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 any 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 Judge Junius G. Adams House
   other names/site number ________________________________

2. Location
   street & number 11 Stuyvesant Road ________________________________
   city or town Biltmore Forest ________________________________
   state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 __ nationally __statewide __locally. (_See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

   Signature of certifying official
   [Signature]
   [Position]
   [Date]

   State or Federal agency and bureau
   North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

   In my opinion, the property _meets __does not meet the National Register criteria. (_See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

   Signature of commenting or other official
   [Signature]
   [Date]

   State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby certify that this property is:
   _ entered in the National Register __See continuation sheet.
   _ determined eligible for the National Register __See continuation sheet.
   _ determined not eligible for the National Register
   _ removed from the National Register
   _ other (explain):

   Signature of the Keeper
   [Signature]
   Date of Action
   [Date]
5. Classification

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<td>(Do not include previously listed resources)</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
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Category: Domestic
Domestic

Subcategory: Single Dwelling
Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Category: Domestic
Domestic

Subcategory: Single Dwelling
Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Tudor Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation: Stone/granite
walls: Stone/granite
roof: Slate
other: Other: half-timbered

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See continuation sheets, pp. 5-9.
8. Statement of Significance

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.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a 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)

- Community Planning and Development
- Commerce
- Architecture

Period of Significance

1921-1933

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Adams, Junius G.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Parker, Charles N.

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

See continuation sheets, pp. 10-26.

9. Major Bibliographical References
(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:

Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, N.C.
### 10. Geographical Data

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

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See continuation sheet.

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

See continuation sheet, p. 30.

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

See continuation sheet, p. 30.

### 11. Form Prepared By

<table>
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<tr>
<th>name/title</th>
<th>Daniel J. Vivian</th>
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<td>824 Woodrow Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
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### 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>name</th>
<th>Stewart B. and Carolyn G. Coleman</th>
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<td>11 Stuyvesant Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
<td>Biltmore Forest</td>
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<td>state</td>
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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 the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
The Judge Junius G. Adams House is a two-story Tudor Revival-style residential structure located at 11 Stuyvesant Road in Biltmore Forest, North Carolina. Built in 1921, the house is clad with rough-faced stone veneer on the first story and false half-timbering on the second. The original central core of the structure was built on a rectangular plan and is covered by a steeply-pitched lateral gable slate roof. Later additions have resulted in a small enlargement of the original footprint. The house is set upon the crest of a hill overlooking the golf course at the Biltmore Forest Country Club and occupies a wooded five-and-a-half acre lot.

The facade faces the Biltmore Forest County Club golf course and features two dominant half-timbered front gables and an offset entrance. The gable on the southwest side of the facade is the larger of the two and has narrowly-spaced vertical timbering. The smaller gable at the opposite end of the facade features timbering arranged in a curvilinear pattern. Both gables have a slight roof overhang with plain vergeboards and a set of three windows. The central section of the facade, located between the gables, has a moderate setback. Three windows are set into the wall at regular intervals at the second-story level. Directly below at the first-story level is the main entrance, which is composed of a relatively simple single door with a cut-limestone surround flanked to the east by a set of paired windows. To the west, below the larger gable, is a set of three windows with a limestone surround. At the opposite end of the facade, directly below the small gable, is a three-sided bay window. Nestled against the southeast side of the house and the garage in the rear is a porch with a pale-green mosaic tile floor, a cut-stone angle-sided porch support, and a hipped roof with deck. A slate terrace with a limestone balustrade runs the full length of the facade.

The rear elevation fronts a circular driveway leading from Stuyvesant Road and features an offset entrance, a two-story projecting polygonal bay, and a hipped dormer and broad front gable at the roofline. Two substantial interior chimneys with corbelled and patterned brickwork rise from the roofline of the main house. The entrance is set inside a vestibule with a mosaic tile floor, a delicately-carved foliated frieze, and a half-timbered pediment. All windows are a six-over-one double-hung sash configuration except for the three first-story windows on the polygonal bay, which are a narrow, pointed-arch casement style with diamond-patterned glass panes. Adjoining the house at the northeast corner is a two-bay garage built of stone-veneer and false half-timbering. Projecting from the garage roof is a large hipped dormer with a set of three windows.
Adjoining the house on the northwest is a small wing. The south elevation features a half-timbered front gable and a large bay window with a limestone surround. On the side is a large exterior end chimney. The north elevation has false half-timbered construction and three small six-over-one double-hung sash windows.

The interior of the house features a number of Tudor Revival decorative elements and materials typical of early twentieth-century upscale residences. The floorplan is arranged around a central hall with two large rooms on each side. The main rooms on the northwest side are the dining room and kitchen, while a spacious living room and small den occupy the southeast side of the house. The den, living room, and dining room each feature a handsome cut-stone Tudor-arch fireplace mantle, echoing the Tudor Revival exterior styling. Also evident in the living room and den are exposed ornamental ceiling beams. Hardwood floors run throughout the house. The rear entrance is flanked by two staircases: a small, utilitarian half-turn stair off the kitchen and a larger, formal stair with dark wood steps and a baluster in the central hallway. A short hall along the main stair leads to a small bathroom and the den. Unpainted wood window frames and door moldings throughout the first floor complement the hardwood floors and other decorative features, giving the interior a warm, rich ambiance.

The second-story floorplan is oriented around a long hallway that runs the length of the house. At the southeastern end of the hall is the master bedroom, which features an elaborately carved Neoclassical mantel and has a large adjoining bathroom. At the opposite end of the hall are two bedrooms, one of which has an adjoining bathroom.

A door on the second-floor hallway provides access to a stair leading to the attic, which is partially finished. The northwest corner of the attic was originally used as a servant’s quarters. The servant’s living space was comprised of two rooms, a storage closet, and a bath. These rooms are presently used for storage and have not been substantially altered from their original condition, save for a set of built-in drawers that was installed in the late 1930s.

The Adams House has been altered on several occasions since its construction. Adams made the first set of changes in 1926, barely five years after he had built the house. On the interior, Adams remodeled and enlarged the kitchen and adjoining pantry and added a side door to the dining room. The only exterior change was the installation of a slate terrace with a limestone balustrade running the full length of the facade. In the rear of the house Adams installed an English garden with a matching balustrade and built a small
gardener’s residence and a tool shed. Overall, these changes made the kitchen and pantry area more functional, and the balustraded terrace and garden embellished the handsome exterior appearance of the residence.

Dr. Daniel McCarthy and his wife, Eleanor, made additional changes during their long ownership of the house, which spanned the years 1938 to 1979. Immediately after purchasing the house, they commissioned architect Anthony Lord to draft plans for a small-scale interior remodeling. The McCarthy’s changed the layout of the kitchen yet again and made minor modifications to the servant’s quarters in the attic. No exterior changes were made. Then, in the 1960s, the McCarthy’s modernized the house by installing a polygonal projecting bay and building a garage addition on the rear of the house. The polygonal bay, situated in the center of the rear elevation, made it possible to install a small bathroom between the main stairwell and the den on the first floor (the house had previously had only two bathrooms, both of which were located on the second floor). These changes were made in a manner that maintained the original character and appearance of the house and did not detract from its architectural integrity.

Upon purchasing the house in 1998, Stewart and Carolyn Coleman, the current owners, undertook a major restoration to return it to its original condition. Most of the work focused on repairing problems caused by insufficient maintenance in previous years. Several of the exterior doors had rotted and virtually all exterior timbers had suffered heavy damage from carpenter bees and woodpeckers. The roof had also developed a number of leaks. The Colemans repaired the roof (which is original) and replaced timbers where necessary with in-kind materials in order to leave the appearance of the house unaltered.

The landscape surrounding the house retains many of its significant historic features. A curvilinear driveway leads from Stuyvesant Drive to the rear of the house and terminates in a circle. Several mature oak trees stand in the front yard. A dense band of trees wraps along the east side of the property, providing a visual buffer from passing traffic on Stuyvesant Drive, and the rear (or north side) of the property is also heavily forested. Oaks, cedars, magnolias, pines, and hemlocks are among the tree species present on the property. Areas around the main house, the gardener’s residence, and the pool house are landscaped with a variety of different shrubs, including rhododendrons, mountain laurels, azaleas, forsythias, and boxwoods. Along the west side of the pool house is a terrace with flowerbeds.

The property also includes several outbuildings that are located to the rear of the house.
The largest of these is a gardener’s residence that was built in 1931. This is a small, two-story frame house built on a rectangular plan and covered by a lateral hipped-gable roof with large, offset hipped dormers. False half-timbered walls and a slate roof give the building a similar appearance to the main house. Modifications have resulted in some loss of architectural integrity. A one-story flat-roof garage addition built ca. 1950 adjoins the original structure on its south elevation. The building is presently used as a guesthouse and a garage. The alterations have not significantly detracted from the original design of the building and it is a contributing resource.

Immediately northeast of the gardener’s residence is a wood-frame glass-paneled building that houses a swimming pool and greenhouse. Built in 1981, the building has a concrete slab foundation and a footprint measuring approximately fifty by twenty-five feet. It is surrounded by remnants of the terraced garden that was installed by Adams in 1926. An original limestone balustrade with a pair of lion figurines and some of the historic landscaping remains intact, but the pool house now occupies the former site of the garden.

To the north of the pool is a stable that was built in 1934. The building was originally built on a rectangular plan with a jerkinhead roof and unpainted board-and-batten siding. It was converted for use as a garage ca. 1975. A front-facing cross-gabled wing was added at the same time. In its current configuration, the building has an irregular plan with two garage bays on either side of the wing addition. These modifications have resulted in a loss of architectural integrity, and overhead garage doors and a steeply-pitched roof on the wing addition give the building a modern appearance. It is currently used as a workshop and for storage, and it is a non-contributing building.

A generator house stands along the western boundary of the property, directly west of the stable and northwest of the pool house. This non-contributing building was built in 1999. The generating equipment inside supplies power to the house in the event of an extended power outage. The building stands one and one-half stories in height and has a footprint measuring approximately twelve by twelve feet square. It has a gable hipped roof and false half-timbered walls and is styled in a similar manner to the gardener’s residence.

Off the northeast corner of the main house is a small tool shed that was built in the 1931 and retains its original appearance. This structure has false half-timbered walls, a composite-shingle pyramidal roof with exposed rafters, and a door flanked by five-pane sidelights. The rear wall is composed of a false half-timbered lower section and an upper section of three eight-pane windows. The shed stands roughly 10½ feet tall (as measured to the peak of the roof) and has a footprint measuring nine by seven feet. The door is a
modern replacement, but the shed has otherwise undergone no significant modifications. The tool shed is considered a contributing resource for the purposes of this nomination.
Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary

The Judge Junius G. Adams House is a Tudor Revival-style residence located at 11 Stuyvesant Road in Biltmore Forest, North Carolina. It is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its significance in the early development of Biltmore Forest; under Criterion B, for its association with Adams, who was a leading member of the legal profession in western North Carolina and played an instrumental role in the development and management of Biltmore Estate from the late 1910s through the 1950s; and under Criterion C, as an excellent local example of Tudor Revival residential architecture. The period of significance is from 1921 to 1933, the time period Adams was associated with the property. Designed by architect Charles N. Parker and built in 1921, the house was one of the earliest in Biltmore Forest. Adams was a founding member of the Biltmore Estate Company, the firm responsible for the development of Biltmore Forest, and also served as the first mayor of the community from 1923 to 1929. Set atop a hill overlooking the golf course at the Biltmore Forest County Club, the house occupies a wooded five-and-a-half-acre lot. A number of alterations and additions have been made to the house since its construction but do not detract from its architectural integrity. Overall, the house retains its historic appearance and character and exhibits many signature features of the Tudor Revival style.

Historical Context, Criterion A: The Origins and Early Development of Biltmore Forest

The Adams House is significant for its role in the development of Biltmore Forest, the most exclusive of the residential subdivisions established in Asheville during the real estate boom of the early 1920s. Biltmore Forest is located approximately five miles south of downtown Asheville. Its present-day municipal limits are bounded roughly by Hendersonville Road (U.S. Highway 25) on the east, the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, the grounds of Biltmore Estate on the west, and the Swannanoa River on the north. The vast majority of residences lie in the area between the Blue Ridge Parkway and Cedarcliff Road. Biltmore Forest was developed by the Biltmore Estate Company with assistance and capital backing from Edith Vanderbilt, the widow of George W. Vanderbilt. The company was one of the most successful and best-financed firms of the era, and the community featured some of the most sophisticated and substantially-built residential architecture in the city. When the real estate market weakened in the mid-1920s, lot sales
in Biltmore Forest declined, and the Great Depression dealt a tremendous blow to the company. Nonetheless, the community was by then sufficiently well-established to weather the hardships of the 1930s, and Biltmore Forest today ranks among the most desirable neighborhoods in Asheville. The Adams House has been one of its most prominent landmarks for the past eighty years.

The creation of Biltmore Estate marked the beginning of a new and sophisticated era in Asheville’s history. In 1888 George W. Vanderbilt, the youngest son of railroad magnate William Henry Vanderbilt, began purchasing property south of the city along the French Broad River for the site of a country estate. Construction of a lavish mansion modeled on the country chateaux of the sixteenth-century French Renaissance began in 1889 and was completed in 1895. Designed by leading American architect Richard Morris Hunt, the house represents an extraordinary display of architectural mastery. The grounds, crafted by premier landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, include formal gardens, naturalistic park landscapes, and wooded forests. After Vanderbilt married Edith Stuyvesant Dresser in 1898, the couple used Biltmore as their primary residence, employing as many as fifty domestic servants and several hundred other workers in its operations. Biltmore had a profound and lasting influence on Asheville and the surrounding area. It added a European-style elegance to the community, expanded the local economy, and boosted Asheville’s appeal as a destination for summer tourists and affluent visitors.2

Vanderbilt died suddenly in 1914 as a result of complications stemming from an appendectomy, leaving Edith and the trustees of the estate to manage Biltmore. An assessment of the estate’s finances led them to take immediate steps to streamline its operations and to expand its revenue-generating enterprises. The founding of Biltmore Forest ranked among their largest and most ambitious projects. The basic concept for a residential development located on Vanderbilt family lands was first proposed by Junius G. Adams, a prominent Asheville attorney who began serving as the local legal counsel for the estate following Vanderbilt’s death. In the aftermath of the catastrophic flood that struck Asheville in July 1916, causing heavy damage to the estate and Biltmore Village, the trustees of the estate requested that Adams conduct a study to identify ways of reducing property maintenance costs. The report prepared by Adams included a proposal to sell a large parcel of unused land along Hendersonville Road for residential development in order to reduce the estate’s tax burden. The trustees endorsed the plan and instructed Adams to proceed with the project, but the United States’ intervention in World War I precluded immediate action. Adams entered military service in 1918 to serve as legal counsel to the U.S. Liquidation Commission in Paris, and the economic uncertainties of the
immediate postwar period made a major financial venture imprudent. Only when Adams returned to Asheville in 1920 did he resume work on the project.  

The timing proved fortunate for the Biltmore Estate Company. Not only was the national economy on the upswing, but when the company began selling lots in the fall of 1920, the Asheville real estate market was poised for a period of spectacular growth. Real estate speculation sparked a building boom of unprecedented proportions, resulting in the construction of more than sixty-five new commercial buildings in the downtown area and the establishment of several large residential subdivisions on the periphery of the city. Residential development was most intensive north of downtown, where subdivisions such as Lakeview Park and Grove Park began to take shape near Montford, Chestnut Hill, and other neighborhoods that had been established in earlier decades. On the south side of the city, the most significant development was Kenilworth, a sprawling network of curvilinear streets laid out on the lower slopes of Beaucatcher Mountain. The rise of these neighborhoods created “a ring of stylish, picturesque suburbs that reached up the mountain slopes” surrounding the city, contributing markedly to its physical growth. 

The surge of real estate development was the primary factor that made the 1920s a decade of unrivaled prosperity in Asheville. At the height of the boom, the ever-escalating demand for property and the proliferation of get-rich-quick schemes created an absolute mania for land. Promoters and investors, many of whom were involved in the contemporary land rush in Florida, sent real estate prices soaring with purely speculative investments. As the market spiraled upward, local citizens rushed to get in on the bonanza. Asheville author Thomas Wolfe captured the spirit of the era in his 1940 novel *You Can't Go Home Again*:

> The real estate men were everywhere. . . . Everyone bought real estate; and everyone was ‘a real estate man’ either in name or practice. . . . And there seemed to be only one rule, universal and infallible—to buy, always to buy, to pay whatever price was asked, and to sell again within two days at any price one chose to fix. 

Local newspapers were filled with details of recent real estate transactions. The developers of Kenilworth reported in 1925, for example, that they had sold 283 lots in 240 days. Investors eagerly snapped up almost any and every available piece of property. In fact, demand for land was so strong at the height of the boom that speculators managed to sell 230 acres in an abandoned quarry on Sunset Mountain for the staggering price of $7,000 an acre. By April 1925, the total assessed valuation of property in the city had
skyrocketed to more than $73 million—a figure that underscored the fact that the wave of development was based mainly on freewheeling credit and paper fortunes. The crash of 1929 would hit Asheville fast and hard, but the prosperity was unparalleled for as long as it lasted.  

Because of the decisions made by Adams and the estate’s trustees several years earlier, the Biltmore Estate Company found itself in the fortunate position of beginning operations at the leading edge of the real estate boom. Established in August 1920 with a capital of $100,000 and nearly 1,500 acres of land purchased from Biltmore Estate, the company was one of the best-financed firms in an era when many local real estate developers routinely operated on shaky credit. Edith Vanderbilt and her daughter, Cornelia, took an active role in the company from the beginning, and its founding directors were all prominent local professionals. None were lifelong residents of Asheville, and two had settled in the community after enjoying successful careers elsewhere. Thomas W. Raoul, the president of the company, was the son of the famed railroad builder William G. Raoul. He arrived in the city in 1897 at the age of twenty-one and became a successful real estate developer, building the Manor and Albemarle Park in North Asheville. Burnham S. Colburn retired to Asheville after a career with the Canadian Bridge Company and became involved in banking and real estate. William A. Knight was a retired businessman from St. Augustine, Florida. Adams, a native of Statesville, North Carolina, began practicing law in Asheville in 1897 and rose to become one of the city’s leading attorneys. The company thus brought together the talents of four accomplished professionals and held strong ties to the Vanderbilt estate, both of which were important advantages that would prove vital to its success.

Property in Biltmore Forest sold swiftly during the early 1920s as the local real estate market soared skyward. Nonetheless, the sale of lots did not generate revenue quickly enough to finance the company’s ambitious plans, which included a county club with an eighteen-hole golf course and a large clubhouse. Cornelia Vanderbilt stepped in to advance funds for furniture and equipment, and the club opened on July 4, 1922 amid considerable fanfare. The opening of the country club boosted property sales. By August 1926 more than 100 homes were standing or under construction and the company had sold lots totaling over 300 acres to private owners. Barely five years after the founding of the community, the Asheville Times enthusiastically described it as “one of the most distinctive real estate projects in America.”

The founding directors of the Biltmore Estate Company were among the first to build homes. Adams purchased a five-and-a-half-acre tract comprised of three adjoining lots on
the edge of the golf course in February 1921 and commissioned architect Charles N. Parker
to design a grand Tudor Revival-style residence. He moved into the newly-completed
home later the same year. In 1922, directors Raoul and Colburn built similarly-styled
homes on adjoining lots. Raoul's was also designed by Charles N. Parker, while Colburn's
house, situated in a manorial complex that included stables, a gardener's house, garage,
and servant's quarters, was the work of Richard Sharp Smith, the architect who had
supervised the construction of Biltmore. Several years later the remaining director,
Knight, moved into a home designed by architect William Dodge, Jr., on East Forest
Road. 12

From the outset, Biltmore Forest differed from other upscale suburbs in Asheville and the
surrounding area, in part because it was by far the most exclusive. Lot prices began at
$5,000. Most lots were fairly large, with none smaller than two acres and most between
three and five acres in size. Deed restrictions stipulated that no lot could be subdivided
for twenty-one years and specified a minimum cost for any house to be built, which
ranged from $7,500 for the smallest lots to $25,000 for the largest. Combined, these factors
placed the cost of establishing a home in Biltmore Forest beyond the reach of all but the
wealthiest local citizens and gave the community a cachet unmatched by any other
neighborhood in the area. Indeed, the directors believed that "sane but carefully guarded
restrictions" would make property in Biltmore Forest appeal to affluent buyers from
across the nation. According to the Asheville Citizen, the intent was "to throw restrictions
around the property so that wealthy people from all sections of the country will be
attracted here where they can purchase land and develop their own estates." 13

The planning and design of Biltmore Forest also distinguished it from other residential
developments in the local area. According to a 1925 promotional publication, Biltmore
Forest was to be "a community where persons of moderate means could build homes that
would embody on a smaller scale the same ideals which had actuated Mr. Vanderbilt in
the creation of Biltmore Estate." The directors envisioned a neighborhood of handsome,
well-built homes set amid the natural beauty of the landscape that had drawn Vanderbilt
to Asheville. A network of high-quality paved streets would give residents easy access to
the city. All of these factors were intended to create "the personality of spaciousness, of
serenity, of neighborliness, of beauty, of refinement, ... [and] livability...." 14 To translate
their vision into reality, the directors retained the services of a number of talented design
professionals. Chauncey D. Beadle, a former associate of the Olmsted Brothers firm in
Boston who had worked on the landscape design for Biltmore Estate, assisted the directors
in planning the community to ensure that the natural beauty of the landscape was
preserved. The directors hired Donald Ross, one of the preeminent American golf course
designers of the era, to design and build the golf course, while the clubhouse at the
country club, a rambling, English-influenced composition, was the work of Baltimore
architect Edward L. Palmer. Homes in the community were designed by skilled local
architects such as Parker, Dodge, and Smith and nationally known figures such as Bruce
Kitchell and Waddy B. Wood. Elegant swan-necked streetlamps lined the streets, adding
to the urbane aesthetic character of the neighborhood.  

In broad terms, the ideals expressed in the company’s promotional literature reflected an
emerging conception of the suburb’s role in American life. As was typical of early
twentieth-century suburbs, Biltmore Forest was designed to be a residential-only
neighborhood situated on the periphery of the city, separate from the central downtown
business district and zones of industry. “Biltmore Forest is not a city,” the company’s
promotional literature claimed. “Neither is it a suburb. It is a sanctuary for the retired
business man and the active leaders of the professions and of industry who wish to escape
... the tumult, unsightliness and neurotic life of the modern city.” As such, it embodied a
changing conception of what affluent Americans considered “a good place to live.” For
the first three quarters of the nineteenth century, Asheville’s urban landscape had
resembled a patchwork of intermingled residences, businesses, and public buildings in a
pattern typical of the preindustrial city. But after the arrival of the Western North
Carolina Railroad in 1880 set in motion the forces of industrialization and urbanization,
land use patterns began to change rapidly. By the 1920s, the process had divided the
community into clearly-defined districts of retail shops and white-collar businesses,
factory and industrial areas, and residential neighborhoods. No longer were the well-to­
do content to live on city blocks that included persons of all incomes, blacks as well as
whites, and quite often a mix of workplaces, retail shops, and houses. As historian
Thomas Hanchett has written of suburbanization in southern cities, “Affluent buyers
showed a decided preference for residential areas away from African Americans and, as
critically, away from factories and workers.” Biltmore Forest thus illustrated in
microcosm one dimension of the process of suburban development, which played a crucial
role in reshaping the face of the American city during the late nineteenth and early
twentieth centuries.

As the real estate market weakened in late 1926 and the early months of 1927, Biltmore
Forest suffered the same fate as other new residential developments. The sale of lots
slowed dramatically, forewarning of the impending financial collapse. Remembering the
era years later, banker and real estate developer Frank Coxe said:

I just thought [the boom] was going to carry on forever, and so did all of us,
and we carried right on, and we would buy and sell, and we would make obligations; we couldn’t see how we were going to take care of them, except we knew we would sell the property. Then, all of a sudden, you couldn’t sell the property, when the thing stopped right in mid-air. That was about . . . early 1927, the real estate market here just quit: late 1926, early 1927 . . . . Biltmore Forest . . . it got off to a great start, and then stopped, along with the others.17

The Great Depression proved devastating to Asheville’s economy. Unable to sell property and strapped for cash, the Biltmore Estate Company found itself in the same difficult situation as other real estate developers. Tensions developed among the founding directors, and also between the company and Edith and Cornelia Vanderbilt. For a time Adams found himself in the awkward position of being both an investor in the company and counsel to Biltmore Estate.18 Such circumstances were typical of Depression-era Asheville, where the road to recovery from the excesses of the twenties was a long one indeed.19

In spite of the hardships of the Depression and the weakness that persisted in the real estate market in later decades, the prosperity of the twenties succeeded in establishing Biltmore Forest as one of Asheville’s most desirable residential neighborhoods. The community was annexed by the city in 1929 but reestablished its independent status several years later.20 Its well-designed, substantially built homes easily attracted buyers when the real estate market regained strength, and Biltmore Forest is today one of the most exclusive neighborhoods in western North Carolina.21 The Adams House is a representative example of the grand homes that were built in the 1920s by Asheville’s leading citizens and wealthy investors from across the nation as the community took shape. As one of the first residences built, it is significant for its role in the neighborhood’s early development and has been a landmark since its construction eighty years ago.

**Historical Context, Criterion B: Association with Judge Junius G. Adams**

The Adams House is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Judge Junius G. Adams, who built the house and resided in it during the most productive period of his career. Adams was a leading member of the legal profession in western North Carolina during the first half of the twentieth century and was also active in local business and financial circles. He left his greatest mark on the community through his work with Biltmore Estate, where he played a central role in managing business and financial affairs
for more than four decades. Decisions made under Adams’s direction had a lasting influence on the operations and development of the estate. He began serving as the local legal representative for the estate’s trustees following George W. Vanderbilt’s death in 1914, but his responsibilities quickly grew to encompass a much broader range of duties. Throughout the 1920s, Adams was in effect the estate’s de facto chief executive officer, exercising administrative authority over its ongoing operations and taking an active role in long-term planning. When the Biltmore Company was founded in 1932, Adams was named its president, affirming his long-established role at the estate.

Adams was born February 2, 1884, in Statesville, North Carolina. His decision to pursue a career in law was hardly surprising since he was the son of Joseph S. Adams, a distinguished lawyer and judge who achieved a modicum of notoriety when he died while presiding at a term of Superior Court in Warrenton, North Carolina, on April 2, 1911. Adams studied law at the University of North Carolina. He became a member of the North Carolina Bar in 1906 and entered practice in Asheville with his father and brother in the firm of Adams and Adams. After the death of their father, the Adams brothers formed a partnership with James G. Merrimon that established the firm of Merrimon, Adams, and Adams. Although known to his close friends as “June,” Adams came to be commonly called “Judge” after he presided over the Asheville Police Court from 1910 through 1914.

Adams quickly rose to prominence as an attorney. His firm represented E.W. Grove during the period in which the St. Louis pharmaceutical tycoon undertook several of his most ambitious projects, including the development of the Grove Park neighborhood and construction of the Grove Park Inn, the Battery Park Hotel, and the Arcade building. But the watershed event in Adams’s career was his selection as the local legal representative for Biltmore Estate following George Vanderbilt’s death in 1914. Over the next several years, his status in the community changed markedly as he grew to be a leader in business and civic affairs. Throughout the 1920s he became increasingly involved in the management of the estate. At the same time, he also became active in finance, assisting with the organization of the National Bank of Commerce in 1922 and, two years later, an affiliated institution, the Commerce Union Trust Company. He served as president of both until 1931, when the Great Depression forced their consolidation and reorganization as the First National Bank of Asheville.

Adams made his most significant achievements in his work with Biltmore Estate. He began serving as the counsel for the estate during the critical period following George Vanderbilt’s untimely death, which left Edith Vanderbilt to make a number of decisions concerning the management of the estate. She first sold some 87,000 acres of Pisgah Forest
to the federal government, consummating negotiations that her husband had begun before his death. Then, she arranged for the sale of Biltmore Village and a number of other properties under the estate’s ownership. The founding of Biltmore Forest followed immediately. In broad terms, these decisions represented a conscious effort to reduce the estate’s ongoing expenses and potential liabilities. As they worked toward these goals, Edith and the trustees of the estate needed sound legal advice. Not only did Adams prove capable in representing the estate’s interests, but his managerial skills and business connections contributed to the success of several major projects. As a result, he soon found himself serving not merely as an attorney but as a personal advisor to Edith and the trustees.  

As one of the four founding directors of the Biltmore Estate Company, Adams played a leading role in the establishment of Biltmore Forest. In fact, Adams deserved at least partial credit for the basic idea of a residential development on the estate’s lands. According to one account, he and Edith stumbled on the idea while talking during a card game, and Edith found the notion of a neighborhood built around a country club particularly appealing because “an existing country club in North Asheville would not let [her] smoke on the premises.” Adams played a prominent role in planning the community and served as its first mayor from 1923 to 1929. He was also closely involved in managing the business and financial operations of the Biltmore Estate Company throughout the 1920s.  

As he worked to make Biltmore Forest a success, Adams became more deeply involved in managing the estate’s operations, particularly after the founding of the Biltmore Company in 1932. Named president of the newly-created company by Edith and the trustees, Adams responded to the economic hardships of the 1930s by cutting costs wherever possible and working to develop revenue-generating enterprises. He acquired a reputation for being a stringent manager and put much of his energy into expanding the operations of Biltmore Dairy Farms. When Adams took over management of the herd in 1932, it numbered 332 Jersey cattle and produced 4,200 pounds of milk annually. Within just a few years he had increased the herd to more than 1,000 and doubled the average production, making Biltmore Dairy the largest milk distributor in the Southeast and the estate’s most profitable enterprise.  

Adams suffered great personal losses during the Great Depression. Because of his heavy investments in real estate, the collapse of the market in 1929 reduced his once-considerable assets to a mere fraction of their former value. His interests in the National Bank of Commerce and the Commerce Union Trust Company were also nearly wiped out. Francis
J. Heazel, one of Adams’s closest friends, would later recall that the reorganization of these two institutions as the First National Bank of Asheville in the early 1930s caused Adams to suffer “a serious financial loss.” Even so, he ignored his personal circumstances and did all he could to uphold his responsibilities to the bank’s stockholders. “[I]n all those hectic days of struggle to get the bank reopened, never did I hear him mention the effect on him personally,” Heazel said. “There was no effort by him to avoid responsibility or to shift it to anyone else. He labored untiringly to minimize the losses of others who were affected by the closing of the bank.”

Among the assets Adams lost as a result of the Depression was his home in Biltmore Forest. In 1933, he sold the property to Burnham S. Colburn, his neighbor and a partner in the Biltmore Estate Company. For the remainder of his life Adams lived at “Farmcoat,” a home on the grounds of Biltmore Estate. Colburn also sustained heavily losses during the Depression and did not hold the Adams House for long. In 1938 he sold it to Daniel and Eleanor McCarthy, who owned it until 1979. Peter Hall purchased the home in 1980 and lived in it for nearly two decades until selling it to the current owners, Stewart and Carolyn Coleman, in 1998.

Adams died on January 4, 1962, at the age of seventy-seven. His obituary recognized him as a “pioneer Asheville attorney” and a leading member of the community. Adams was best known for his work with Biltmore Estate and as a distinguished jurist. He was a member of organizations such as the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute, and the American Judicature Society. For his contributions to the legal profession in western North Carolina, Adams was honored with a special memorial service held by the Buncombe County Bar Association shortly after his death. His impressive accomplishments also gained him a listing in Who’s Who in America. Although he spent his last days at Farmcoat, the eleven years he lived at his Biltmore Forest home marked the most productive period of his life.

**Historical Context C: Architecture**

The Adams House is significant under Criterion C as an excellent local example of Tudor Revival residential architecture. The Tudor Revival style was one of several English-influenced styles that became especially popular in Asheville during the early twentieth century. Like the Shingle, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles, it appealed to buyers seeking homes in the city’s fast-growing suburban neighborhoods.
The Tudor Revival became popular across the nation during the early twentieth century. The earliest examples date from the 1890s, but the style reached the height of its popularity in the 1920s and early 1930s. Although its name alludes to the architectural characteristics of early sixteenth-century Tudor England, the style drew inspiration from a variety of late Medieval antecedents of varying scale and form ranging from thatched-roof folk cottages to grand manor houses. Few Tudor Revival houses were actually modeled on Medieval English examples; American architects freely incorporated elements of the Craftsman, Stick, and Queen Anne styles. The character-defining features of the style included steeply-pitched roofs, front-facing gables, false half-timbering, massive chimneys, and stucco, masonry, or masonry-veneered walls. Tudor Revival houses varied in scale from modest cottages to large, landmark mansions. It was used for a large proportion of early twentieth-century suburban homes across the nation.31

The Adams House, with its stone-veneer base, half-timbered upper story, and cast stone trimwork, displays features typical of the style. It is one of a substantial number of Tudor Revival residences built during the 1920s in neighborhoods such as Biltmore Forest, Montford, Lakeview Park, and Kenilworth. In broad terms, the fact that the style and similar variations on the English manorial theme became so popular in Asheville owed a great deal to the influence of Richard Sharp Smith, the first highly-trained professional architect to work extensively in western North Carolina. The English-born Smith came to Asheville to serve as the supervising architect for the construction of Biltmore and in 1895 established his own practice in Asheville. His earliest work introduced a variety of English architectural traditions to the community. He designed more than two-dozen buildings in Biltmore Village, where he employed pebbledash stucco and half-timbering to invoke an English feeling. For the Young Men’s Institute Building at the corner of South Market and Eagle Streets, Smith used his favored “English cottage” forms in the design of a building with a civic role. Zealandia, a sprawling Tudor Gothic mansion built atop Beaucatcher Mountain for New Zealand-born diplomat and businessman Philip S. Henry, showcased Smith’s skill in designing an English-style manorial residence. In addition to these landmark properties, Smith also designed more modest domestic structures in neighborhoods such as Montford, Chestnut Hill, and Grove Park.32

The Adams House is also significant for its association with architect Charles N. Parker, who designed the house and a number of other early homes in Biltmore Forest. If Smith was largely responsible for introducing English architectural influences to Asheville, Parker carried on the tradition after working under Smith early in his career. Parker was a native of Hillsboro, Ohio. He moved to Asheville in 1904 and worked as a draftsman for the firm of Smith and Carrier before establishing his own architectural practice in 1918.
Parker focused on designing houses for Asheville’s lucrative residential market but became best known as the architect of the Grove Arcade, a massive commercial building built in the late 1920s on Battery Park Avenue. The Arcade, a reinforced concrete and steel structure covered in ivory-glazed terra-cotta panels, was designed to serve as the base of an office tower, but the Depression halted the project before it was fully completed. After World War II Parker joined the firm of Six Associates and continued to practice architecture until his retirement in the late 1950s. He died at his home in Asheville at the age of seventy-five in July 1961. Like contemporaries such as Douglas Ellington and Ronald Greene, Parker’s was one of several exceptionally-talented architects whose work during the real estate boom gave Asheville some of its most distinctive landmark buildings.

The Adams House is an excellent example of Parker’s residential designs and shows his subtle interpretation of the Tudor Revival style. Parker relied heavily on the vocabulary of English motifs learned during his apprenticeship with Smith. The Adams House displays a number of the style’s signature features: multiple cross gables, rough-faced stone veneer, ornamental false half-timbering, and unbalanced fenestration. Decorative interior elements such as the three cut-stone Tudor-arch fireplace mantels give the house a measure of distinction and reflect the neighborhood’s affluence. Overall, the house presents a stylistically conventional, carefully crafted example of a Tudor Revival residence.

The Adams House is among the most significant residences in Biltmore Forest and reflects the ambition and spirit of enterprise that characterized the neighborhood during its formative period. It is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style and a fine example of the work of architect Charles N. Parker, one of several talented architects whose work contributed to the sophisticated built environment that developed in Asheville during the early twentieth century.

Endnotes

1 Anthony Lord, Plans for Renovation of McCarthy Residence, 1938, in possession of Stewart and Carolyn Coleman, Biltmore Forest, N.C.


Before moving into his Biltmore Forest residence, Adams resided in a grand Shingle-style house at 320 Montford Avenue that had been designed by W.H. Lord in 1913. Portions of the original plans for the house survive in the Biltmore Estate archives. From ca. 1910 to ca. 1913, Adams lived at another Shingle-style house at 143 Montford Avenue. See W. H. Lord, Plans for Judge Junius G. Adams House at Montford, 1913, Biltmore Estate Archives, Asheville, N.C.


17 Interview with Frank Coxe, 6 June 1979, p. 17, typescript in Silveri Oral History Collection, Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina at Asheville.


23 “Eulogy by Francis J. Heazel at Meeting of Buncombe County Bar Association at Opening of Superior Court, October 1, 1962”; *Who’s Who in America, 1930-1931*, p. 151.


“Eulogy by Francis J. Heazel at Meeting of Buncombe County Bar Association at Opening of Superior Court, October 1, 1962”; “Adams Portrait to be Hung by Iowa Club,” newspaper clipping cited as *Asheville Times*, 24 Sept. 1962 (quotation), in biography file for Junius G. Adams, Pack Memorial Library; Certificate of Incorporation for Biltmore Dairy Farms, 1 July 1933, book C013, pp. 444-446, Register of Deeds Office, Buncombe County Courthouse, Asheville, N.C. Adams took a personal interest in raising cattle, and his success with the Biltmore herd garnered considerable attention within the dairy industry. He served as president of the American Jersey Cattle Club from 1943 to 1946 and the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association from 1949 to 1950. In 1952 Adams received an honorary Doctorate of Agriculture from North Carolina State College, and shortly after his death in 1962 he was honored by the Dairy Shrine Club of Waterloo, Iowa, for his “work and outstanding leadership in the dairy industry.”

“Eulogy by Francis J. Heazel at Meeting of Buncombe County Bar Association at Opening of Superior Court, October 1, 1962” (quotations); Personal communication with Hal Keiner, Biltmore Estate Archivist/Historian, 17 Oct. 2000.


On the general characteristics of the Tudor Revival style, see especially Virginia


Section 9: Bibliography

**Primary Sources**

Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, N.C.
   Biography Files
      Junius G. Adams
      Charles N. Parker
      Thomas W. Raoul
      Richard Sharp Smith

Newspaper File Collection
   Vol. 3, file 9.5: Architects
   Vol. 28, file 30: Communities [Arden-Biltmore Terrace]
   Vol. 70, file 65: History, 1797-1975
   Vol. 104, file 98.6: Biltmore Forest Club

*Asheville Citizen* (Asheville, N.C.).


Coxe, Frank. Interview, 6 June 1979. TS. Silveri Oral History Collection, Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville, N.C.


Secondary Sources


Section 10: Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is the 5.5 acre tract outlined in black on the attached Buncombe County, North Carolina, tax parcel map for property parcel 9646-08-88-0847 (scale: 1" = 193.14').

Verbal Boundary Justification: The boundary encompasses the entire property purchased by Judge Junius G. Adams in February 1921 and includes the house built for him later the same year.

Photographs

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Judge Junius G. Adams House
Location of Property: 11 Stuyvesant Road, Biltmore Forest, N.C.

Name of Photographer: Daniel J. Vivian
Date of Photographs: August 2000 and March 2001
Location of Original Negatives: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Western Office, Asheville, North Carolina.

1. Facade.
2. Facade (alternate view).
3. Facade and terrace.
4. Facade and east elevation, view from southeast.
5. Rear elevation and driveway.
6. Rear elevation (alternate view).
7. Rear elevation (alternate view).
8. Foliated frieze, entry vestibule, rear elevation.
9. Tile floor, entry vestibule, rear elevation.
10. Living room.
11. Main stair.
12. Dining room.
15. Second floor hallway.
16. Bedroom, second floor.
17. Bedroom, second floor.
18. Fireplace mantel, dining room
19. Small bathroom, second floor.
23. Garage/Workshop Building, facade.
25. View of grounds, looking west from driveway entrance on Stuyvesant Road.
26. Entrance to driveway on Stuyvesant Road.
27. View of grounds from southeast corner of property, facing west with house visible in background.
28. View of front yard and golf course from house, looking southwest toward Pisgah Ridge.
29. View of grounds off northeast corner of house, looking south toward tool shed.
ROAD CLASSIFICATION (TVA 192-SE)

Primary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road

- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route

ASHEVILLE, N.C.
35082-ES-TF-024

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1991
DMA 4455 II SE-SERIES Y842

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas