

Asheville Multiple Resource Area
Buncombe County

Survey and Planning Branch, Archeology and
Historic Preservation Section, N. C. Division
of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC 27611

NAME: ^{BN29} Biltmore Avenue Cluster: 134-136½ Biltmore Avenue

#3

LOCATION: 134-136½ Biltmore Avenue

OWNER: Grace C. Holcomb Heirs
26 Broadway
Asheville, NC 28801

DESCRIPTION: 134-136½ Biltmore Avenue is a two-story uncoursed rubble granite apartment building with a front elevation of coursed, rock-faced granite. The building has a low, hipped roof with three, tall brick chimneys, the fourth, on the north side, having been truncated. The front elevation is four bays wide, the central two bays breaking forward into a projecting pavillion. On either side of this pavillion, which contains entrances to the upstairs and downstairs apartments, are Tuscan-colonnaded porches. The pavillion is faced with a Tuscan-colonnaded shallow portico with a blind balustrade at the top. Double-hung windows on the front elevation have transoms over them with lattice leading. The eaves of the roof have boldly-projecting mock rafters with ornamented ends supporting a horizontal member. One of the porch columns has been replaced by a pipe column.

SIGNIFICANCE: 134-136½ Biltmore Avenue is one of a row of granite apartment buildings on the lower end of Biltmore Avenue. These structures are an unusual form for North Carolina, their massing and detailing reminiscent of European or English models rather than the typical Late Queen Anne or Colonial Revival residences of the period. It is like that these buildings were influenced in their design by similar structures designed by English emigree architect R. S. Smith, or were actually designed by Smith. 134-136½¹ bears a strong general resemblance to the Halthenon Building by Smith of a few years earlier. The low, bracketed hipped roof, bold stonework and Tuscan detailing are typical of the revival of the Italianate for suburban houses and villas at the turn of the century in England. According to Sanborn maps, the building was erected about 1905 as "flats", the latter in itself unusual for Asheville in this period, when the demand for multi-unit housing was met either by large hotels or the subdividing of standard houses. (over)

DATE: ca. 1905

PHOTO NO.: N.78-2--1682

UTM: 17-359480/3939420

ACREAGE: Less than 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: See Plat Map, Ward 1, Sheet 5, Lot 25

DATE RECORDED:

BY:

Bibliography

Sanborn Insurance Maps of Asheville, 1901, 1907.

