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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Biltmore Village Historic Resources (Partial inventory: Historic and architectural properties)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER The traditional boundaries of Biltmore Village (the area defined roughly by All Souls Crescent, Lodge Street, and Brook Street) plus contiguous associated properties.

CITY, TOWN

Asheville

— VICINITY OF

11th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership: see continuation sheets.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Buncombe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Asheville

STATE

NC 28801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Biltmore Village, the half-timbered manorial town built by George W. Vanderbilt on the south bank of the Swannanoa River at the edge of his vast estate, exists in its original condition only in memory. Over the years, the rural unspoiled setting has given way to a flood tide of urban sprawl which breached the village boundaries and carried away many of the early buildings. Nonetheless, the four buildings by Richard Morris Hunt remain, and sixteen of the half-timbered cottages, three of the commercial buildings, and the hospital designed by architect Richard Sharp Smith exist in varying states of intactness. Many of these form a small neighborhood which evokes the village's original ambience. The simple landscaping, the quaintness of the cottages, the logic and symmetry of Frederick Law Olmsted's, or perhaps Hunt's, street pattern, the playful elegance of the railway depot, the bold vernacular of the Estate Office, and the exquisite loveliness of All Souls Church still form a community of importance and distinction.

The symmetrical, fan-shaped street plan is the least disturbed element of the design. At the north edge, Lodge and Brook streets join at an obtuse angle at the railway station and "plaza." All Souls Crescent swings south from these streets to form the boundaries of the village. Within the village a small network of streets amplifies the fan pattern and forms a modified grid.

At the head of the plaza is the railway station with the tracks to the north. Directly south, at the opposite end of the village, is the church. Most of the surviving cottages and the old hospital building stand in the eastern part of the village. The estate office is located on the plaza, a space undoubtedly intended as the business and commercial center of the community. The entrance to Biltmore estate is to the west. It leads from the station along the north edge of the village through a small park to the handsome gate lodge. From there the drive leads about three miles up the hill through woods and fields to Biltmore House itself.

All Souls Church, together with the Parish House, is the tallest and largest structure in the village. Both the church and Parish House feature brick and wood trim, pebbledash wall surfaces (a rough textured stucco), and expansive tile roofs. The Romanesque style church, from the exterior, is enormously complex for a building that is not in fact of great size. Though it is deceptively small, the wide eaves, massive tower, highly expressive folds and turns of wall and roof, the steeply pitched cascades of red tile, and richness of detail give it a certain monumentality.

For all its precocious complexity, the building is a simple cruciform. A tall tower rises in the center and contains the greater part of the interior space. Extending to four sides of this center mass are short, rectilinear transepts and "nave," and, in the south end, a rounded apse. Framing the tower are small brick buttresses. At the top is a pyramidal roof which kicks out slightly at the bottom, characteristic of the other roofs of the building, and rests on a heavy bracketed cornice. The buttresses seem to rise through the roof forming pinnacles at each corner. The transepts have gable ends and wood trim. Piercing the wall are round-arched windows framed in brick with molded stone sills.

The north end is somewhat different. Though it too features a gable end, the dominant compositional element is a wide, inviting tile-roofed porch resting on heavy, unevenly

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

spaced brick piers. The porch extends to the front width of the church creating a hipped-roof effect. Here the wood decorative detail is rich but unpretentious. At cornice level sawn brackets support the shallow eaves. Between the piers and over the window openings, however, the wood beams are chamfered and molded. Other satisfying details, such as the elaborate iron lamps, brick herringbone floor, glazed and paneled entry, stone "baseboards," and sills abound.

The interior is relatively simple but no less elegant. The tower opens to the extensions through broad pointed arches outlined by wide brick frames. Through these light is filtered from the transept windows to the center space. Light enters directly from the tower windows above. Brick frames the arched openings and fenestration. The wood floors are herringbone, the walls plastered, and furnishings understated in wood. The tower's ceiling is wood tongue-and-groove on molded joists; in the transepts molded ribs support a similar tongue-and-groove surface. The apse is not elaborate and features a simple altar and plain furnishings. Behind are round-arched windows with brick surrounds framed by severe pointed arches of plaster. The windows are filled with elegant stained glass designs created for the Vanderbilts by Maitland Armstrong and his daughter of New York. They feature a variety of scenes from the Old and New Testaments, many of which were appropriately matched to suit the individuals memorialized.

The Parish House, designed by Hunt as a detached structure, features the same materials as the church but is considerably different. The one-and-one-half story, hipped roof, rectangular structure features a high brick watertable. Above rise pebbledash walls with wood trim supporting a red tile roof and wide eaves. The most notable details of the building are the dramatic, well-detailed wall dormers. Wide gables with trefoil trim extend from the building and rest on brackets. The window openings, subdivided by cross-shaped muntins, contain decorative leaded glass similar in technique to the glass in the stair tower and banquet hall at Biltmore House, also by Maitland Armstrong. At the ends of the building are larger gables, carrying the ridge line of the roof past the slope of the hip. These contain a Tudor-arched frame, stucco and curvilinear half-timbers, brackets, and decorative leaded glass. Between 1925 and 1930 one-story wings were added, creating an asymmetrical courtyard and attaching the Parish House to the church. Numerous alterations have occurred on the interior.

Directly across the village from the church is Hunt's railway station, still in occasional use as a passenger depot. The one-story symmetrical structure with its low hipped roof and central porte cochère features wide overhanging eaves, half-timbering, pebbledash, and a simple brick watertable. Heavy chamfered brackets with molded and gauged detail spring from a point about halfway down the walls to support the eaves. These handsome brackets are arranged in an irregular pattern according to the frequency of bays and openings and give the pattern a lively effect.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Most of the wall timbering is vertical, but under windows some angled timbers occur. The porte cochère is a dominant feature of the facade. This open gable-end protrusion features pairs of chamfered and molded posts with small brackets and simple molded trim. The arrangement of the interior is typical of small railway stations of the period. Double waiting rooms, the one originally for whites on the right and a smaller one formerly for blacks on the left, are separated by a center ticket office and vestibule. The larger room contains a simple picturesque fireplace with segmental-arched fire opening and tapered breast.

The Biltmore Estate Office, the fourth of the Hunt structures in Biltmore Village, combines a number of vernacular materials and design motifs found in the village. The pebbledash surfaces, half-timbering, brick trim, chamfered and bracketed porch posts, and stylized classical ornament which occur in the building are among the village architectural leitmotifs. The one-and-one-half story building rests on a coursed ashlar foundation. Window surrounds feature brick flat arches and patterns reminiscent of quoins, a suggestion found at the corners of the building. Above the molded cornice rises a hipped roof pierced by oversized, multi-bay, half-timbered, hipped-roof dormers. A short flight of steps leads to a recessed porch stretching the width of the building and a handsomely paneled and molded entrance with three-light transom. In the rear was a porte cochère, later unsympathetically converted into a small firehouse garage. A number of changes have occurred on the interior, but most of the original oak trim, chairrails, doors, and a mantel are original.

Fourteen of R. S. Smith's cottages in the neighborhood in the eastern part of the village are relatively little altered. All are one-and-one-half to two-story pebbledash cottages with recessed porches, multiple gables, steeply pitched roofs, simple molded trim, one or more brick chimneys, and brick foundations. Half-timbering, clipped gable dormers, shed dormers, gambrel roofs, small brackets on porch posts, and twelve-over-twelve sash occur on many of the dwellings.

No two cottages are exactly alike, though in some cases cottages are closely similar or even mirror images. There are four basic types by mass and facade:

1. Cottage with one-bay recessed porch and two-story gable-end projection (e.g. 1 All Souls Crescent, 3 Swan Street, 2 Boston Way).
2. Cottage with two-bay recessed porch, hipped roof dormer, and two-story gable-end projection)e.g. 5 Boston Way, 6 Boston Way).
3. Cottage with gambrel roof, shed dormers, and two-bay recessed porch (e.g. 2 All Souls Crescent).

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

4. Cottage with gable-end facade of one type or another (e.g. 7 All Souls Crescent, 1 Swan Street).

There are two additional cottages on the west side, with recent brick veneer wall embellishment but a substantial portion of the original half-timbering and pebbledash remain in addition to the original massing.

One early but much altered commercial complex and two small commercial structures remain on the north side of the village. The one-and-one-half story symmetrical complex contains two gables facing the street, one at each end, with two gable dormers piercing the center hyphen. Half-timbered detail remains in the gable ends. Next door is a one-story symmetrical gable-end structure with the inevitable pebbledash and half-timbering, and a center gable extension toward the street, originally the Biltmore Village Post Office and now an exterminating company. To the west on Lodge Street is a tiny commercial structure, which may have been a bank but is now a shoe shop with a clipped gable-end facade, half-timbering, and pebbledash.

Outside of the street plan itself is the old Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital, since converted into apartments. This notable and highly irregular one-and-one-half story building constructed in pebbledash is a predictable combination of gables, dormers, casement windows, stylized ornament, and some shingle detail.

To the east of Biltmore Village sited on a hill overlooking the community is the Samuel Harrison Reed House, built in 1892 for the man who sold the site of Biltmore Village to George W. Vanderbilt. The frame structure is one of the most substantial Queen Anne dwellings in Asheville, featuring irregular massing and a prominent corner turret with an ogee dome. The wrap-around porch is supported by turned posts with curvilinear brackets and a pediment over the porch steps. The fenestration generally consists of one-over-one sash, and a large brick chimney pierces the center of the roof. The house has seen only minor alterations, and the rich interior fabric, typical of the period, remains throughout.

Since the original village passed from Vanderbilt interests a number of new buildings rose in land that had undoubtedly been intended originally for village cottages. Only a few of them prove to be of any architectural interest. On the plaza next to the Biltmore Estate Office is a notable and well-maintained brick commercial building. Build between 1925 and 1930, this two-story building contains a number of shops and features simple Sullivanesque ornament and various decorative brick patterns. Other commercial buildings of the period on Biltmore Avenue between Lodge Street and the railroad tracks are plain and feature simple period detail.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Adjacent to the railway station is a two-story Georgian-type bank (formerly the Biltmore-Oteen Bank, now a realty office), built between 1925 and 1930, a thin, wedge-shaped building displaying Flemish bond brick work, concrete detail, Doric type pilasters, and a host of various classical ornamentation. Among the later commercial buildings, the most notable is the contemporary First Union Bank. This structure alludes to the older buildings through materials, shapes, and color, yet it maintains its identity as a modern building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Richard Morris Hunt, Richard Sharp Smith, Douglas Ellington, Frederick Olmsted, Ronald Green
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE		

When George Washington Vanderbilt (1862-1914) began assembling his vast estate, Biltmore in the mountains of western North Carolina in the late 1880s, he planned a picturesque manorial village, both as an ornament in the vast tableau of buildings and grounds and as a practical solution to the problem of housing estate workers and servants. The model village, English in flavor, was primarily the work of three men: Richard Morris Hunt (1827-1895), the nationally prominent architect who designed Biltmore House itself, the village church, railway station, and estate office; Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), the renowned landscape architect who designed the grounds of the estate and the village plan; and Richard Sharp Smith (1852-1924), an architect employed by Hunt who designed the cottages, school, infirmary, post office, and other village facilities and who later became a prominent Asheville architect. The site of the village of Best, or Asheville Junction, was chosen for the village, planning for which began in 1889. Vanderbilt bought the village, relocated the residents, and constructed an entirely new town. By 1896 the streets were laid out and the church, parish house, rectory, estate office, and railway station were built. Vanderbilt added buildings to the village until about 1910. In the early years the village was the center of community life, the location of schools, church, and social functions, and even a cottage craft industry started by Mrs. Vanderbilt. Shortly after Vanderbilt's death the village was sold, and over the years a number of changes, additions, and alterations were made, not all compatible with the original design. The overall character of the village survives, however, thanks in large part to a recently instituted program of adaptive use.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The Biltmore Village is an essential part of one of America's great estates; in its design it vividly reflects both the immense wealth created by industrializing America and the picturesque tastes in architecture prevailing during the period.
- B. Biltmore Village has obvious associations with George Washington Vanderbilt, the gentleman, sportsman, and intellectual who created the great Biltmore estate; with two of the nation's leading architects, Richard Morris Hunt and Frederick Law Olmsted; and with two regionally significant designers, Richard Sharp Smith and Douglas Ellington.
- C. The Biltmore Village buildings, designed in individualistic, picturesque styles, are the works of major American and major regional architects. Most possess high artistic value; some derive their primary significance from their pivotal role in preserving the visual integrity of the resource area.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Survey Scope

This survey was conducted in the summer of 1976 by McKelden Smith, architectural historian with the Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Research material was partially supplied by Susanne Brendel, research historian, Biltmore House and Gardens. Every building in the resource area was examined; the attached survey sheets include all those buildings in the area meeting the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This project included no archeological survey.

By 1888 George Washington Vanderbilt (1862-1914), son of William Henry Vanderbilt (1821-1885) and grandson of "Commodore" Vanderbilt (1794-1877), purchased several thousand acres of land near Asheville, North Carolina, where he intended a hunting lodge and retreat. Unlike his father and brothers, Vanderbilt had little interest in the family's shipping and railroad empire and the New York social whirl, preferring instead agrarian pursuits, esoteric literary interests, hunting, and travel, most of which, perhaps, were more easily satisfied in the mountains of western North Carolina than New York's Fifth Avenue or Newport's Bellevue Avenue. Vanderbilt's ambitions for his North Carolina property were great, and by early 1889 both Richard Morris Hunt (1827-1895) and Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) were hard at work creating a house (finished 1895) and estate on a scale unprecedented in America, an establishment George Vanderbilt named Biltmore.

Richard Morris Hunt, familiar with the tastes and ambitions of the Vanderbilt family, was the logical choice for architect, having designed two houses for George Vanderbilt's brother William K.--Marble House in Newport (1888-1892) and 660 Fifth Avenue (1878-1881)--and the family mausoleum on Staten Island. (Hunt did not begin The Breakers in Newport for Cornelius Vanderbilt, another brother, until 1892). Olmsted, like Hunt, was well known to George Vanderbilt, both as a landscape architect of national reputation and from personal contact, Olmsted having worked at the Vanderbilt farm on Staten Island and at the grounds of the Vanderbilt mausoleum. Biltmore was Olmsted's first of two commissions in North Carolina. He did not begin work on his Pinehurst village (NR) until 1895.

As part of the estate George Vanderbilt planned a model village intended to house many of the estate workers and servants and the services and facilities needed for operating an estate of more than one hundred thousand acres. (At one time, and as late as 1895, a plan existed to rent housing units for students of forestry, agriculture, and horticulture in the village.¹ The Asheville City Directories, however, make no mention of such students living in the village proper.)

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DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In keeping with the manorial style and standards of the estate, the town was conceived as a picturesque European village, architecturally diverse yet harmonious in scale, texture, and proportion.

The romantic English-style village, located on the Hendersonville Road a little more than two miles south of Asheville's center on the south bank of the Swannanoa River, served symbolically and functionally as the gateway to the estate for those coming by carriage, commercial or private railway, or, in later years, by trolley from Asheville. The village was small but carefully and logically arranged, a community of stage-set unreality reflective of Vanderbilt's and thus Olmsted's and Hunt's extravagant visions for the estate. It served Vanderbilt's requirements both for practical necessity and convenience and for ornamental effect in the estate's grand tableaux of buildings, roads, and landscaped grounds.

The site selected for the new village was a small crossroads known as Asheville Junction or Best (for William J. Best, an owner of the Western North Carolina Railroad). Mary Louise Boyer, in her chronicle of the history of All Souls Church, reported that ". . . the railroad station [later replaced by Hunt], two small inns, a couple of country stores, a grist mill, the Fern Hill Baptist Church . . . and a few dwellings scattered along the Hendersonville Road constituted the settlement in those days."² Documentary photographs in the Biltmore House Archives and the Sanborn Insurance Maps of the 1890s support Mrs. Boyer's description. Asheville Junction was a small, plain, undistinguished collection of frame buildings, shacks, and stables that eventually disappeared. Vanderbilt purchased all the property, relocating the residents and structures where the village was to stand, and building the Baptist congregation a new church to the south in the small settlement that came to be known as South Biltmore (incorporated 1895).³ Included in the Vanderbilt land purchases at Asheville Junction was a tract of 100 acres from Samuel Harrison Reed who built a substantial Queen-Anne style home in 1892 on a site overlooking the village.

By the end of 1889 plans were already being discussed for a village to be sited at the foot of Olmsted's approach road to the house.⁴ The collaboration between Hunt and Olmsted on the estate, as Olmsted wrote, was generally harmonious. "There has not been," he wrote, "the slightest breach of harmony between us."⁵ Yet Olmsted's biographer reports a "breach of harmony" over the village. In April, 1895, as work was about to get underway, Olmsted ". . . expected discord over the Biltmore Village. The firm's English plan for it and Hunt's French were irreconcilable. Vanderbilt leaned toward Hunt's. He was expected at Biltmore late in April, and Olmsted intended to explain the firm's plan to him in person, being unwilling, he said, to leave him to Hunt, who was 'earnest, tempestuous, and used to having his own way.'" By July, Hunt was dead, and it is unknown to what extent Hunt succeeded in promoting his ideas. A reference in March, 1894, on an architectural drawing in the Biltmore House archives

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

making reference to "Mr. Olmsted's drawing No. 165 showing skeleton plan for Biltmore Village" may be the final plan.⁷ The vaguely French character of the fanlike plan suggests the design as executed may have derived from Hunt's plan. Further research, beyond the scope of this nomination, will be necessary to define the working relationship between Hunt and Olmsted at Biltmore.

The Sanborn insurance maps of 1896, the year All Souls Church was consecrated, show the streets laid out according to the fanlike plan. The rectangular shaped church with its porch and semi-curcular apse, the rectangular detached Sunday School building (Parish House), a nearby rectory on the corner of Angle Street and All Souls Crescent (destroyed), the Biltmore Estate Office, and new railway station were the only permanent buildings existing. Near the station was a freight depot "to be removed"⁸ and a post office. The cheap frame buildings constructed before Vanderbilt began the village stood for a short while longer on both sides of the river grouped around the road which crossed the iron bridge to Asheville and ran south in the opposite direction to Hendersonville. West of the road were the Biltmore Brickworks, created to supply building material to the estate, a substantial operation with its own railway spurs that the Sanborn cartographers reported ran "night and day."⁹

Probably in order to provide temporary housing for workers, "About a dozen small houses," according to Mrs. Boyer, "had been moved to All Souls Crescent from scattered sites in the old settlement. . . . As they were gradually replaced by permanent ones of today they were torn down and rebuilt. . ." elsewhere.¹⁰ These "small houses" may be the identically planned houses on the north side of Brook Street which appear on the 1901 Sanborn map. Twelve of the permanent pebbledash cottages south of Brook Street, however, had been erected by that year.

These small but handsomely executed cottages were designed by Richard Sharp Smith (1852-1924), a capable architect who worked in the office of Richard Morris Hunt and supervised the construction of the Biltmore House itself. Little is known of Smith's architectural training or early life. He emigrated from Yorkshire to America about 1872, was first employed in the office of architect Bradford L. Gilbert in New York, and later joined Hunt's fashionable office.¹¹ After Hunt's death in 1895, Smith, according to his own advertisement, served for six years as George Vanderbilt's "resident architect" before establishing himself in private practice in the fast growing city of Asheville.¹² Through his own abilities as a designer and undoubtedly through his Vanderbilt association Smith became one of the city's leading architects, and was said to be the first professionally trained architect residing permanently and practicing in the city.¹³

These first cottages, built by 1901, many of which are still extant, rose along the outer rim of All Souls Crescent near its intersection with Brook Street, and in the block adjacent bound by Brook, Swan, All Souls Crescent, and Plaza (later Oak Street and now Boston Way). They formed a small compact neighborhood. In 1901

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

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

My Sketchbook, a trade pamphlet promoting the work of R. S. Smith and various construction and contracting enterprises, illustrated twelve cottages varying in size, pretention, and detail.¹⁴ The unnamed author, perhaps Smith himself, explains that "the frame and brick, roughcast" cottages ("all with bath") contain "all modern conveniences," with heat provided by "steam and open fireplaces." "They are all rented," the author boasts, "and are all considered model cottages." As further proof of their quality, the author modestly reports that ". . . the style and convenience they contain has made them so popular that as we go to press Mr. Vanderbilt has given orders to build some twelve or fifteen more to meet the demand."¹⁵

In addition to the cottages, Smith added by 1901 a post office (still extant), a small schoolhouse, and a small hospital or infirmary. Additionally, a shopping block on the Plaza opposite the Estate Office was erected. Now gone, the long one-and-one-half story building contained a grocery, dry good store, meat market, drug store, and miscellaneous shops with four to six-room flats above.¹⁶

By 1907 a number of new buildings had risen in the village, among them three dwellings across from the church.¹⁷ To the west the Parish School built new quarters. Seven new dwellings (three of which remain) occupied the block between Swan Street and All Souls Crescent, with three more east of the Parish House. The largest new building (possibly an enlargement of the infirmary) was the Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital, now an apartment building. Not the least important was the addition of a polygonal robing room to the south end of All Souls Church. A postcard ca. 1907 shows a town of picture-book perfection. The picturesque curvilinear street, with its macadamized surface, brick sidewalks, and grassy strips, is the setting for this combination village and garden suburb. The houses had louvered blinds, tall shrubs, and porches which looked out over small lawns and shady, tree-lined drives. Elaborate lamps, now gone, lit the streets and featured street signs on scrolled brackets.

The dwellings were owned by the estate and leased to residents. In 1899-1900, the first years for which a directory exists, there were seventeen heads of households listed of which thirteen were employed on the estate or in the village, all but four in working class capacities. They included, for example, Edward Divelbiss, an engineer at the Biltmore Dairy; S. H. Donahoo, an estate carpenter; James A. Halyburton, the estate's road-grading foreman. By 1911 the village was still a "company town" but many of the residents worked in other parts of Asheville or in enterprises not connected with the estate. In later years the town functioned more like a suburb of Asheville than an adjunct to the estate.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

In their own time, the Vanderbilts not only controlled and owned the village real estate, they were active in village affairs generously patronizing activities that interested them. On May 27, 1896, a dozen men met to organize All Souls Parish. George Vanderbilt, one of the number, who financed the construction of the church, was not surprisingly elected Senior Warden, an office he held until his death in 1914.¹⁸ Joseph Blount Cheshire, Bishop of North Carolina, consecrated the church on the following November. George Vanderbilt came down from New York in his private railway car, Swannanoa, accompanied by the rector of New York's fashionable St. Bartholomew's Church to attend the consecration. Vanderbilt's mother's unexpected death, however, required their return to New York before the service.

As one might expect Vanderbilt selected furnishings and windows for the church equal in quality to Hunt's designs for the building itself. The carved furnishings of the church, such as the pulpit, altar, and choir stalls, and other objects such as cushions for the pews were provided by Baumgarten & Co., New York, previously known as Herter Brothers, one of the most prestigious decorating firms in New York. The Vanderbilts had been clients of the firm for a number of years, which designed, built, and decorated, for example, William H. Vanderbilt's house at 640 Fifth Avenue.¹⁹

The church windows of "opalescent glass" designed and manufactured by Maitland Armstrong and his daughter of New York are of particular interest. The Armstrongs were accustomed to working in association with Hunt on various projects, including Biltmore House. As Miss Armstrong wrote, "Mr. Hunt, the architect, was a life long friend of my father . . . and we made a great many windows for the firm, perhaps the most interesting being those in All Souls Church. . . ." ²⁰ The subject matter for the windows was selected with some care. "Our idea was to present both the Old and New Testament history, and at the same time to select, when possible, for each window a subject suitable to the individual commemorated," continued Miss Armstrong. "Thus charity was chosen for the window in memory of Mr. Vanderbilt's mother, who was, I believe, a very good and lovely woman; Solomon and Hiram building the temple was considered suitable for Mr. Hunt . . ." ²¹ Additional windows included David playing the harp before Saul for Clarence Barker, a Vanderbilt cousin of some musical talent; and Jesus and the priests and scribes in the temple set in a landscape setting for Frederick Law Olmsted. Connections between the content of the other windows and their subjects is not known.

From the beginning George Vanderbilt, said to have been a deeply religious man, assumed complete leadership and control of church affairs. "At the first meeting," wrote Kingsland Van Winkle, an early member of the Vestry,

. . . Mr. Vanderbilt made the announcement that he desired to pay the entire expenses of the church, including the salary of the Rector, the

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

salary of the organist, the salaries necessary to pay for the services in the choir, the assessment and the apportionment which the church might have to pay to the District of Asheville--it was not until after Mr. Vanderbilt's death that the Diocese was organized, and prior to that time it was called the Missionary District of Asheville. The Vestry voted to accept Mr. Vanderbilt's offer, and from then until the day of his death, this arrangement prevailed, but left the church in an anomolous position. The congregation was without any financial responsibility.

. . . Meetings of the Vestry were very pleasant affairs, as the members were not troubled with any budget or money to raise, nor were members expected to present plans of their own.²²

Evidently the character of the church services reflected the simplicity and unpretentiousness of the interior. As Mr. Van Winkle continued:

. . . On the altar there was a cross, but no candlesticks, and the whole service could be described as very "low church." The name "All Souls Church" would seem to indicate that such was the case.

I am inclined to think that this was done, not so much to Mr. Vanderbilt's own churchmanship, as to his great desire to make this the church of all the people of the village. He wished to attract as many as possible and repel none by reason of anything in the service.²³

Shortly after the parish was organized, Vanderbilt, accompanied by the young author, historian, and bibliographer Paul Leister Ford (whom a window in the church memorializes) and Charles McNamee, the estate manager, traveled to Wheeling, West Virginia to observe the rector of St. Matthews Church, Dr. Rodney Rush Swope, whom they were able to entice to Biltmore.²⁴ The church congregation was small but active in the life of the community, operating, for a time, the village school and hospital.

Vanderbilt also gave the land and contributed handsomely to the endowment of the Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital, incorporated on June 13, 1900. The hospital's charter specified, according to Mr. Van Winkle, that the directors consist of the Rector, Vestry, and Wardens of the church, and "one or two physicians," so that the hospital was an adjunct of the church. "This duty," said Mr. Van Winkle, "involved no worry or responsibility to the Vestry, inasmuch as all costs and expenses incurred in building and maintaining it were met by Mr. Vanderbilt. Budgets and money did not trouble the Vestry's minds."²⁵ In 1919 the hospital received its independence from church jurisdiction and its name became Biltmore Hospital.²⁶

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

Edith Vanderbilt, George Vanderbilt's wife, interested in native crafts she found practiced in the mountain region of western North Carolina and in their preservation, founded the Biltmore Industries in 1905, a small network of cottage industries specializing in wood carving; needlework, weaving, dyeing, spinning, embroidery, and the like. It grew out of work begun by Miss Eleanor Vance and Miss Charlotte Yale of All Souls Church, engaged as the "Parish visitors" in 1902, who formed classes and clubs for boys and girls on the estate for cultivation of the native arts.²⁷ Apparently the village was not only intended to look like a manorial village, it was meant to function as one. (In 1917 Mrs. Vanderbilt sold Biltmore Industries to Mr. Fred Seely, an important Asheville businessman who removed the industries to the grounds of his Grove Park Inn (NR), where they continue to operate to this day.)

Between 1907 and 1913, the year before George Vanderbilt's sudden death, few important changes occurred.²⁸ Between 1913 and 1925, however, the blocks between the Hendersonville Road and All Souls Crescent were developed with cottages (the design and appearance of which are not known) and a block across from the church which had remained vacant, perhaps as a village green of sorts, was divided into lots. At the same time, the land north of Lodge Street began to fill up with service stations and large commercial buildings not in scale with Vanderbilt's original village.²⁹ By this time, the heirs of George W. Vanderbilt's estate, forced by serious financial reverses, a shrunken inheritance, and the burdens of vast holdings in non-income producing land to consolidate their assets, sold much of the estate in the years after 1914. Most of the village was sold in 1920.³⁰ Vanderbilt family efforts to include design restrictions and guidelines in the deeds suffered from lack of supervision and enforcement.

After 1930 the village fabric seriously deteriorated. Within the village intruded filling stations, a motel, parking lots, a large bowling alley, and a number of large brick commercial buildings. The most important losses included R. S. Smith's shopping block and school, a number of the largest and most substantial cottages, and all of the small cottages along Brook Street. An important change in the church between these years was the addition of Sunday School rooms between the church and Parish House forming a single complex and closing a block of Swan Street. Fortunately all of Hunt's buildings, by far the most important in the village, a number of the R. S. Smith cottages, and the street plan survived. In the last decade, efforts to revitalize the early buildings, no longer desirable as residential units, and adapt them for use as specialty shops and professional offices, appear to have halted further destruction of village cottages. Most of the adaptations have been sensitive and tasteful. In February, 1977, for example, the architectural firm of Jackson, Padgett, and Freeman received an award from the North Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects, for the adaptation of a cottage for the firm's own offices. Biltmore Village looks forward to a more secure future.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 8

FOOTNOTES

¹The Asheville News and Hotel Reporter, October 28, 1895.

²Mary Louise Boyer, Early Days All Souls Church and Biltmore Village (Biltmore, N. C., privately printed, 1933), p. 6. Hereinafter cited as Boyer, Early Days.

³Boyer, Early Days, p. 7.

⁴Laura Wood Roper, FLO A Biography of Frederick Law Olmsted (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973), p. 417. Hereinafter cited as Roper, FLO.

⁵Frederick Law Olmsted to William A. Stiles, March 10, 1895. Cited in Roper, FLO, p. 465.

⁶Frederick Law Olmsted to Charles Eliot, April 29, 1895. Cited in Roper, FLO, p. 465.

⁷^{ilt}Baltimore House Archives, Catalogue of Architectural Drawings, collection #540.

⁸Sanborn Insurance Map, 1896.

⁹Sanborn Insurance Map, 1896.

¹⁰Boyer, Early Days, p. 6-7.

¹¹Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles, Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc. /facimilie, 1970/, 1956), p. 560-561.

¹²Asheville City Directory, 1906-1907, p. 108.

¹³Asheville Citizen, February 17, 1957.

¹⁴My Sketchbook (Asheville, privately printed, 1901), passim.

¹⁵My Sketchbook (Asheville, privately published, 1901), passim.

¹⁶My Sketchbook (Asheville, privately printed, 1901), passim.

¹⁷Sanborn Insurance Map, 1907.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 9

- ¹⁸Boyer, Early Days, p. 18.
- ¹⁹McKelden Smith, interview with Susanne E. Brendel, research historian, Biltmore House and Gardens, August 21, 1976.
- ²⁰Boyer, Early Days, p. 10.
- ²¹Boyer, Early Days, p. 10-11.
- ²²Kingsland Van Winkle, Sixty Years at All Souls Church, Asheville (?), privately printed, 1956 /p. 3/. Hereinafter cited as Van Winkle, Sixty Years.
- ²³Van Winkle, Sixty Years, p. 4-5.
- ²⁴Boyer, Early Days, p. 14-15.
- ²⁵Van Winkle, Sixty Years, p. 5.
- ²⁶Van Winkle, Sixty Years, p. 6.
- ²⁷Boyer, Early Days, p. 18.
- ²⁸Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1913.
- ²⁹Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1925.
- ³⁰Buncombe County Deed Books, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, N.C., Deed Book 247, p. 390.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Asheville City Directories.

Boyer, Mary Louise. Early Days All Souls Church and Biltmore Village. Biltmore, NC: privately printed, 1933.

Roper, Laura Wood. FLO A Biography of Frederick Law Olmsted. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY See separate inventory sheets.

QUADRANGLE NAME _____			QUADRANGLE SCALE _____				
UTM REFERENCES							
A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheets.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description prepared by H. McKelden Smith and David W. Parham, Survey Specialists; Significance prepared by Suzanne E. Brendel, Biltmore House & Gardens, and

ORGANIZATION McKelden Smith.

DATE

North Carolina Division of Archives & History, Survey & Planning Branch

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 E. Jones Street

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8/20/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Smith, Richard Sharp. My Sketchbook. Asheville, privately printed, 1901.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1956.

Van Winkle, Kingsland. Sixty Years at All Souls Church. Asheville (?), privately printed, 1956.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

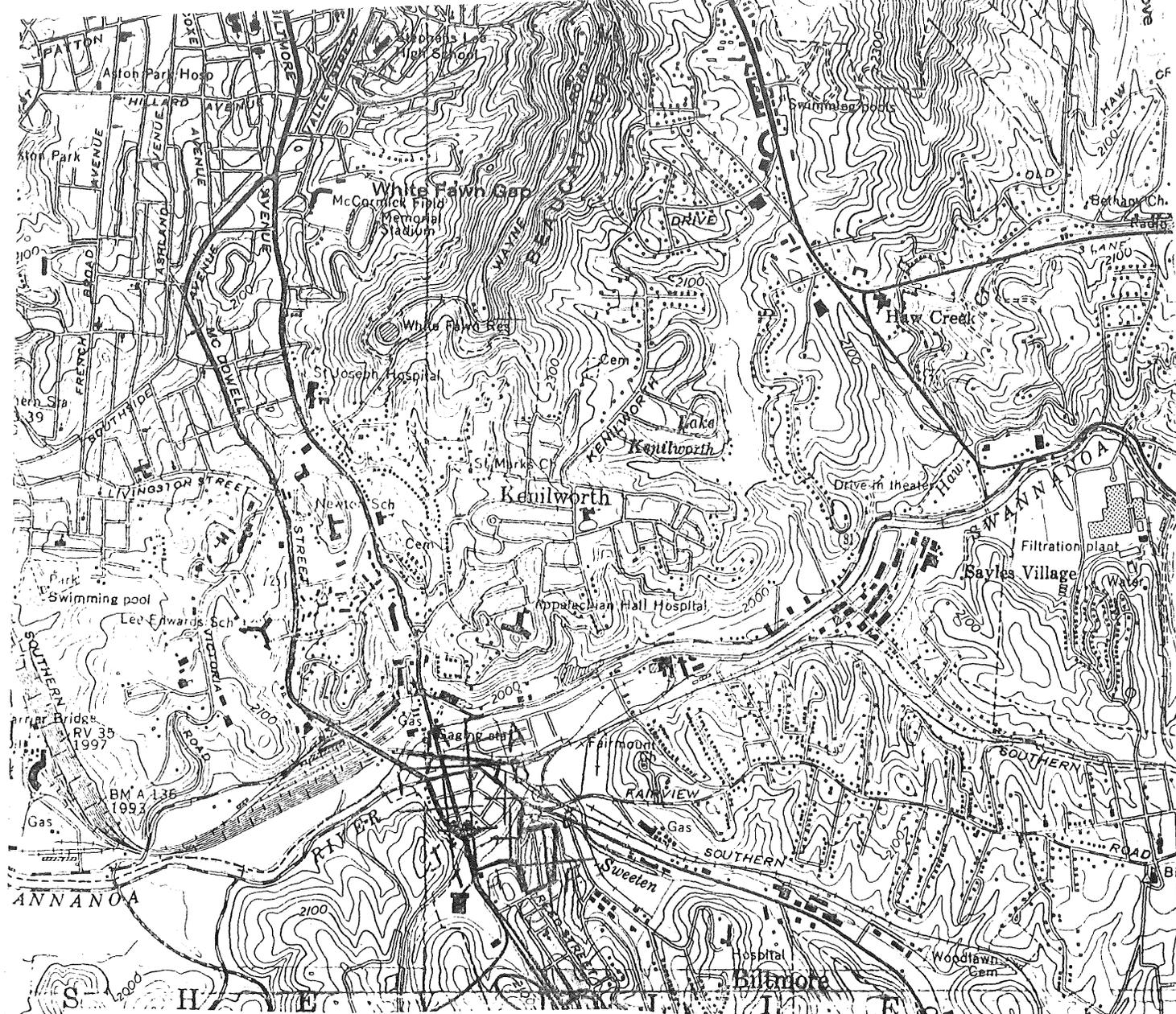
Verbal Boundary Description for Multiple Resource Area

Begin at a point on the southeast corner of the junction of Lodge Street and All Souls Crescent. Then south and east in a curve following the front property lines along the east side of All Souls Crescent to a point on the northeast corner of the junction of Biltmore Avenue and All Souls Crescent. Then south along the front property lines on the east side of Biltmore Avenue/Hendersonville Road to a point on the northeast corner of the junction of Hendersonville Road and Lula Street. Then northeast and southeast in a curve along the front property lines on the north and east sides of Lula Street to a point on the northeast corner of the junction of Lula Street and Irwin Street. Then east along the north side of Irwin Street to a point approximately 600 feet along an extension of Irwin Street. Then north to Warren Street approximately 700 feet. Then north and west in a curve following the front property lines along the east and north sides of Warren Street to a point on the east side of Reed Street. Then north following the front property lines on the east side of Reed Street to a point at the southeast corner of the junction of Reed Street and Brook Street. Then northwest following the front property lines on the south side of Brook Street to a point at the southeast corner of Brook Street and Swan Street. Then northeast to the Southern Railway tracks. Then west following the railroad tracks to a point on the east side of Biltmore Avenue. Then south following the front property lines on the east side of Biltmore Avenue to a point at the southeast corner of the junction of Biltmore Avenue and Lodge Street. Then west following the front property lines on the south side of Lodge Street to the point of origin. See attached map (Multiple Resource Area outlined in red).

UTM References

A--17/360300/3936900
B--17/360280/3936820
C--17/360400/3936720
D--17/360380/3936620
E--17/360520/3936640
F--17/360520/3936420
G--17/360400/3936380

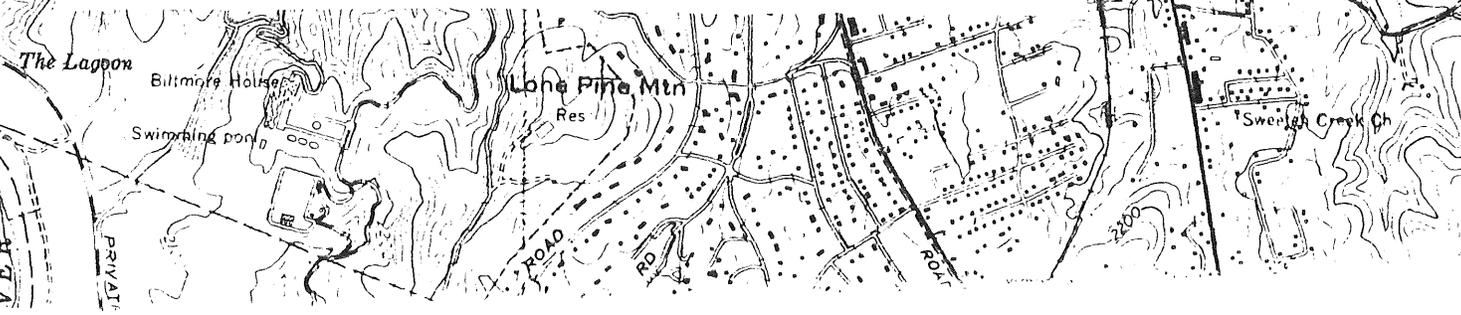
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I--17/360200/3936460
J--17/360160/3936580
K--17/360020/3936820
L--17/360080/3936840
M--17/360070/3936920



Historic Resources of Biltmore Village (Partial Inventory:
 Historic and Architectural properties)
 Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina

UTM References

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| A--17/360300/3936900 | H--17/360340/3936490 |
| B--17/360280/3936820 | I--17/360200/3936460 |
| C--17/360400/3936720 | J--17/360160/3936580 |
| D--17/360380/3936620 | K--17/360020/3936820 |
| E--17/360520/3936640 | L--17/360080/3936840 |
| F--17/360520/3936420 | M--17/360070/3936920 |
| G--17/360400/3936380 | |



BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 1

NAME: All Souls Episcopal Church and Parish House

LOCATION: 2 Angle Street

OWNER: Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina
c/o Bishop William G. Weinbauer
P. O. Box 368
Asheville, NC 28711

DESCRIPTION: All Souls Church is the largest structure in Biltmore Village, an exceptionally fine Romanesque style building which reflects Richard Morris Hunt's application of the style to a small but monumental church structure. The complex edifice features pebbledash wall surfaces, brick and wood trim, and expansive tile roofs. In spite of its complexity, however, the church is a simple cruciform with a tall tower rising in the center which contains most of the interior space. The simple but elegant interior features broad pointed arches outlined by brick frames, tongue-and-groove ceiling, and round-arch stained glass windows commissioned by Vanderbilt and executed by Maitland Armstrong and his daughter of New York. The Parish House features the same materials as the church, but its design is considerably different. The one-and-one-half story structure exhibits a hipped roof with wide eaves, dramatic dormers with trefoil trim, and a high brick watertable. Between 1925 and 1930, the structure was attached to the church with the addition of one-story wings, creating an asymmetrical courtyard.

SIGNIFICANCE: All Souls Church is a significant architectural landmark in Biltmore Village for its associations with the career of Richard Morris Hunt and as an outstanding example of the application of the Romanesque style to a small ecclesiastical structure. The Parish House is likewise an important architectural feature of the village, not only as a major reminder of Hunt's work there but also as an example of Hunt's application of a wide variety of design motifs and distinctive features which are found elsewhere in Biltmore Village and result in a visually pleasing structure. In addition, the buildings have an intimate association with the Vanderbilt family--George W. Vanderbilt was one of the organizers of the congregation in 1896, financed the construction of the church and parish house, and selected the furnishings. Mr. Vanderbilt also used the church as an administrative vehicle for some of the Vanderbilt philanthropies that he established there, most notably the Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital which was established as an adjunct of the church.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. All Souls Episcopal Church and Parish House are significant for their associations with the lives of George W. Vanderbilt and Richard Morris Hunt--Vanderbilt instigated and financed their construction and was responsible for the selection of much of the church's interior furnishings while Hunt, the architect of Vanderbilt's Biltmore House, designed both structures.

C. All Souls Episcopal Church and Parish House are significant architectural landmarks in Biltmore Village for their associations with the architectural career of Richard Morris Hunt. The church is especially notable for Hunt's application of the Romanesque style to a small ecclesiastical structure, while the Parish House displays Hunt's ability to combine into a single structure many of the different design motifs which are used elsewhere in Biltmore Village.

DATE: Consecrated 1896.

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-10-731; N.76-10-726

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360190-3936630

ACREAGE: 2 acres more or less.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 263. The nominated acreage is comprised of the lot upon which the above described structures are located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 2

NAME: Southern Railway Passenger Depot

LOCATION: 1 Biltmore Plaza

OWNER: L. Stanley Crane, President
Southern Railway System
P. O. Box 1808
Washington, D.C. 20013

DESCRIPTION: The Southern Railway Passenger Depot in Biltmore Village, designed by Richard Morris Hunt, is a symmetrical one-story structure with half-timbered pebbledash walls and a simple brick watertable located strategically on Biltmore Plaza at the northern end of Biltmore Village. The exterior is distinguished by a central porte cochère and a low hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and heavy, chamfered brackets.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Southern Railway Passenger Depot in Biltmore Village is significant as one of four structures that were designed by Richard Morris Hunt for George W. Vanderbilt's manorial village and serves as one of the major functional and architectural landmarks of the community. The depot, along with Hunt's other designs in the village, stands in striking contrast to Hunt's more monumental efforts, and to Biltmore House in particular, as examples of the wide range of applications to which Hunt addressed his work.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. The Southern Railway Passenger Depot is significant for its associations with George W. Vanderbilt, who financed the construction of the building, and with Richard Morris Hunt, the structure's architect.

C. One of only four structures in Biltmore Village that were designed by Richard Morris Hunt, the Southern Railway Passenger Depot is significant as a strikingly different example of Hunt's work which stands in marked contrast to his monumental effort at nearby Biltmore House.

DATE: Built by 1896.

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-10-778

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360180-3936880

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 118. The nominated acreage is the land which is directly associated with the structure described above.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

RESOURCE NUMBER: 3

NAME: Biltmore Estate Office

LOCATION: 10 Biltmore Plaza

OWNER: The Biltmore Company
P. O. Box 5375
Asheville, N.C. 28823

DESCRIPTION: The Biltmore Estate Office, one of four structures in the village that were designed by Richard Morris Hunt, is a combination of the distinctive design motifs and materials utilized in other structures in Biltmore Village. The one-and-one-half story building features pebbledash wall surfaces, half-timbering, brick trim, chamfered and bracketed porch posts, and stylized classical ornament. Above the molded cornice rises a hipped roof pierced by oversized hipped roof dormers. A recessed full porch shelters a handsomely paneled and molded entrance with a three-light transom. The rear porte cochère has been converted into a firehouse garage.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Biltmore Estate Office, a Richard Morris Hunt design, is significant as a reminder of the relationship between George W. Vanderbilt and his nearby Biltmore House and the community of Biltmore Village. The building, which served as the office for the operations of the Vanderbilt estate, is also significant as one of only four structures in the village that were designed by Hunt and serves with the other three as one of the major architectural landmarks of the community.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. The Biltmore Estate Office is significant for its associations with architect Richard Morris Hunt and with George W. Vanderbilt and his nearby Biltmore House for which the structure served as the estate business office.

C. The Biltmore Estate Office, one of only four structures in Biltmore Village designed by Richard Morris Hunt, is significant as one of the larger structures in the village utilizing the general design motifs associated with the overall village plan, particularly pebbledash wall surfaces and half-timbering.

DATE: Built by 1896.

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-10-749

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360180-3936880

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 55. The area nominated is the lot upon which the above described structure is located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

RESOURCE NUMBER: 4

NAME: Biltmore Village Cottage District

LOCATION: 1, 3 Swan Street; 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 All Souls Crescent; 2, 4 (were
2 cottages but now joined by a hyphen), 5, 6 Boston Way

OWNER: Multiple ownership--see attached list.

DESCRIPTION: In the eastern portion of Biltmore Village are fourteen contiguous cottages designed by Richard Sharp Smith, an architect in the firm of Richard Morris Hunt. All are one-and-one-half to two story pebbledash cottages with recessed porches, multiple gables, steeply pitched roofs, simple molded trim, one or more brick chimneys, and brick foundations. Half-timbering, clipped gable dormers, shed dormers, gambrel roofs, small brackets on porch posts, and twelve-over-twelve sash occur on many of the dwellings. No two cottages are exactly alike, though in some cases they are closely similar or even mirror images. There are four basic types by massing and facade:

1. Cottage with one-bay recessed porch and two story gable-end projection. (e.g. 4 All Souls Crescent, 3 Swan Street, 2 Boston Way)
2. Cottage with two-bay recessed porch, hipped roof dormer, and two story gable-end projection. (e.g. 5 Boston Way, 6 Boston Way)
3. Cottage with gambrel roof, shed dormers, and two-bay recessed porch. (e.g. 2 All Souls Crescent)
4. Cottage with gable-end facade. (e.g. 7 All Souls Crescent, 1 Swan Street)

SIGNIFICANCE: The Biltmore Village Cottage District is significant as the largest surviving group of cottages that were constructed by George W. Vanderbilt for single family housing in Biltmore Village and represents Vanderbilt's conception of his manorial village. The handsomely executed dwellings are also significant for their associations with the career of Richard Sharp Smith, an architect in the firm of Richard Morris Hunt. Smith remained as Vanderbilt's personal architect after Hunt's death in 1895 and later established his own practice in Asheville.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. The Biltmore Village Cottage District is associated with the career of Richard Sharp Smith, an architect in Richard Morris Hunt's firm, and with George W. Vanderbilt whose concept of a manorial village inspired the design of the cottages for single family dwellings associated with his nearby estate.

C. The Biltmore Village Cottage District is significant as a large contiguous group of handsomely executed cottages with similar design motifs constructed as single family housing. The cottages are an important architectural landmark in Biltmore Village because of their role as residential units within the overall plan of Vanderbilt's manorial village.

DATE: ca. 1900

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.74-3-1031; N.74-3-1028

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360320-3936730

ACREAGE: Less than 10 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lots 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84 (2 structures), 88, 89, 90, 91, 92. The nominated acreage is comprised of the contiguous lots upon which the above described properties are located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 5

NAME: Biltmore Village Commercial Buildings

LOCATION: 3 Brook Street; 2 Biltmore Plaza and 1 1/2 Brook Street (one structure)

OWNER: Maria L. Collias, Guardian of:
Mrs. Peter G. Lamprinakos
6601 Sharon Hills Road
Charlotte, NC 28210

DESCRIPTION: 2 Biltmore Plaza and 1 1/2 Brook Street, a structure which shares both addresses, is a one-and-one-half story structure containing two gables facing the street, one at each end, with two gable dormers piercing the center hyphen. Half-timbered detail remains in the gable ends. 3 Brook Street, next door, is a one story symmetrical gable-end structure with the inevitable pebbledash and half-timbering, and a center gable extension toward the street.

SIGNIFICANCE: Both of the Biltmore Village commercial buildings are significant as remnants of the extensive design work performed by Richard Sharp Smith in the village and especially as examples of the balance between the commercial and residential areas of the community. By utilizing similar design motifs in both his residential and commercial structures, Smith maintained an architectural symmetry between buildings of varying functions and created a visually pleasing atmosphere in the village. The structure at 3 Brook Street once served as the Biltmore Village Post Office and is now an exterminating company. The other structure was originally built as a commercial building and remains so today, housing a barbershop and an antique store.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. The Biltmore Village Commercial Buildings are significant for their associations with the career of architect Richard Sharp Smith and with George W. Vanderbilt for whose manorial village the structures were built.

C. The Biltmore Village Commercial Buildings are significant reminders of the extensive design work of Richard Sharp Smith in Biltmore Village. Smith utilized similar design motifs in both his residential and commercial structures, particularly pebbledash wall surfaces and half-timbering, and thus maintained an overall symmetry throughout the entire village.

DATE: ca. 1900

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-7-630; N.76-7-627

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360180-3936880

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 117. The nominated acreage is comprised of the lot upon which the above described structures are located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 6

NAME: Biltmore Shoe Store

LOCATION: 8 Lodge Street

OWNER: Sea-Nic Enterprises
P. O. Box 5374
Asheville, N.C. 28803

DESCRIPTION: The Biltmore Shoe Store, located at 8 Lodge Street, is a small one-and-one-half story building, apparently one of those designed in Biltmore Village by Richard Sharp Smith. The clipped gable-end facade structure is two bays wide with an exterior brick chimney at the ridgeline and exhibits the original pebbledash and vertically mounted half-timbering which carries into the gable above a molded overhanging cornice. The east bay is a series of four sash windows which carry around to the east elevation. The upper members of the sash are marked by diamond pattern glazing. The east elevation displays a shed dormer and an interior brick chimney piercing the roof at the eave.

SIGNIFICANCE: Like the commercial structures located on Brook Street and Biltmore Plaza (see #5 above), the Biltmore Shoe Store is apparently an isolated remnant of Richard Sharp Smith's work in Biltmore Village. The structure is significant for its associations with Smith's career and as an example of the varying functions to which Smith assigned his basic design motifs, in this case, a small commercial structure. In addition, the building recalls the original town plan of Frederick Law Olmsted which included well-defined residential and commercial areas that, at the same time, were joined by common architectural characteristics.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. The Biltmore Shoe Store is associated with the work of architect Richard Sharp Smith who designed all of the residential and most of the commercial structures in George W. Vanderbilt's manorial village.

C. The Biltmore Shoe Store is significant as a small commercial structure exhibiting the standard design motifs incorporated in both residential and commercial structures in Biltmore Village by Richard Sharp Smith, particularly pebbledash walls and half-timbering.

DATE: ca. 1900

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-7-791

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360180-3936880

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 119. The nominated acreage is comprised of the lot upon which the above described property is located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 7

NAME: Biltmore Village Cottages (

LOCATION: 18 Angle Street; 75 Hendersonville Road

(no longer on N.R. - moved outside District)

OWNER: D. M. Reints ^{Aug. '83} King of the Road Foods, Inc.
P. O. Box 8128 P. O. Box 8088
Asheville, NC 28804 Asheville, NC 28804

The properties are held in joint ownership by the above.

DESCRIPTION: These two contiguous dwellings, apparently a part of the large number of cottages in Biltmore Village that were designed by Richard Sharp Smith, are similar in design to the cottage district described in #4 above. 18 Angle Street exhibits a steeply pitched roof, a one-story porch, shed dormers, and brick gable-end chimneys. 75 Hendersonville Road features multiple clipped gables, an interior brick chimney, and a gable-end facade. Although the character of these structures has been altered somewhat by the application of brick veneer, the original half-timbering and pebbledash wall treatment is still evident as is the original massing.

SIGNIFICANCE: The two cottages at 18 Angle Street and 75 Hendersonville Road are significant not only as isolated examples of the residential cottage design work by Richard Sharp Smith in Biltmore Village, but also for their close association with the overall concept that Vanderbilt had for the design of the community as it was brought forth by Richard Morris Hunt, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Smith. Although the cottages in the village were constructed at various times during Smith's employment with Vanderbilt, all of them possessed similar characteristics and stylistic elements. In addition, the original purpose for their construction, to provide modern but architecturally compatible housing, was the same in spite of the various locations and construction dates.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. These two contiguous cottages, like the Biltmore Village Cottage District, are associated with the career of Richard Sharp Smith, the principal architect of Biltmore Village, and with George W. Vanderbilt, for whom Smith worked.

C. The two cottages located in the western portion of Biltmore Village are significant for their similarity to the cottages of the Biltmore Village Cottage District both in massing and in design and represent the broad use of Smith's design motifs throughout the village. Although somewhat altered in recent years, the cottages retain a substantial portion of their original fabric.

DATE: ca. 1900 (later remodelled)

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-7-729; N.78-7-814

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360090-3936720

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lots 26 and 27. The nominated acreage is comprised of the lots upon which the above described properties are located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 8

NAME: Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital

LOCATION: 2, 4, 6 Reed Street

OWNER: W. W. and Marietta Morgan
P. O. Box 10583
Asheville, N.C. 28803

DESCRIPTION: The Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital is a notable and highly irregular one-and-one-half story building constructed in pebbledash. The structure is a predictable combination of gables, dormers, casement windows, stylized ornament, and some shingle detail. The use of these elements in the design of the hospital is significant because of the continuity of stylistic motifs and massing with the other structures in Biltmore Village.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital is significant as one of several structures in Biltmore Village designed by Richard Sharp Smith, a member of Richard Morris Hunt's architectural firm, and as the only surviving structure built to house a Vanderbilt philanthropy. In addition, the hospital served as a memorial to a cousin of Vanderbilt, Clarence Barker, who is also memorialized in one of the stained glass windows in the All Souls Episcopal Church (see #1 above). From its incorporation in 1900 until 1919 when it became the Biltmore Hospital, the Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital was an adjunct institution of All Souls Church as provided for in the hospital's charter.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. The Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital is significant for its associations with Richard Sharp Smith and George W. Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt financed the construction of the hospital, which memorializes one of Vanderbilt's cousins, and organized it as an adjunct institution of the All Souls Episcopal Church. The hospital is the last surviving structure which was built to house a Vanderbilt philanthropy. Smith, the architect of most of the structures in Biltmore Village, designed the hospital.

C. The Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital is a significant architectural feature of Biltmore Village designed by Richard Sharp Smith who applied similar design motifs as those found in the smaller residential and commercial structures of the community to this much larger, highly irregular building.

DATE: Built by 1907.

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.78-6-1249

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360340-3936600

ACREAGE: 1.25 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 46. The nominated acreage is comprised of the lot upon which the above described property is located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 9

NAME: Biltmore-Oteen Bank Building

LOCATION: 12 Lodge Street

OWNER: Joseph F. Mongovis
26 Lodge Street
Asheville, NC 28803

DESCRIPTION: The Biltmore-Oteen Bank Building, constructed between 1925 and 1930, is a two story Georgian Revival structure designed by an unknown architect. The thin, wedge-shaped building displays English bond brickwork, concrete detail, Doric pilasters, and an abundance of various classical ornamentation.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Biltmore-Oteen Bank Building is significant as a structure of high architectural quality that contributes significantly to the character of present-day Biltmore Village. The structure is an important example of the type of construction which took place in the years immediately following the Vanderbilt era of the village's history, a time during which the growth of nearby Asheville threatened to destroy the original character of the community. The physical development of the Asheville area during the 1920s was marked by well-executed architectural work, of which the Biltmore-Oteen Bank Building is one of only a few examples in Biltmore Village.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

C. The Biltmore-Oteen Bank Building is significant as an example of the high quality architectural work which marked the physical development of the Asheville area during the 1920s. Designed by an unknown architect, the building displays English bond brickwork, concrete detail, Doric pilasters, and various classical ornamentation.

DATE: ca. 1925-1930

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-10-628

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360180-3936880

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 119 1/2. The nominated acreage is comprised of the lot upon which the above described property is located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

BILTMORE VILLAGE SURVEY
Asheville, NC

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and Historic
Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and
History

RESOURCE NUMBER: 10

NAME: McGeahy Building

LOCATION: 7 1/2 Biltmore Plaza

OWNER: Kenneth B. and Florence N. Lisenbee
787 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803

DESCRIPTION: The McGeahy Building is a notable and well-maintained two-story brick commercial structure built between 1925 and 1930. The structure is strategically sited on Biltmore Plaza adjacent to the Biltmore Estate Office. Displaying simple Sullivanesque ornamentation and various decorative brick patterns, the McGeahy Building is an important example of post-Vanderbilt era architectural design in Biltmore Village.

SIGNIFICANCE: Like the Biltmore-Oteen Bank Building (see #9 above), the McGeahy Building is significant as one of the few buildings of high architectural quality to be built in Biltmore Village during the 1920s. In addition, the McGeahy Building is an important reminder of the rapid growth and development of the Asheville area during the years immediately following the Vanderbilt era. The building was designed by the noted local architect Ronald Green, who, along with other Asheville architects such as Douglass Ellington, was responsible for the outstanding architectural work that characterized Asheville construction during the 1920s.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

C. The McGeahy Building, designed by noted local architect Ronald Green between 1925 and 1930, is significant as a notable structure which exemplified architectural design during Asheville's prosperous boom period of the 1920s and features simple Sullivanesque ornamentation and various decorative brick patterns.

DATE: ca. 1925-1930

NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.76-10-634

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360180-3936880

ACREAGE: Less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 2, Lot 260. The nominated acreage is comprised of the lot upon which the above described property is located.

DATE RECORDED: 8/76

RECORDED BY: H. McKelden Smith

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Ward 7, Sheet 3, Lot 93. The nominated acreage is comprised of the land presently associated with the property described above.

DATE RECORDED: 12/77

RECORDED BY: Michael Southern

RESOURCE NUMBER: 11

NAME: Samuel Harrison Reed House

LOCATION: 119 Dodge Street

OWNER: Mrs. Marge Turcot
119 Dodge Street
Asheville, NC 28803

DESCRIPTION: The Samuel Harrison Reed House is sited on a hill on the southeast edge of Biltmore Village and is one of the most substantial houses of the Queen Anne style in the city of Asheville. The frame structure features irregular massing and a prominent corner turret with an ogee dome. The wrap-around porch is supported by turned posts with curvilinear brackets and a pediment over the porch steps. The fenestration generally consists of one-over-one sash, and a large brick chimney pierces the center of the roof. The house has seen only minor alterations, and the rich interior fabric, typical of the period, remains throughout.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Samuel Harrison Reed House is significant for its association with Mr. Reed who sold to George W. Vanderbilt and his land agents the property on which Biltmore Village was constructed. In addition, the house is significant as one of the most substantial houses built in the Queen Anne style in the city of Asheville. The house was constructed in 1892 for the senior member of the law firm of Reed and Van Winkle on land that Reed inherited from his father, Joseph Reed. The younger Reed began selling portions of his land to Vanderbilt in 1888 and is believed to have used some of the proceeds from the sale to construct the seat of his suburban estate overlooking the village. One deed included 100 acres on the "south side of the Swannanoa River at the Asheville Junction and Hendersonville Road." This 100 acre parcel was to become the site of Biltmore Village. After his death in 1904, Reed's house passed to his son, C. Wingate Reed, and since 1919 has had eight different owners.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

B. The Samuel Harrison Reed House is significant for its associations with Reed who sold the land to George Vanderbilt upon which Vanderbilt constructed Biltmore Village.

C. The Samuel Harrison Reed House is significant as one of the largest and most elaborate Queen Anne style houses in Asheville, featuring irregular massing and a prominent corner turret with an ogee dome. The house has been altered only slightly, and its original interior fabric remains throughout.

DATE: 1892

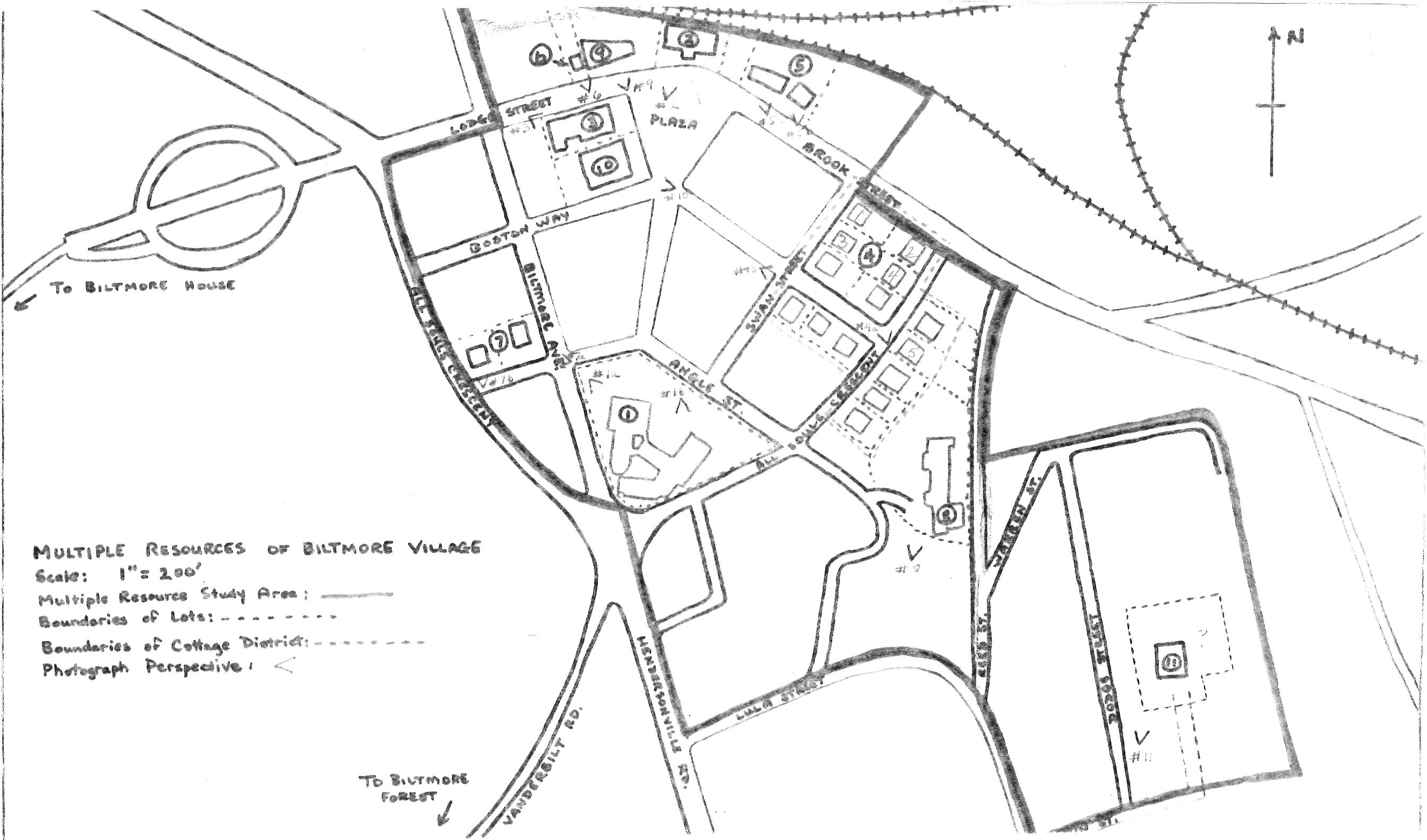
NEGATIVE NUMBER: N.77-12-215

UTM COORDINATES: 17-360480-3936500

ACREAGE: One acre more or less.

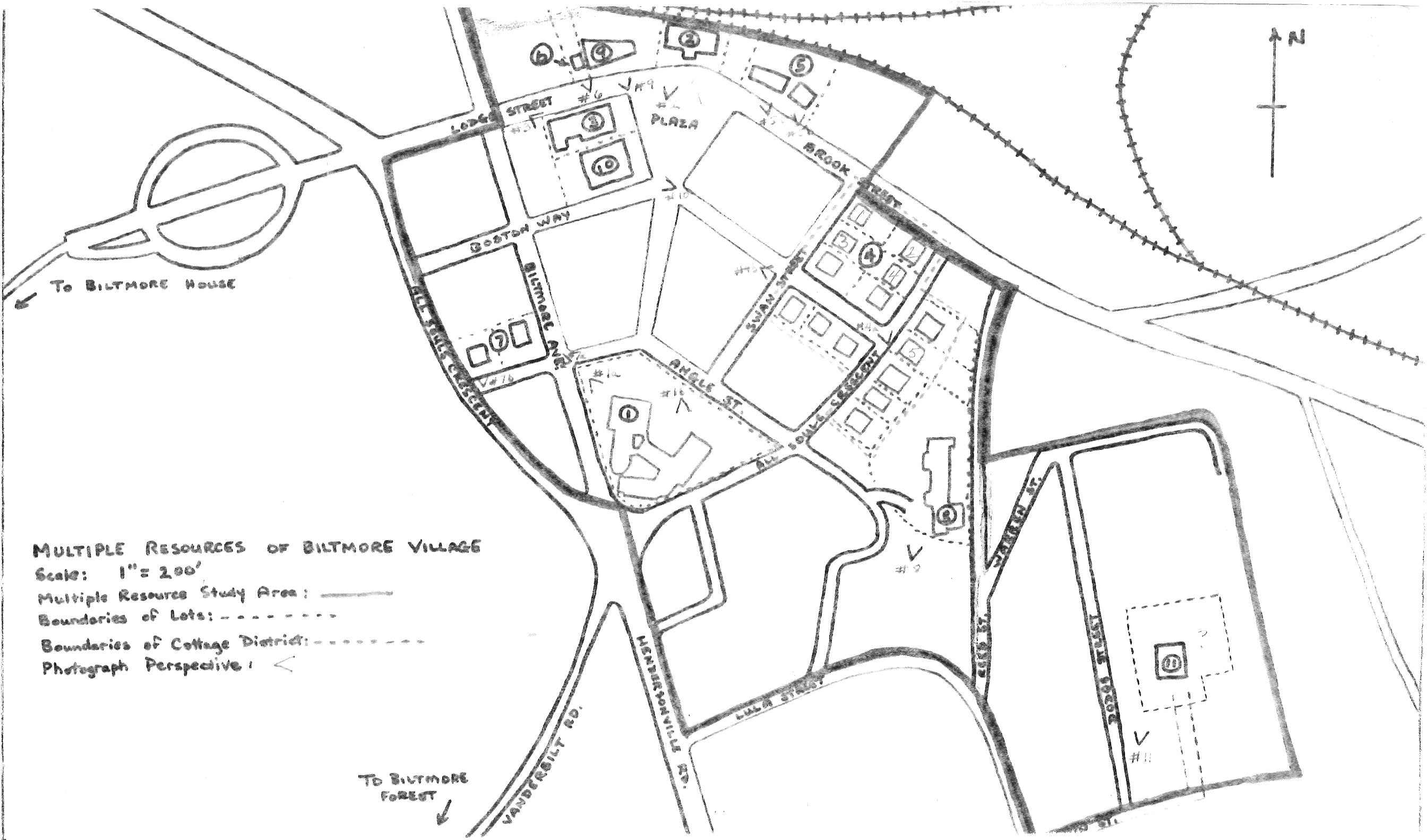
Properties Included in Biltmore Village Multiple Resource Nomination

1. All Souls Episcopal Church and Parish House
2 Angle Street
2. Southern Railway Depot
Biltmore Plaza
3. Biltmore Estate Office
10 Biltmore Plaza
4. Biltmore Village Cottage District (14 structures)
All Souls Crescent, Boston Way, & Swan Streets
5. Biltmore Village ^{commercial} buildings (2 structures)
Brook Street
6. Biltmore Village "cottage" ^{Biltmore Shoe Store}
8 Lodge Street
7. Biltmore Village cottages (2 structures)
Angle Street
8. Clarence Barker Memorial Hospital
Reed Street
9. Biltmore-Oteen Bank
12 Lodge Street
10. McGea~~h~~y Building
7 1/2 Biltmore Plaza
11. Samuel Harrison Reed House
119 Dodge Street



MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF BILTMORE VILLAGE

- Scale: 1" = 200'
- Multiple Resource Study Area: —————
- Boundaries of Lots: - - - - -
- Boundaries of Cottage District: - · - · -
- Photograph Perspective: <



MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF BILTMORE VILLAGE

- Scale: 1" = 200'
- Multiple Resource Study Area: —————
- Boundaries of Lots: - - - - -
- Boundaries of Cottage District: - - - - -
- Photograph Perspective: <



To BILTMORE HOUSE

To BILTMORE FOREST

