm Grove Cotton Mill was located. Reinhardt laid out the Reinhardt Heights sub-division in 1908, bounded on the west by the South Fork River, his Elm Grove Textile Mill property on the north, and Grove Street, then called Elm Grove, to the east. The *Lincoln County News* reported on February 15, 1907, "Mr. R.S. Reinhardt has sold quite a number of building lots recently from the handsome tract he is developing in the Northeast part of town," and the newspaper elevated the property as being on "a high plateau commanding a fine view of town and country, and is destined to become one of the most desirable residential sections of our growing city."³³

The Oakland Heights neighborhood is located in the northeast section of Lincolnton, about one mile from downtown. Developers began auctioning lots in each of the neighborhood's five blocks on May 1, 1907. Occupying a full page in the *Lincoln County News*, the advertisement was titled "Auction Sale of Fine Building Lots at Lincolnton, North Carolina," and offered interested buyers a dinner and cold drinks by the Daughters of the Confederacy in the Oakland Heights neighborhood. T.M. Whisonant and H.E. Reid conducted the auction, and the auctioneer was B.W. Getsinger. Oakland Heights was touted like Reinhardt Heights as embracing "the Finest Suburban property within ten minutes walk of the Court House, and is on an elevation, the highest point in town, and gives a fine view of the city and surrounding country." Lincolnton was promoted as being transformed during the first decade of the twentieth from the "proverbial 'Sleepy Village' to a thriving Business Center, and is now the talk of the surrounding country and towns because of its rapid progress." During this decade, the City of Lincolnton had "installed water work, voted a special school tax, which gives it one of the best Graded School, has voted bonds for Sewerage and Electric Lights, both of which will be installed during the next twelve months." The promoters concluded their advertisement with the assurance that "the

³¹ "At Auction 53 Beautiful Home Sites on S. Mill St., Lincolnton, N.C." *The Lincoln County News* 29 October 1925; "Valuable At Auction" *The Lincoln County News* 10 May 1937

³² Marvin Brown and Maurice C. York. *Our Enduring Past: A Survey of 235 Years of Life and Architecture in Lincoln County, North Carolina* (Lincolnton, N.C.: Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission, 1986), 30.

property lies in a section which is destined to be the select residential part of the city, and within a few years will without doubt command a much higher price than it will bring now."³⁴

In 1936, on the heels of the Great Depression and the New Deal, Lincolnton had "one of the best years in town's history for home building; much repair work done to dwellings."³⁵ Thirty five permits were issued for the construction of new homes, generating a total of \$88,955 in revenue for the City of Lincolnton. The town generated other revenue from the issuance of permits for new roofs, repairs, annexes, and additions to homes. Some of the new buildings added in Lincolnton during 1936 include Star Lumber Company's new plant; Seth Lumber Company's new office; Lincolnton Insurance and Realty Company's new office building; Sinclair Filling Station on North Aspen Street; O. A. Costner's two new buildings on North Aspen Street; and, First Methodist Episcopal Church's Sunday School annex. New residences built in Lincolnton were the Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Quickel home on South Academy Street adjoining the property of Mrs. Edgar Love; a home by B.J. Ramsaur and Hal Abernethy on East Rhodes Street; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cochrane's home on South Cedar Street; Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Lawing's house on East Congress Street; and, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rhyne's house on North Aspen built on a lot that they purchased from the Bridges estate.³⁶

Also during the 1930s, Lincolnton and Lincoln County took advantage of Federal funding under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs such as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Civil Works Administration for the construction of lunch rooms at the Oaklawn Rosenwald Schools and Laboratory School, and gymnasiums at Rock Springs Elementary School in Denver, and North Brook No. 1 in the North Brook Township. Lincoln County received funds from the Emergency Relief Administration between 1933 to 1935 to complete approximately seventy projects. Other projects supported with funds from the North Carolina ERA include, but are not limited to, clerical help in the local ERA office, road improvements, janitorial services, beautification and grading of school grounds, road repair, putting down floors, farm relief, installation of occupational records, construction of sanitary projects, home making classes, and rebinding library books.³⁷

³³ *The Lincoln County News* 15 February 1907.

³⁴ "Auction Sale of Fine Building Lots at Lincolnton, North Carolina" *The Lincoln County News* 22 April 1907

³⁵ "Lincolnton Building Soars to \$100,000" *The Lincoln County News* 11 January 1937.

³⁶ "More New Homes For Lincolnton" *The Lincoln County News* 1 June 1936

³⁷ North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, J.S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter, and Thomas W. Morse. *Emergency Relief in North Carolina: A Record of the Development and the Activities of the North Carolina Relief Administration, 1932-1935* ([Raleigh, N.C.]; Edwards and Broughton Co., 1936), 18-19.

As World War II came to a close in 1945, people in Lincoln County struggled to reconcile the gains and losses that were manifest in a rejuvenated economy that soared out of the economic destitution of the Great Depression, an increase in patriotism, participation in various programs and efforts on the homefront, and the loss of approximately one hundred of its young men and women in service to their country in various branches of the military. Men and women of different races, religious affiliations, and economic stations assessed the effects of the war in numerous ways, and were divided in their opinions of the war as the “best of times,” or the “worst of times.” The war effort in was full of paradoxes, contradictions and inequalities. Many people in Lincoln County struggled with the absence of family members who served in the armed forces, and suffered through the emotional devastation of learning that their loved ones were held captive in Prisoner of War camps in a foreign land. Others fought to maintain their strength and stability, and determine their future plight and uncertain direction after losing family members or welcoming them back with debilitating physical or psychological ailments.

Immediately after the war, Lincolnton and Lincoln County held no special events, parades, or ceremonies, they simply observed the return home of their veterans "quietly, with no outstanding civic programs planned." People struggled after to the war with the retention of rationed items, but recognized that "we are better off here in America than any other people in the world and proud that we are part of the U.S.A." They began after the war having meetings about jobs and housing for veterans, making a concerted effort to address their various needs. In October 1945, Miss Mattie Camp, secretary of the local Civil Service Commission, placed a bulletin in the lobby of the Lincolnton Post Office and publicized in the *Lincoln County News* a list of hundreds of jobs that were open only to veterans.³⁸ The local Chamber of Commerce received an increased number of phone calls regarding the lack of housing facilities in Lincolnton and Lincoln County to accommodate service personnel returning home after the war.³⁹

To remedy the housing shortage, some of Lincolnton and Lincoln County's ex-servicemen decided that they would build their own homes with loans secured through Lincolnton's First National Bank and the two Lincolnton Building and Loan Associations. Twenty-three of these homes had been completed when the *Lincoln County News* reported the story on July 22, 1946, and fifty other buildings were being

³⁸ "Many Jobs Open To Veterans Only" *The Lincoln County News* 11 October 1945

³⁹ "C. of C. To Take Up Housing Needs Here" *The Lincoln County News* 24 January 1946

constructed throughout Lincoln County. Bill and Gordon "Shine" Goodson of Seth Lumber Company in Lincolnton reported that their lumber company supplied much of the material to the homes' builders, and they estimated that the cost of construction for each of the veterans' homes was between \$4,000 and \$6,000. C.D. Stroup, Jr., Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Lincoln County Building and Loan Association and war veteran, told the newspaper that "most of the boys believe there is too much red tape in getting a G.I. Bill of Rights loan," and "in his dealings with the men who participated in World War II, he has found them to be very good businessmen, and are going about the thing in the right manner."⁴⁰

Although the seventy dwellings built by returning servicemen was a good solution to the housing problem, this solution was not the norm in Lincoln County. Companies such as U.S. Homes, Inc., a Marietta, Georgia-based company operated by veterans who built and sold pre-fabricated homes, Goodin-Burris, and Seth Lumber Company built model homes in Lincolnton and Lincoln County and explained in their advertising that the homes could be financed through the Federal Housing Authority (FHA). Tom Malley operated the Lincolnton Homes Company, who sold pre-fabricated homes by U.S. Homes, Inc., had an office in the Reinhardt Building in downtown Lincolnton, and promoted the homes as "modern to the last detail, which include heating plant." Goodin-Burris enticed locals to attend showings of their model homes by giving away prizes such as a recessed wall safe, and showed their investment in blanking out the housing shortage by explaining that "although there has been a serious shortage of materials and many critical items needed in the construction of such a home, the builders used much ingenuity and a lot of thought so they could show present-day home builders a short cut to happiness."⁴¹

One of the largest post-World War II housing developments was started by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. In 1947, the Post purchased from Jesse Robinson nine and one-half acres that was once part of the old Robinson Estate, adjacent to the old Duplan Mill in the northern Lincolnton, three blocks from downtown on Bonview Avenue. The sub-division included thirty lots, and the Post ensured veterans that they would "be able to purchase them for one-half of the cost they would have to pay for similar lots

⁴⁰ "70 New Dwellings Being Erected in Lincoln County: Ex-G.I.s Doing Largest Part of New Building" *The Lincoln County News* 22 July 1946

⁴¹ "Model Home Opens Here Saturday For Public Inspection: House Furnished And Constructed by Goodin-Burris" *The Lincoln County News* 20 March 1947

anywhere else."⁴² The only provision in the contract was a clause "to prohibit any veteran from re-selling a lot in order to make a profit."⁴³ The Post purchased the property to sub-divide for affordable homes in a effort to provide assistance to their fellow veterans, enabling them to save on building costs. On June 26, 1948, the Post had a drawing of the thirty lots in their development, which measured fifty to one hundred feet wide by one hundred twenty-five and two hundred ten feet in depth. The Post had the property graded, streets surveyed, and the City of Lincolnton installed a sewer line across the property. Also, they reported that the City had promised to install lights and water systems once the building of homes commenced.⁴⁴

Many of the homes in Lincolnton's post-World War II neighborhoods were built by Seth Lumber Company of Lincolnton, and designed by Herman Howard of Seth Lumber. They completed many of these homes for public inspection during Lincolnton's observances of National Home Week during the late 1940s. Seth Lumber built one of the first homes in the VFW development at the intersection of Bonview Avenue and Battleground Road. The Goodin-Burris Furniture Company of Lincolnton furnished the house for public inspection with "the most beautiful pieces in their line in keeping with the modern phasing of the homes." Seth Lumber described the house with details such as "Modernistic design-ranch type; new Roman brick in front panel and fireplace; etched wood panel on wall of the living room; knotted pine kitchen and cabinets; mahogany flush doors; Thermopane (insulated glass); disappearing stair; Lennox "Highboy" furnace; Durall aluminum tension screens; Sisalation (reflective insulation) in sidewalks; mineral wool insulation in attic; attic fan; termite shields for protection against termites; colored bath fixtures; Kleer-Kleen floor furnace; papered walls; Seth all-purpose unit; Bird architect and Handicraft asphalt shingles."⁴⁵ Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Rankin purchased this model home from Seth Lumber Company, and they received the house's "key to happiness" on September 26, 1949.⁴⁶

Seth Lumber Company continued the construction of model homes in sub-divisions in Lincolnton, and formed a subsidiary, Seth Homes, Inc., before 1950. They were responsible for the first FHA project in Lincolnton -- the Eastwood sub-division. In May 1950, they advertised that they would build nine

⁴² "VFW Post Buys Land To Aid Veterans: Will Subdivide Into Lots For Resale To Ex-Service Men" *The Lincoln County News* 13 November 1947

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ "VFW Building Lots For Sale Saturday On Bonview Ave.: Veterans To Draw For Preference Before Sale Date" *The Lincoln County News* 21 June 1948

⁴⁵ "Model Homes Here Finished; Opened For Public Inspection" *The Lincoln County News* 8 September 1949

⁴⁶ "Receives Key to New Modern Home" *The Lincoln County News* 26 September 1949

houses with plans for thirty more. The houses' general specifications were "wooded lots, streets to be paved, city water, select oak flooring, inlaid linoleum in kitchens and bath with plastic tile on bath walls, disappearing stairway to attic, sheetrock (painted or papered), 210-lb. Bird roofing, all windows and outside doors screened and weather-stripped, automatic oil floor furnace and automatic hot water heater, rock wool insulation, yards to be seeded, and flagstone sidewalk and shrubbery to meet FHA requirements."⁴⁷ World War II veterans were assured a 100% G.I. loan with 4% interest and no down payment, and their monthly house payments with taxes and insurance would be between \$40 and \$46. Streets in the Eastwood neighborhood were constructed by E.D. Gaymont, grading contractor of Lincoln County, Willis Plumbing Company ran the water lines, the Highland Water Company provided the electricity to the houses.

Although they advertised their houses as the most modernistic Ranch style buildings, Seth Lumber built homes in the VFW and Eastwood developments and other areas of Lincolnton that more closely resemble the Minimal Traditional, Cape Cod, and Transitional Ranch. On the national level, developers built homes of these styles "in great numbers in the years immediately preceding and following World War II; they commonly dominate the large tract-housing developments of the period."⁴⁸ Nearly all of the houses built by Seth Lumber in Lincolnton after 1945, with the exception of the houses that they built in the Forest Hills neighborhood during the 1950s, were simplistic frame, one-story buildings with wood exterior cladding, and most do not retain their original integrity.

Lincolnton's Forest Hills neighborhood where John L. and Mary G. Thompson built their house in 1956 was the first Post-World War II residential development completely zoned and protective for the individual residences through covenants. Located along Country Club Road in Lincolnton, the development encompassed both Labans Lane, named for J. Laban Lineberger, located to the north of Country Club Road and Woodvale Circle, located to the south. When developed jointly by Mrs. J. L. Lineberger and David and Walter Clark, Woodvale Circle included twenty-five lots, and Labans Lane had thirty-five. In the November 2, 1953 edition of the *Lincoln County News*, Forest Hills was touted as having amenities such as a "6" water main service for the entire development providing city water to all lots, fire hydrants for protection, and roads to the black top macadam," in addition to "wooded, open, flat, and rolling" lots. The article also reported that "the entire area zone is restricted to one family

⁴⁷ "Lincoln County's First Federal Housing Administration Project" *The Lincoln County News* 15 May 1950

⁴⁸ Virginia McAlester and A. Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984), 478.

residences with minimum size to be about 1,400 square feet, which will be serviced by Duke Power Company and Southern Bell Telephone." Lineberger and the Clarks designed the neighborhood's layout according to recommendations of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), and they promised that the neighborhood would prove "the most beautiful residential section in the 'City With a Future.'"⁴⁹

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House is believed to be the fourth house built on Woodvale Circle in the Forest Hills neighborhood, and there are only five houses on Labans Lane, across Country Club Road from Woodvale Circle that were built prior to 1955. The first house on Woodvale Circle was built by local contractor Fred Shuford for M.Y. Rudisill in 1954, and the other two include the William Van Dresser House (1954), E.C. Land House. The houses built on Country Club Road and Labans Lane that pre-dated the construction of the Thompson House include Robert H. Lineberger, Sr. House (1953), Sam Robinson House (1954), Walter Clark House (1954), and David Clark House (1954), respectively.

8 F. Property boundary, significance and integrity

The John L. and Mary G. Thompson House is situated on 6.28 acres at 130 Woodvale Circle in the Forest Hills Neighborhood in Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina. The property, rectangular in shape, is bordered at its north and west elevations by contiguous buildings. The house rests atop a hill near the northwest edge of the large tract, and the property slopes to the east and west away from the house. The house, its landscape and hardscape features, and outbuildings are encircled by large oak trees. The most recent deed to the property is listed in the Lincoln County Deed Book 922 at page 383. The house and outbuildings maintain much of their original architectural integrity. John and Mary Thompson replaced original wood siding with vinyl siding at the building's west elevation (central entry) and the apex of each gable end during the 1970s, but the siding covers original siding, which is still intact. The artificial siding is the exact same size as the original boards and does not compromise the house's material integrity. The Thompsons also replaced the original aluminum windows with pairs and ribbons of wooden, horizontal rolling windows at the northern wing's east and west elevations.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The local landmark boundaries follow the parcel lines of Parcel 16858 as shown with a heavy black line on the Lincoln County GIS map at one inch = 100 feet.

⁴⁹ "'Forest Hills,' Exclusive Residential Development, Being Developed Here," *Lincoln County News*, November 2, 1953.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass 6.28 acres on Woodvale Circle in Lincolnton, which is the acreage historically associated with the John L. and Mary G. Thompson House. It provides an appropriate setting, and includes the retaining walls, courtyard, and patio designed by Aiji Tashiro in 1955.

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