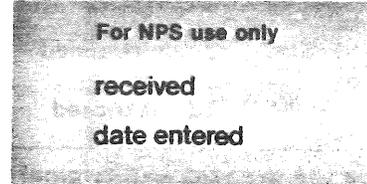


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Dr. Carl V. Reynolds House

and/or common Albemarle Inn

## 2. Location

street & number 86 Edgemont Road not for publication

city, town Asheville vicinity of Congressional District: Eleventh  
~~Congressional district~~

state North Carolina code 037 county Buncombe code 021

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. John Mellin

street & number 40 Gertrude Place

city, town Asheville vicinity of state North Carolina 28801

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Buncombe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Asheville state North Carolina 28801

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. Carl V. Reynolds House, better known today as the Albemarle Inn, is an imposing porticoed residence sited on a spacious, tree-shaded two-acre lot at the end of Edgemont Road in Asheville's Grove Park neighborhood. The house features elaborate classical ornament and is one of the most prominent Neo-classical Revival houses in Asheville, a resort city whose turn-of-the-century residents more frequently preferred the more informal Shingle mode and related styles over the cooler formality of the Neo-classical and Colonial revivals.

The weatherboarded house stands two stories on a stone foundation, and is essentially square in plan under a gable roof with interior brick chimneys. The three principal elevations are three bays wide and framed with paneled corner posts with Corinthian capitals carrying an elaborate entablature, which includes a paneled frieze, dentil course, and modillion blocks under deeply overhanging eaves. A monumental portico shelters the broad entrance bay of the front (west) elevation; its pairs of fluted Corinthian columns and half-round pilasters carry an entablature continuous with that of the house. The roof of the portico is flat, and formerly surmounted by a balustrade. A deep, unsheltered terrace with a simple balustrade carries under the portico across the entire west elevation; this is reached by a wide, long flight of centrally placed concrete steps. The main entrance is recessed under a segmental arch, and is composed of a double-leaf door under a fanlight and flanked by full-length narrow sidelights of two lights each. Above, a second floor entrance, similarly recessed, opens onto a shallow balcony fronted with a curving balustrade of turned balusters and molded handrail. The large first floor windows have one-over-one sash with narrow sidelights and are set into shallow projecting bays with paneled pilasters and molded cornices. The second floor windows and others throughout the house have identical sash, set flush into the wall without sidelights.

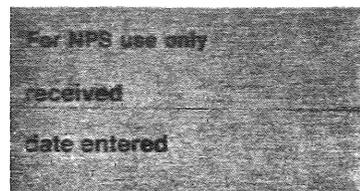
The north and south gable ends are pedimented, with the central bays projecting forward slightly the full two-story height, framed like the full elevations with paneled corner posts with Corinthian capitals. On the north elevation, a one-story hip roof Tuscan porch supported by smooth, circular-in-section posts carries two-thirds of the width of the elevation; at the central bay the porch roof extends forward with a semi-circular projection. A hipped roof porte-cochere is attached to the south elevation, with a curving bay projecting forward from the second level above the porte-cochere. On the rear (east) elevation is placed a two-story block of utility and service rooms.

The interior follows a half center-hall plan, with a transverse hall running north-south from the south entrance and joining the main hall under a segmental arch at the center of the plan. The interior is handsomely finished with high quality woodwork of the period. A two-tiered paneled wainscot carries around the first floor halls and in some rooms. First floor rooms connect to the halls through double sliding doors, all paneled. A corbelled brick fireplace is at the focus of the hall; other fireplaces have mantels with free-standing posts supporting wide molded shelves.

The dominating feature of the interior is the impressive closed-string, three-stage stair at the south end of the transverse hall; this features a paneled spandrel, turned balusters, and massive square-in-section newels with paneled faces and rounded caps with foliate ornament carved in relief. On the wide second landing, the balustrade projects forward in a broad arch, creating a circular space lighted by the windows of the curving bay in the south wall.

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DESCRIPTION

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Rooms of the second and attic floors are simply finished, now serving as rooms for boarders. Doors are the horizontal panel type with six panels, set in molded and mitred surrounds. The attic spaces are lighted by shed dormers set into the roof.

The 1920s classroom building stands just south of the house. The frame structure stands two stories under a gable roof, and is clad in weatherboards, with shingles in the gables. A shingled hip roof dormer lights the attic. Eight-light casement windows, set in groups of three under transoms, are placed irregularly across the elevations. A one-bay, two-story porch fronts the west gable end; this has a pedimented gable cover, square-in-section posts, and a simple balustrade.

The interior of this building, which was converted into apartments in the 1940s, was not available for study.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) public health
<b>Specific dates</b>	1909	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Known today as the Albemarle Inn, the imposing, porticoed residence at 86 Edgemont Road in Asheville was built in 1909 for Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, a native of Asheville and son of an early Buncombe County medical practitioner. The house was one of the first built in the section originally known as Proximity Park, later to become part of the Grove Park neighborhood under the leadership of developer E. W. Grove. Featuring elaborate classical ornament, the house is one of the best examples of the Neo-classical Revival in the city. Dr. Reynolds was known as a "medical statesman" who made significant contributions in the field of public health, serving as city health officer in Asheville from 1903-1910 and 1914-1923, and as a state health officer from 1934-1948. He was instrumental in the founding of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Dr. Reynolds and his wife, Edith lived in the house until 1920 when they sold it to the Grove Park School, a private institution founded in 1900 as the Asheville School for Girls. During the 1920s a classroom building was constructed adjacent to the house. In 1929 the school was leased by the Plonk sisters, educators in the arts who had founded a summer "Southern Workshop" five years earlier. The Plonks operated the school at the site until 1941, changing the name in 1938 to the Plonk School of Creative Arts. In 1941, the Plonk School moved and the Reynolds House became the Albemarle Inn, a rooming house, which it remains today. The most celebrated guest of the Albemarle was Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, who lived here during 1943; here he completed his Third Concerto for Piano, also known as the Asheville Concerto. It is said that the work was inspired by the "concert of birds" that the composer heard outside his window at the Albemarle.

### Criteria Assessment

- A. Associated with the early twentieth century economic and social development of the city of Asheville.
- B. Associated with the life of Dr. Carl V. Reynolds (1872-1963), prominent twentieth century leader in public health, and with the brief North Carolina residence of Bela Bartok (1881-1945), who lived and worked here in 1943.
- C. The large, elaborately detailed Neo-classical Revival style house with its monumental Corinthian portico is significant as one of the most prominent and fully-developed examples of the style surviving in the city of Asheville.

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SIGNIFICANCE

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In 1909 Dr. Carl V. Reynolds (1872-1963), then city health officer, had a large Neoclassical Revival style house constructed for his private residence near the foot of Sunset Mountain in north Asheville.<sup>1</sup>

Unlike many of the physicians practicing in the booming health resort, Reynolds was a native of Asheville, descended on both lines from pioneer Buncombe County families. Carl's father, John Daniel Reynolds, was an early Asheville medical practitioner.<sup>2</sup> Carl Reynolds attended private schools in Asheville, completing a college preparatory course at the Asheville Military Academy, and received an education in the liberal arts at Wofford College. His medical schooling was at the City of New York Medical College, with a post graduate course at Brompton Hospital in London.<sup>3</sup>

Around 1896 he returned to Asheville and set up the private practice of medicine, with a large general practice combined with a specialty in the treatment of tuberculosis. He was to continue this private practice for nearly twenty years, but soon exhibited his interest in public health which was to become the major work of his life. In 1903 he was appointed city health officer and served until 1910; reappointed in 1914, he served again until 1923. Described in the local papers as a "kinetic" health officer, Dr. Reynolds instituted many sanitation measures, including the country's first campaign against the housefly.<sup>4</sup> The vaccination of school children, a milk ordinance, and the required wrapping of bread all were initiated by him.<sup>5</sup>

Reynolds' activities in public health were not confined to the local level. In 1924 he was elected president of the North Carolina Medical Society; in 1931 president of the State Board of Health. In 1934 he began a fourteen year term as state health officer. His greatest achievement in this position was an aggressive campaign against venereal disease.<sup>6</sup>

Reynolds was instrumental in founding the school of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and served on its faculty in 1935.<sup>7</sup>

In 1907 Reynolds purchased some of the Pack family's vast land holdings in Asheville and organized the Proximity Park Company, a real estate corporation.<sup>8</sup> He then began construction of his house on Edgemont Road in "Proximity Park." Shortly thereafter Reynolds sold most of his holdings (retaining his residence) to Edwin Wiley Grove, who was to become the real estate giant of twentieth century Asheville. Reynolds is said to have been responsible for Mr. Grove's decision to invest in Asheville real estate.<sup>9</sup> "Proximity Park" became "Grove Park," with additional lands, some of which were purchased by Reynolds acting as agent for Grove.

Reynolds and his wife Edith lived in the Grove Park house until 1920, when they built the first house in the new town of Biltmore Forest.

In September, 1920, the Reynolds sold the house on Edgemont to the Grove Park School, a prestigious private institution founded in 1900 as the Asheville School for Girls.<sup>10</sup> Principal owners of the school were E. W. Grove and Thomas A. Cosgrove, who was also chief executive officer and headmaster.

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The house suffered damage in a fire in the autumn of 1920, but was repaired by the school.<sup>11</sup> A second building, a two-story frame classroom building adjacent to the house, was added in the 1920s.

In 1929 the School was leased by the Plonk sisters, educators in the arts who had founded a summer "Southern Workshop" five years earlier.<sup>12</sup> The Misses Plonk operated the school in the building until 1941, changing the name in 1938 to the Plonk School of Creative Arts. The school was to continue to operate until the 1960s, always innovative in trying to teach the "Total person--mind, body, voice, and spirit."<sup>13</sup>

In 1941, the Plonk School moved to a new location, and in the following year Thomas Cosgrove, who with his wife, Mary was then sole owner of the property, sold the house to T. Avery Taylor and his wife, Marie L. Taylor.<sup>14</sup> Under the Taylor ownership the house became the "Albemarle Inn," a rooming house, and it has retained that function under the same name through five separate owners over the last four decades.<sup>15</sup> The most famous guest at the Inn was the Hungarian Composer Bela Bartok (1881-1945), who lived here briefly in 1943. While residing at the Inn, Bartok composed his Third Concerto for Piano, also known as the "Asheville Concerto." It is said that the work was inspired by the "concert of birds" that Bartok heard singing in the gardens and trees around the house.<sup>16</sup>

The current owner is John Mellin, who purchased the property in 1981 from E. L. Freeman, who had owned the inn from 1969.<sup>17</sup> Mr. Mellin is undertaking a substantial rehabilitation of the structure.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>City Directory of Asheville, N. C., 1909 (Asheville, N. C., Piedmont Directory Company), p. 326.

<sup>2</sup>"Carl V. Reynolds," 8 p. typescript, n.d., p. 1.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>4</sup>"Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, 90, Dies in Altadena, California," Asheville Citizen, March 5, 1963.

<sup>5</sup>"Carl Reynolds: Sanitarian," Asheville Citizen, March 10, 1963.

<sup>6</sup>"Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, 90, Dies in Altadena, California," Asheville Citizen, March 5, 1963.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Buncombe County Deed Books, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, Deed Book 144:518.

<sup>9</sup>"Who's Who and Why in Asheville," Asheville Times, October 27, 1929.

<sup>10</sup>Buncombe County Deed Books, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, Deed Book 255:146.

<sup>11</sup>"Grove Park, One of Big Schools, To Be Enlarged," Asheville Citizen, November 30, 1921.

<sup>12</sup>"Plonk School Had Beginning 26 Years Ago," Asheville Citizen, April 12, 1951.

<sup>13</sup>"Plonk School Founded in City 18 Years Ago," Asheville Citizen-Times, August 30, 1942.

<sup>14</sup>Buncombe County Deed Book 542:100.

<sup>15</sup>Buncombe County Deed Books 656:201, 916:139, and 996:420.

<sup>16</sup>"Birds Inspired Music Composed in Asheville," Asheville Citizen, July 9, 1962.

<sup>17</sup>Buncombe County Deed Book 996:420, and interview with John Mellin, Asheville, N. C., June, 1982.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Asheville, N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	1	7
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 Zone 

3	6	10	3	13	10
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 Easting 

3	19	4	12	0	19	10
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 Northing

B 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

C 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

D 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

E 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

F 

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 Easting 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

H 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

## Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is a two acre lot identified in the Buncombe County Tax Office as Lot 6 1/2 of Sheet 4, Ward 9, and includes the residence and the adjacent classroom building, now converted into apartments.

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code  county N/A code

state  code  county  code

# 11. Form Prepared By

Property description, significance summary, and criteria assessment by Michael Southern, name/title Restoration Specialist. Historical Research Report by Betty Lawrence, Consultant.

organization Western Office, N. C. Division of Archives and History date July 8, 1982

street & number 13 Veterans Drive telephone 704-298-5024

city or town Asheville state North Carolina 28805

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 24, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

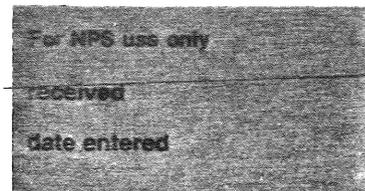
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

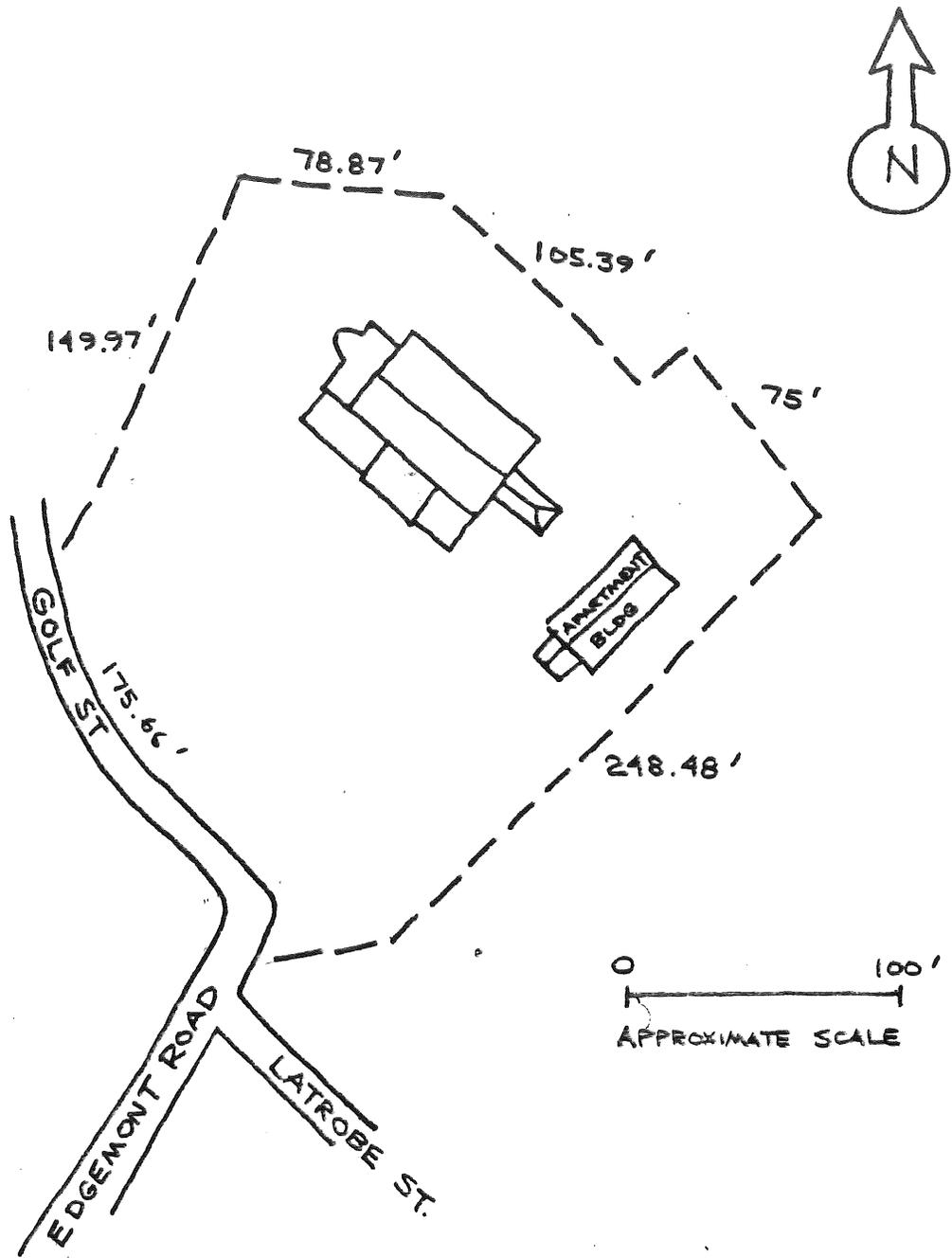
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- City Directory of Asheville, N. C., 1909. Asheville, N.C.: Piedmont Directory Company.
- Health Bulletin(N.C. Board of Health), Vol 50, No. 1. January, 1935.



DR. CARL V. REYNOLDS HOUSE  
 (ALBEMARLE INN)  
 86 EDGEMONT ROAD  
 ASHEVILLE, N.C.  
 BUNCOMBE COUNTY  
 2 ACRES  
 DRAWN FROM BUNCOMBE COUNTY  
 TAX MAP, WARD 9, SHEET 4,  
 LOT 6½

