United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Eliada Home

other names/site number 

2. Location

street & number 2 Compton Drive N/A □ not for publication
city or town Asheville N/A □ vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28816

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this □ nomination □ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant proj nationally □ statewide □ locally. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

3. 8. 93

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

□ entered in the National Register.

□ determined eligible for the National Register.

□ removed from the National Register.

□ other, (explain) ________________

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

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______________________________
### 5. Classification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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<td>Contributing</td>
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<td>□ object</td>
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#### Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- DOMESTIC/institutional housing
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- RELIGION/religious facility
- RELIGION/church school
- FUNERARY/cemetery

#### Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- DOMESTIC/institutional housing
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- COMMERCE/specialty store
- RELIGION/church school
- FUNERARY/cemetery

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
- Colonial Revival
- Craftsman
- Tudor Revival
- Other: Rustic

#### Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: BRICK
- roof: ASBESTOS
- other: WOOD/log

#### Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Eliada Home

Name of Property

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

RELIGION

Period of Significance
1915–1942

Significant Dates
1915

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Compton, Lucius Bunyan

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder

Davis, Thomas E.

Bordner, Floyd W.

Compton, Lucius Bunyan

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  **approx. 25 acres**

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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</tbody>
</table>

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

**See continuation sheet**

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  **J. Daniel Pezzoni**

organization  **Preservation Technologies, Inc.**
date  **August 23, 1992**

street & number  **PO Box 7825**
telephone  **(703) 366-7657**

city or town  **Roanoke**
state  **VA**
zip code  **24019**

Additional Documentation  
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

name  **Eliada Homes, Inc.**

street & number  **2 Compton Dr., PO Box 16708**
telephone  **(704) 254-5356**

city or town  **Asheville**
state  **NC**
zip code  **28816**

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
The Eliada Home is a youth home complex located on a hillside in the Leicester vicinity of suburban Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina. The district includes the early residential, administrative, and agricultural buildings of the home as well as associated historic resources including a residence, a tabernacle site, a log guest cabin, and a cemetery. Among the prominent contributing buildings in the district are the 1915 Main Building and the 1930 Allred Cottage—both multi-story brick dormitories located at the southeast end of the district—and the 1930-1931 Dairy Barn, a brick and frame building located to the west of the dormitories at the center of a farm complex consisting of barns, silos, and other buildings. The farm complex is linked by a field to associated historic resources located in a northern arm of the district that rises to the top of a hill. In this northern arm are the 1919 Craftsman-style bungalow of Lucius B. Compton (the founder of Eliada Home); the seating terraces and concrete pillars of a former tabernacle; a small log cabin that was used by guests attending the revivals held at the tabernacle; and, near the top of the hill, a small cemetery where children and others associated with the home are buried. The residential complex has a park-like setting with concrete walks and shade trees, whereas the northern arm of the district is wooded. The residential and agricultural complexes are located between 2,200 feet and 2,300 feet above sea level; the hilltop rises to over 2,500 feet.

The following inventory lists each resource in the Eliada Home historic district by its historic name or function, followed by its date of construction, its status as contributing or noncontributing to the historic character of the district, and a description. Information on the historic function of several of the farm buildings is derived from a 1963 Eliada Home site plan. The 1927-1928 dates for several of the farm buildings are based on an anonymous list of Eliada Home buildings and their construction dates. Although it is uncertain whether the buildings dated 1927-1928 actually date to those years, it is certain that those buildings date to the 1920s and early 1930s. A discussion of the district’s architectural integrity follows the inventory.
Inventory

1. **Main Building.** 1915. Contributing building.
   A two-and-a-half-story, five-course American-bond brick building that originally served as a dormitory and housed other functions such as administration, food processing (mainly canning), an outlet store for excess clothing and other items, and a chapel. The Colonial Revival and Foursquare-inspired exterior of the building features an asbestos-shingle hip roof with multiple hipped dormers and brick chimney stacks; a one-story, hip-roofed front porch with classical columns, turned balusters, and a gabled extension on axis with the front entry of the building; wood-shingle sheathing on the sides of the dormers and in the porch gable; 12-over-1 sash windows; front and rear entries with side lights; a two-tier back porch with square wood posts and balusters and exterior stairs; and a basement level with a poured concrete foundation and door and window openings with decorative header-course segmental arches. The building interior has a modified center-passage plan with a lobby occupying the southeast corner of the first story (this lobby originally doubled as a chapel); plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings; several spaces with stained tongue-and-groove wainscots; center-passage stairs that are either enclosed or retain turned balusters and decorative square newel posts; simple Craftsman-style mantels, some of tiger-grained oak; louvered transoms over doors in the upper stories; and some modern paneling and dropped ceilings. The Main Building was designed by Asheville architect Thomas E. Davis and is now unoccupied and deteriorating.

   This two-story steel and concrete-block building with five-course American-bond brick veneer originally served as a facility for the care of infants. The utilitarian building exterior features a flat or slightly-pitched roof concealed behind a parapet; a one-story Colonial Revival entry porch with square columns and a decorative iron railing; Colonial Revival front and rear entry surrounds; altered windows; and a basement level with a stretcher-bond brick veneer. The Green Cottage was built by the Bordner Construction Company of Asheville and originally contained a chapel on the first story. The building was not completely finished until 1957.

   Originally a dormitory for young children, this two-and-a-half-story, six-course American-bond building also contained quarantine sick rooms, a play room, school rooms in the basement, and an upper-story chapel with seating capacity for almost three hundred people. The eclectic exterior displays elements of the Tudor Revival Style and features an asbestos-shingle mansard roof with hipped and parapeted dormers and a glass and
metal skylight; a one-story front porch of brick construction with stylized Tudor arches; decorative basket-weave, soldier, and stack bond brickwork and a striped effect to the American-bond masonry created by lighter header courses; 6-over-1-sash windows; and a basement level with a room in the northeast corner that was formerly an open drive-through. The building interior has a modified center-passage plan with round and Tudor-arched openings in the center passage; plaster-and-lath or stuccoed masonry walls and ceilings; two fireproof stairways with metal stairs; and some modern paneling and dropped ceilings. The Allred Cottage was designed by Lucius B. Compton and was built by F. W. Bordner.

A one-story, seven-course American-bond brick building that contained a corn mill and was used by the Eliada boys as a work shop. The building has an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof; asphalt shingles in the roof ends; decorative metal vents along the roof ridge; a Flemish-bond brick addition to the south end with a small gambrel roof; concrete loading docks; and an interior with plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings and a brick paved floor.

This one-story, stretcher-bond brick building apparently was used for the drying of animal feed. The building has an asphalt-shingle gambrel roof; wood shingles in the roof ends; decorative metal vents along the roof ridge; a stone foundation; and a glazed brick tile silo on the north end that may date to 1920 and may have been associated with an earlier barn.

This one-story, six-course American-bond brick barn originally housed calves and young cattle with a capacity of twenty-two animals. The barn has a standing-seam-metal gambrel roof; hexagonal asphalt shingles in the roof ends; decorative metal vents along the roof ridge; a wing on the south side with a circular brick-lined cess pit under it; six-light windows; a poured concrete foundation; and a later concrete silo with steel tension rings located at the west end of the barn.

This relatively small two-level, six-course American-bond brick barn may have served as a garage and/or hay storage building. The barn has a standing-seam-metal gambrel roof.
   This one-story, six-course American-bond brick building could accommodate one thousand chickens. The building has brickwork with lighter header courses; a corrugated-metal gambrel roof; decorative metal vents along the roof ridge; and multiple windows along the sides.

   A two-level, six-course American-bond brick barn with room for forty Guernsey dairy cows on the fireproof first level, and hay, feed, machinery, and tools on the second level. The building has brickwork with lighter header courses; a pointed bow-backed roof sheathed in asbestos shingles; multicolored patchwork asphalt shingles in the roof ends; decorative metal vents along the roof ridge; metal eight-pane windows; a brick and concrete ramp that provides access to the hay mow from ground level on the east side; and a plywood shed built against the north end. The interior of the first level has metal girders and a concrete floor. The hay mow is constructed of dimension lumber and has a monorail for moving hay bales running along the ridge of the roof. The Eliada dairy barn was built to satisfy state laws governing milk production. The motto "Eliada Dairy, Pure Bred Guernseys" was originally painted on the west side of the roof; this has been replaced with the motto "Eliada Home Outlet Barn," indicating its use since the late 1970s as a retail outlet.

    This relatively small one-story, concrete-block building was built as a milking parlor and has an asphalt-shingle gable roof and metal windows.

    This one-story, concrete-block building was built as a broiler or brooder house and has a standing-seam-metal gable roof. The building was constructed with a capacity of 1,500 chickens according to specifications provided by the N.C. State College (now North Carolina State University) in Raleigh and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

12. **Field.** First quarter 20th century. Contributing site.
    A three-acre field was used for growing hay while the Eliada farm was in operation.

    This small one-story frame garage was probably built in conjunction with the adjacent residence at 823 Eliada Home Road. The garage has board-and-batten siding and a standing-seam-metal gable roof.
This small one-story concrete-block shed was probably built for storage.

15. **Camp Meeting Cabin.** 1930s. Contributing building.  
A small Rustic-style, one-story, round log cabin that was built for guests of the Eliada Camp Meeting. The cabin has a standing-seam-metal gable roof and simple door and window treatments. Extending in an arc to the southeast of the cabin is a terrace where as many as four or five similar cabins once stood. The contemporary Eliada Camp Office, a small, one-story, wood-shingle-sided frame building, formerly stood nearby.

This one-and-a-half-story, brick tile, brick, and frame building originally served as a garage associated with Compton Cottage. The building has an asphalt-shingle gambrel roof with a side shed dormer, and a ground story that was converted into an apartment at a later date. The upper story may always have served as an apartment.

17. **Compton Cottage.** 1919. Contributing building.  
A Craftsman-style, one-story frame bungalow that was built as a residence for Lucius B. Compton and his wife with a contribution provided by a single benefactor. The house has a gable-front form with asphalt-shingle roofing; wood-shingle siding (now painted light blue, but earlier painted green); and a hip-roofed front porch supported by square wood posts on rubble pedestals. On the interior the house has simple finishes including a Craftsman-style dining room mantel with colonettes. Compton Cottage may also have doubled as a baby care facility during the Compton residence.

A small frame storage shed associated with Compton Cottage.

During its heyday, the large tabernacle seated 2,000 to 2,500 people for the interdenominational Eliada Camp Meeting. A series of concrete pillars around the perimeter supported monumental Town trusses forming the roof structure. The front (south end) of the building was sheathed in vertical boards; the other sides were open. Seating was provided by a series of earthen terraces that sloped upwards from the front and faced a frame speakers platform at the front of the building. The roof and speakers platform were taken down in the 1960s, but the seating terraces and most of the pillars survive as an evocative site.
   This cemetery was established for children of the Eliada Home and others associated with
   the home and the Eliada Camp Meeting. The earliest of the eight marked graves is for
   Juanita Winkler (1922-1924). One adult, the Rev. Van Buren B. Goodwin, possibly a
   preacher at the camp meeting, was buried in the cemetery during the 1920s. Several of
   the early markers are in the form of marble hemi-octagonal prisms. The cemetery is
   planted with boxwood, rhododendron, and azalea, and is situated near the top of a hill
   surrounded by a forest of white pines.

Integrity Statement

The Eliada Home retains its historic and architectural integrity as a district. Although the earliest
resources associated with the home have been lost, the contributing resources that survive
represent the period during which the home developed into an important institution. The
resource count indicates that about a third of the resources are noncontributing. Several of these
noncontributing resources are insignificant modern sheds and auxiliary structures. The largest
noncontributing building in the district is the 1949 Green Cottage. This two-and-a-half-story
brick building resembles in scale and material the 1915 Main Building and the 1930 Allred
Cottage that flank it and is therefore unobtrusive. The contributing buildings have good exterior
integrity; virtually no modern additions or alterations have been made. Although many of the
contributing buildings are underutilized or not in use at all, significant interior features such as
fireplaces and stairs remain in place. Early landscaping features such as shade trees and concrete
walkways near the dormitories, the fields adjoining the farm buildings, and plantings and stone
borders on the camp meeting grounds contribute to the historic character of the district.
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Eliada Home, located in Asheville, North Carolina, was established in 1906 to care for children from broken homes. The home was conceived by Lucius Bunyan Compton, an evangelical preacher who had established the Faith Cottage home for ex-prostitutes and unwed mothers several years earlier in Asheville. The non-denominational Eliada Home began in a log cabin on a five-acre tract; gradually, through a series of fund drives, other buildings were constructed and the property enlarged. By the 1930s, Eliada boasted several large dormitories, an extensive dairy farm, and an adjacent camp meeting ground with a tabernacle, dining hall, lodgings, cemetery, and the Compton residence. The Eliada Home is significant in the social history of North Carolina as one of the larger child care institutions in the western section of the state, and as the state's only facility catering specifically to the children of broken homes and unwed mothers. The work of the home was supported in part by the produce and revenue of the Eliada farm, which also figured in the vocational and spiritual development of the boys at the home. Resources associated with the Eliada Camp Meeting illustrate the fundamental religious character of the institution and its allied undertakings. The varied and sometimes idiosyncratic architecture of the Eliada Home illustrates a number of popular early twentieth-century styles and reflects the social, religious, and agricultural tenets and activities of the institution. The period of significance for the Eliada Home historic district extends from the date of the earliest surviving resource--the 1915 Main Building--until 1942, covering the early years of the home's development under the guidance of its first director, Lucius B. Compton.

Historical Background and Social and Religious History Contexts

The Eliada Home was largely the creation of one individual, Lucius Bunyan Compton (1875-1948). Born in a "poverty-stricken cabin" in Haywood County (which adjoins Buncombe County) to Baptist preacher Miles Calvin Compton and his wife Elizabeth, Compton underwent a series of religious experiences during his childhood and young manhood that culminated in his decision to "devote his life's work to Christ." Compton established a ministry in Asheville, where he had worked as a young man on the construction of the Biltmore Estate, and became interested in the social and spiritual plight of the city's prostitutes. Realizing that many prostitutes wanted to change their lives but did not have the means to do so, in 1903 Compton rented a house on Atkinson Street in Asheville as a refuge for "girls of tender years disgraced in a moment of insistent temptation [and] women, ravaged and wrecked with years of prostitution.
This rescue home was known as Faith Cottage. Compton’s concern for prostitutes extended to their children and to the children of unwed mothers and broken homes in general, whom Compton first tried to place in local homes. Unsuccessful in finding homes elsewhere for the "infant known as 'nobody's baby,'" Compton provided room and board for several children at Faith Cottage. By 1905-1906 plans were underway to build an "orphanage" on the Faith Cottage lot (Compton owned the property by then) and building materials had been delivered to the site when Compton learned of a five-acre parcel for sale in the Leicester vicinity several miles west of Asheville. Compton and his wife Etta purchased the property in May 1906 and moved the nine children then in their care to "an old weather-beaten cabin" on the parcel. This was the beginning of the Eliada Home, "elida" said to be a biblical word meaning "for whom God cares."

The Eliada Home and Faith Cottage were incorporated in October 1906 as the "Eliada Orphanage and Rescue Home" with the stated purpose being:

To shelter, protect, maintain, and educate such destitute children as the Board of Trustees of said corporation shall deem worthy of charity; and to provide with a home and work, such young women, who have sinned, but are now desirous of living upright and virtuous lives, as the said Board of Trustees in its judgment shall consider suitable inmates for said Rescue Home.

The incorporators of the Eliada Home were Lucius B. Compton, S. E. Compton, and Rose Fairlee of Asheville; Arthur Greene of North Attleboro, Massachusetts; and Charles B. Donle of Providence, Rhode Island. At the time of its incorporation, the Eliada Home was the only institution in western North Carolina devoted exclusively to the care of the children of unmarried mothers; it may have been unique in this respect in North Carolina and adjoining states.

As Compton noted in the first issue of the Eliada newsletter, The New Testament Christian, the Eliada Orphanage and Rescue Home "were not incorporated under any church denomination, but stand on the principles of New Testament Christianity." This disassociation with established denominations meant that the Eliada Home "has on several occasions been on the verge of financial ruin and, particularly in the early years, seemed to operate on faith alone." In point of fact, Compton proved effective in compensating for chronic funding shortfalls by soliciting donations from local and northern philanthropists. Charles B. Donle, "Uncle Charlie," who for many years was a regular participant at the Eliada Camp Meeting, appears to have actively engaged in fund raising for the home in the Northeast. The New Testament Christian served as the home’s principal fund raising organ; the first issue was addressed to "the friends and contributors" of Eliada. In 1931 the New Testament Christian was estimated to have a
circulation of about 10,000 readers. Over the years Compton used the newsletter to inform his readership of the need for and progress of specific building projects, illustrated with conceptual drawings and photographs of buildings under construction, and thereby enlarged the Eliada complex building by building.

In its formative years the Eliada Home struggled to provide adequate housing for its wards. The log cabin with its leaky roof was superseded in September 1906 by "a planked up room about 24x24 and 10 feet high which the workers called Glory Inn." In January 1907 construction began on the original two-and-a-half-story frame Main Building that served the home from its completion in October 1908 until it was destroyed by fire on November 2, 1914. Construction on the new (present) Main Building, a two-and-a-half-story, fifty-room brick structure, began in the spring of 1915 and was completed by the end of the summer. By the early 1920s the Eliada property included, in addition to the Main Building, a chapel and school room, a vegetable garden, a flower garden, a gardener’s cottage, a heating plant, stables, a barn with silo, a large chicken house, and a reservoir, as well as the Eliada Camp Meeting ground and its attendant structures.

It was during the 1910s and early 1920s that Compton and his coworkers developed an integrated approach to the upbringing of their wards. As Compton exclaimed in an early issue of The New Testament Christian, "What are we living for, if our chief aim is not to make good citizens of those we have under our care?" and Eliada literature of the period makes frequent allusions to Compton’s role as "A Father to the Fatherless." Upbringing differed according to gender: "The boys farm, and the girls darn and sew and cook." The "province of the girls" also included canning, washing, housework, and caring for the babies. In 1922 a dormitory for the older boys was completed on a site behind the Main Building near the nascent farm complex, "just the right location handy for the boys’ work and their work shop." In later years this dormitory was known as the "Dairy House." In addition to supplying the home with fresh produce and training the boys in farming practices, the farm also played a role in the spiritual development of the boys. According to tradition, each boy was given a calf to raise as a way of fostering a sense of responsibility towards other living beings. Another function of the 1922 Boys’ Dormitory was to separate living arrangements for the boys and girls as they reached adolescence. Schooling, which began at the home in 1907, was coeducational.

The papers of the North Carolina Orphan Association and the North Carolina Board of Public Welfare provide a sense of Eliada Home’s status among the state’s child care institutions during the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s. The North Carolina Orphan Association was organized in 1918 to "bring to the attention of charitably inclined people the imperative needs of our homes for dependent children." Eliada was among the first fourteen child care institutions affiliated with
the association. In 1923 it was reported that there were twenty-one institutions in the state with 3,003 dependent white and black children, of which eighty-three were illegitimate. This statistic suggests that although other institutions provided care for illegitimate children, Eliada, with fifty-seven illegitimate wards in 1922, was likely the only institution devoted exclusively to that group. In this respect, Eliada was of particular significance in the social history of North Carolina.

Eliada differed from the state’s child care facilities in other ways. Whereas other institutions specialized in care for young children, Eliada cared for children and adolescents up to twenty-one years of age; in 1923 a nineteen-year-old residing at Eliada was the oldest ward in any child care institution in the state. In 1927 two of Eliada’s four trustees were residents of northeastern states, whereas the trustees of the state’s other child care institutions were largely residents of North Carolina with some from other southern states. This distinction relates Eliada to the many institutions for social betterment established in the North Carolina mountains after 1900 by northern philanthropists.

The Eliada farm played an increasingly important role in the operation of the home. Adjoining acreage was purchased as it became available; by 1922 the Eliada property amounted to 140 acres, much of it under cultivation. The extent of the farming operations in that year was described by a visitor:

A farm Superintendent has control of the planting and harvesting of crops which consists of corn, oats, hay, and almost every known horticultural product. The orchards supply apples, peaches, plums and various other kinds of luscious fruits; also small fruits such as blackberries, raspberries, strawberries and others are planted in systematic order and cultivated well and yield fruits for the table use, preserving and canning.

They have horses and mules necessary for doing the work on the farm, and for hauling and driving they use a truck and automobile. They also have a herd of Holstein Milk Cows, and about five hundred Bucheye Chickens. The entire farm gives the appearance of prosperity and in every nook is to be found evidence of careful planning and good judgement.

In 1930 Compton reported that state law required the Eliada farm to improve its dairy facilities in order to keep its Grade A rating. Since the dairy had at that time become Eliada’s "chief industry," and because surplus milk was sold in Asheville, Eliada readily complied. The new dairy barn, with its fire-proof brick, concrete, and steel first level and its monumental bow-back-
roofed hay mow, was completed by Summer 1931. The motto "Eliada Dairy, Pure Bred Guernseys" was painted on the side of the roof of the barn, visible from the Leicester Highway (NC 63). Other masonry farm buildings were added to the complex during this period, including the brick calf barn of 1930 with space for twenty-two calves and young cattle. At the time, the field extending to the north of the farm complex was used to grow hay for cattle feed.

Promotional literature and events of the 1930s attest to the importance of farming in Eliada's operations. Compton stated, "the boys that we have trained . . . want positions with dairymen, and are today making good on the farms where they work." By one account Eliada boasted "one of the finest dairy herds in the state." Cows from the Eliada farm were apparently entered in the show ring of the N. C. Guernsey Breeder's Association fair in 1935, and in 1938 a cattle show was held at the home attended by several hundred cattle herders. In 1934 an Eliada Farm was established in Chatauqua County, New York, and several high school-aged children were transferred to the new facility from North Carolina. In addition to a dairy herd and orchard, the New York farm included several hundred sugar maple trees "sufficient to make an abundance of syrup for Eliada's use."

An important activity at Eliada was the Eliada Camp Meeting, held each summer. The camp meeting was an outgrowth of Compton's revivals of the 1890s held in downtown Asheville. The first meeting at Eliada was held in 1906, and a tabernacle was constructed in 1917. In 1921 the first tabernacle was converted into lodgings and a new tabernacle was built with seating for 2,000 to 2,500 persons. Guests came to the meeting--many by automobile--from the surrounding area as well as from other states. They lodged in tents, log guest cabins, or dormitories, and took meals in a two-story frame dining hall/dormitory building supplied by produce from Eliada's five- and seven-acre vegetable gardens. The Eliada Camp Meeting of 1924 was attended by representatives of eighteen different denominations and visitors from as far away as China, India, Tibet, and Egypt. The camp meeting continued into the 1950s and later evolved into week-long religious conferences, held in part in a modern tabernacle building at Eliada. The concrete pillars and the seating terraces of the 1921 tabernacle remain at their hillside site, although the frame superstructure was taken down in the 1960s.

The Eliada Camp Meeting was a later manifestation of a religious practice with deep roots in western North Carolina. The early camp meetings of the eighteenth century were conducted in the open during the summer months, and the meetings were marked by fervent preaching and worship. Whites and blacks and held meetings, jointly and separately, and a number of denominations participated. The meetings continued strong through the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, and large, open-sided tabernacles were constructed at many camp grounds to accommodate the crowds. By the late twentieth century camp meetings had
dwindled except in certain Piedmont counties. The Eliada meeting incorporated many features of traditional meetings such as evangelical fervor, summer scheduling, and worship under a large, open-sided tabernacle. Eliada's interdenominational character is also representative of the tradition.43

In 1930 the new two-and-a-half-story brick dormitory for young girls later known as Allred Cottage was completed with funds from a special bequest.44 The population of the home had grown from the initial nine children in 1906, to twenty children—eleven girls and nine boys—listed in the 1910 federal census, to eighty-nine children in 1931. (The number fell to sixty children in 1957 before rising again to a high of almost one-hundred children during the 1960s.)45 Little construction occurred at the home during the Depression and war years, and the facilities deteriorated.46 Compton also resigned during this period, leaving the operation of the home to his administrative assistant Grace Green and a temporary director.47 Compton died on December 13, 1948.

In 1956, after years of stagnation, Arch D. Cameron of the nearby Ben Lippen Christian boarding school became the director of the Eliada Home. According to one historian of Eliada:

Cameron launched an aggressive fund raising appeal to finance capital improvements. Unlike Compton's efforts Cameron's were aimed primarily at Buncombe County and the surrounding area. Annual appeals were made at local churches. Brochures and envelopes for donations were left on doorsteps inside milk bottles by local dealers.48

During Cameron's tenure a new campus of brick dormitories was constructed between the original buildings and the camp meeting ground; the dairy was discontinued as unprofitable; a nationally-known children's singing group was established; and Faith Cottage was closed in 1970. Cameron was succeeded in 1981 by J. Stewart Humphrey.49 In 1992, Eliada Homes, Inc. describes itself as a "family-centered, community-responsive, childcare agency offering residential group care, emergency shelter care, foster family care and family counseling services for abused, dependent, neglected children and families in crisis."50 Eliada Homes, Inc. is currently considering rehabilitating the Main Building and other unused or underutilized historic buildings on its grounds.

Architectural Context and Analysis

Two recurring themes serve to subtly unify the architecture and planning of the Eliada Home and
its surroundings. One theme is domesticity, a conscious attempt to make the buildings of the institution appear home-like through the use of normative domestic architectural forms and details. The theme of domesticity reinforced the mission of the institution, which was to provide a home for children that had been deprived of a stable, nurturing home life. As stated in the literature of the institution, the Eliada Home "possesses an atmosphere of a large home, where they all have a Big Dad in Mr. Compton, and the children never seem to feel that they are in an institution." The other theme is ultimately biblical in inspiration, reflecting the Eliada Home's religious mission. This theme was predicated on the sanctity of high places, and hillside sites and the uppermost stories in some buildings were reserved for the more overtly religious activities of the home and camp meeting.

Domesticity may have been an element in the design of the original main building (1907-1908, no longer standing), which had a double-pile center-passage plan and two-tier, wraparound verandas. The unsigned conceptual drawing for this building shows a boy playing with a hoop in the front yard and a woman with her hands on her hips watching from the front porch. In the present Main Building (1915), designed by Asheville architect Thomas E. Davis, domesticity is the dominant theme. The Main Building is essentially an enlarged version of the Colonial Revival and Foursquare residences constructed throughout the Southern Appalachians during the period, the domestic architecture of the region's middle and upper classes. The stylistic attributes of this normative domestic architecture employed in the Eliada Main Building include the hip roof with multiple hipped dormers, the full-facade front porch with gabled element on axis with the front entry, and the center-passage-plan interior with domestic Craftsman-style detailing (see exhibit). The 1922 Boy's Dormitory (no longer extant), a one-and-a-half-story frame and stone building, had domestic detailing similar to that of the Main Building and may also have been designed by T. E. Davis.

As originally conceived by Lucius B. Compton in 1928, Allred Cottage was a home-like, Craftsman-style, hip-roofed brick building two-stories in height with an inviting front porch (see exhibit). As actually built, the building has a number of Tudor Revival-style elements that mask the original Craftsman-style design. While Compton was planning Allred Cottage, Buncombe County announced plans for its new Boys Home, a Tudor Revival-style stone and frame building designed for the "elimination of the institutional features and the introduction of the home idea." Domesticity is also apparent in the names of buildings, from the original Faith Cottage in Asheville to later names for the larger buildings such as Allred Cottage and Green Cottage. The term "cottage" was preferred by the child care professionals of the period for small-scale child care facilities. The Eliada Home site plan, with the residential buildings near the main
entrance to the complex and the farm buildings located to the rear, is reminiscent of the typical residential site planning of the period, with auxiliary buildings generally located in a subordinate rear position.

The second theme at Eliada, that of the sanctity accorded high places, was first manifested in the original main building, which was built with a belvedere at the apex of the roof for use as a meditation room by the employees of the orphanage. The top story of the architect-designed 1915 Main Building received no special treatment. Neither did the roof of Allred Cottage, as originally designed by Compton in 1928. During construction of Allred Cottage, however, the design was altered and a chapel/assembly hall was added as a top story. According to the Eliada literature of the period, "This [chapel] had not been planned until the building was ready for the roof and our builder, Mr. F. W. Bordner, saw by some changes this ideal Roof Garden Chapel could be made, and no part of the building is more appreciated by all than this chapel."

The hierarchical approach to building design and use also characterized the site planning of the Eliada Camp Meeting, located on the hillside to the north of the Eliada Home. Essentially complete by the early 1920s, the camp grounds included a large tabernacle, a dining hall, a dormitory, and Compton’s own residence; a row of log guest cottages was built during the 1930s. To reach the tabernacle, guests parked at the base of the hill and walked up a drive past the dining hall to the tabernacle. Compton’s house stood on even higher ground overlooking the tabernacle and the rest of Eliada. A cemetery for children at Eliada Home was established at the very top of the hill in the early 1920s. The hilltop siting of cemeteries is also a tradition of long standing in the western North Carolina mountains.

Despite the unifying themes of domesticity and the emphasis on high places, the buildings at Eliada are not well integrated stylistically. This is due in part to the uncertainties that plagued the construction of individual buildings and the development of the Eliada complex in general, and in part to decisions made by Compton. All of these tendencies converged in the design of the Allred Cottage. As noted above, Compton’s 1928 design for the building was in keeping with the domestic theme established by Davis. However, the building design continued to evolve, even during the final phases of construction, resulting in an odd Tudor Revival edifice. The stylized peaked dormers and arched balcony added to the roof by the builder, Floyd W. Bordner, give the building a grandiosity that contrasts with the quiet, reassuring styling of the lower stories (aside from the heavy Tudor Revival front porch, another Bordner touch).

For the 1915 Main Building Compton had engaged Thomas E. Davis as his architect and, presumably, builder. This was a fortunate choice; Davis was one of Asheville’s leading residential builders during the early twentieth century, influenced by Asheville’s acclaimed
English-born architect, Richard Sharp Smith. Davis's association with Eliada appears to have been brief, however; in addition to the Main Building he may have designed only the 1922 Boys' Dormitory and the 1924 heating plant, a sophisticated building with a gambrel roof and large Colonial Revival fanlight windows in the wood-shingled roof ends. Perhaps Compton chose to economize by dismissing Davis, or, conversely, Davis may have lost patience with the irregular payments he received working for Eliada, where buildings under construction were practically funded a brick at a time. Whatever the circumstances, by 1930 Compton had gone to Asheville contractor Floyd W. Bordner, whose approach to architectural design was highly idiosyncratic. Eliada did not seek professional design guidance again until the late 1950s and 1960s, when director Arch D. Cameron hired Asheville architects to plan and design the new residential quadrangle located between the old dormitories and the camp meeting grounds. The irregular architectural character of the Eliada Home is notable as the physical manifestation of the institution's uneven development.

The Eliada Camp Meeting developed along different architectural lines from the Eliada Home. In addition to the peculiar 1921 tabernacle was a row of log guest cabins and a wood-shingled camp office built during the 1930s. These consciously rustic structures bring to mind the vernacular log cabin that Compton and his biographers often mentioned as the humble beginnings of Eliada Home. The tabernacle, now only partially extant, was covered by a roof formed from a series of Town trusses supported by concrete pillars--a "queer looking structure" as one visitor described it. Camp meeting tabernacles, past or present, that employ the lattice truss developed by the 19th-century architect and engineer Ithiel Town are otherwise undocumented in western North Carolina. A possible prototype may have been the Mormon tabernacle at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah, which has a roof constructed of arched lattice trusses. Most camp meeting tabernacles of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in western North Carolina employed conventional post-and-beam structural systems and few were built on sloping sites. Well before the 1921 tabernacle was built, Compton included a photograph of a tabernacle/school in the first issue of *The New Testament Christian* to illustrate his desire to build such a facility at Eliada. The illustration may have been snipped out of a religious magazine or flier of the period, and suggests Compton was open to wide-ranging architectural influences.
Endnotes

1. The historical background section of this report relies principally on two sources: a draft Statement of Significance prepared by NC Division of Archives and History historian Michael Hill in 1983; and early issues of the Eliada Home newsletter, The New Testament Christian (hereafter abbreviated as NTC). "Eliada Home" is one of several names applied to the institution historically. As incorporated in 1906 the home was known as the Eliada Orphanage and Rescue Home, Inc., a name that includes reference to the Faith Cottage home for unwed mothers. Technically, "orphanage" is a misnomer: the children at Eliada were from broken homes and unwed mothers and usually had living parents. Presumably the home was marketed as an orphanage to overcome the stigma of illegitimacy attached to its wards. From the mid-1920s through the early 1940s the institution was more frequently referred to in promotional literature as the "Eliada Home for Children" or simply "Eliada Home." The modern name of the institution is Eliada Homes, Inc.

2. Hill, 8.1.

3. Ibid.

4. Virginia T. Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage Supported by 'Faith in God,'" Asheville Citizen-Times, August 23, 1931; NTC, v. 1 no. 8 (August 18, 1909); Eliada Home for Children pamphlet (ca. 1931), 3. Compton also operated a mission school out of a former Methodist church on Burton Street during the period.


6. Buncombe County Deed Book 143, p. 204, and Deed Book 145, p. 144; Patty, Life, 148; Eliada pamphlet, 5.

7. Hill, 8.2.


11. Hill, 8.1.


14. Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage."

15. *NTC* v. 1 no. 8 (August 18, 1909).

16. Patty, *Life*, 154, 163; *NTC*, v. 7 no. 3 (March 18, 1915).

17. Ibid; v. 7 no. 6 (June 18, 1915).

18. *NTC*, v. 15 no. 12 (December, 1922).


20. Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage."

21. Ibid.

22. *NTC*, v. 13 no. 1 (February, 1920); v. 15 no. 5 (May, 1922); Interview with Linda Turner, Asheville, N.C., May 6, 1992.

23. Turner interview.


29. NTC, December, 1922.

30. Census of Child-Caring Institutions, 1933. N.C. Board of Public Welfare papers; Shotwell.


33. NTC, v. 15 no. 12 (December, 1922).

34. NTC, v. 23 no. 3 (March, 1930); Eliada pamphlet, 11-13; Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage."

35. Eliada Home historical photograph collection.


37. NTC, v. 28 no. 11 (November, 1935); Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage."


39. NTC, v. 27 no. 10 (October, 1934); "Eliada Made Beneficiary of Large Bequest," Asheville Advance, August 22, 1930.

40. Turner interview.

41. NTC, v. 17 no. 8 & 9 (August-September, 1924).

42. "Eliada Home - Asheville" (unsigned and undated typescript); Turner interview.


44. Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage."
45. Hill, 8.1-8.2; Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage." In the early 1980s the number of children at the institution numbered thirty-eight, cared for by fourteen full-time staff members.


47. Hill, 8.3.

48. Ibid.

49. Ibid.


54. Patty, Life, 166. This meditation room was not portrayed in the conceptual drawing of the original building.

55. Eliada pamphlet, 10.


58. NTC, v. 17 no. 11 (November, 1924). The present heating plant--a modern brick building--stands on the same site as the original plant and uses its smoke stack (the heating plant is not included in the district).

59. Bordner also built the utilitarian 1949 Green Cottage, and he may have built the 1927-1928 chicken house and the 1930-1931 dairy barn, which have six-course American bond brickwork with lighter header courses similar to the brickwork of Allred Cottage.
60. Numerous working drawings for these later buildings are stored at the Eliada Home administrative offices.

61. "Eliada Home - Asheville"; NTC, v. 14 no. 6 (June, 1921); Lathrop, "Eliada Orphanage."


63. NTC, v. 1 n. 1 (January 20, 1909).
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____________. Open letter to supporters seeking funding to pay off the debt for the construction of the 1915 Main Building. Asheville, N.C., December 15, 1916.

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In addition to the primary and secondary sources referred to in the bibliography, this report relied upon the insights of a number of individuals. Interviews were conducted with Martha Fullington, Architectural Historian with the Western Office of the NC Division of Archives and History, Asheville, N.C.; J. Stewart Humphrey, Executive Director of Eliada Home, Inc., Asheville, N.C.; and with Richard and Linda Turner, operators of the Eliada Home Outlet Store, Asheville, N.C. The reference staff of the Roanoke Public Library, Roanoke, Va., processed numerous inter-library loan requests that facilitated the preparation of this report.
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Eliada Home historic district boundary is indicated on the accompanying map and is described as follows: Beginning at the curb on the west side of Compton Drive in front of Allred Cottage on line with the north elevation of Allred Cottage, then southward with the west side of Compton Drive, then westward with the north side of a service drive that passes on the south side of the Main Building until a point on a line with the west elevation of the Mill House and Work Shop, then southward passing to the east of the Calf Barn to the Eliada property line, then westward and northward with the Eliada property line to the south side of Eliada Drive, then northeastward with the south side of Eliada Drive to a point opposite the driveway of a trailer near the Camp Meeting Cabin, then northwestward with the north side of the driveway to a point ten feet from a carport associated with the trailer, then northward to the westernmost point of a loop road at the top of the hill near the Cemetery, then northward and then southward with the uphill side of the road to the cemetery, then due southward from a point near the Tabernacle Site to a point on the west side of Eliada Drive, then due westward to a point on the south side of a turn-around in line with the west elevation of a house (823 Eliada Home Road), then southward passing by the west elevation of the aforementioned house to a point on the north side of Eliada Drive, then westward with the north side of Eliada Drive to a point across from the service road that passes to the west side of the present Eliada Home dormitories, then southward with the west side of the service drive to a point on a line with the north elevation of Allred Cottage, then eastward (excluding the noncontributing power plant) to the beginning. The district contains approximately twenty-five acres.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Eliada Home historic district boundary is designed to include the principal contributing resources associated with the Eliada Home, the Eliada Dairy, and the Eliada Camp Meeting, while excluding the majority of noncontributing resources such as modern dormitories and residences. Due to the absence of subdivision lines within the Eliada Home property, roadways and artificial straight lines between definable points were selected as boundaries. Due to the scattered distribution of the contributing resources, a linear district was designed that uses a contributing agricultural field as a link between the two main groupings of contributing resources—the residential/agricultural complex and the camp meeting/cemetery complex.
PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Property: Eliada Home (same for all photographs).
   2. Location: Buncombe County, North Carolina (same for all photographs).
   3. Photographer: North Carolina Division of Archives and History.
   4. Date: February 1981.
   5. Negative Location: Western Office, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Asheville (same for all photographs).
   6. View from northeast of front (east) elevation of Main Building.
   7. Photograph number appears at beginning of each entry.

2. Daniel Pezzoni
   Mantel in first-story southeast room of Main Building.

3. Daniel Pezzoni.
   View from northeast of Allred Cottage.

   February 1981.
   View from east of Green Cottage.

5. North Carolina Division of Archives and History.
   February 1981.
   View from east of farm complex with mill house/work shop in left foreground and dairy barn in right background.

   View from west of mill house/work shop.

7. North Carolina Division of Archives and History.
   February 1981.
   Interior of dairy barn.

Eliada Home, Asheville, Buncombe Co., N.C.

View from south of the field between the farm complex and the hill at the north end of the district.

February 1981. 
View from east of tabernacle site (foreground) and Compton Cottage (background).

10. Daniel Pezzoni. 
View from southeast of camp meeting cabin.

11. Daniel Pezzoni. 
View from south of cemetery.
Eliada Home Dormitory and Farm Complex
Scale: 1" = 100'
Heavy line indicates district boundary

4. Mill House and Work Shop
5. Drying Shed
10. Milking Parlor
9. Dairy Barn
11. Chicken House
8. Chicken House
7. Barn
6. Calf Barn

1. Main Building
2. Green Cottage
3. Allred Cottage
Mastheads of *The New Testament Christian* depicting the development of the Eliada Home physical plant, shown here slightly reduced. The top masthead was used from February 1920 until May 1926. The middle masthead was used from June 1926 until March 1933. The bottom masthead was used from April 1933 until March 1952. After March 1952 a masthead employing a photograph of the Eliada Home was used.

The Front View of the New Orphanage Building.
Front elevation drawing of the 1930 Allred Cottage ("New Boy’s Dormitory") by Lucius B. Compton. The unscaled drawing appeared in the August-September, 1928 issue of The New Testament Christian and is shown here actual size.