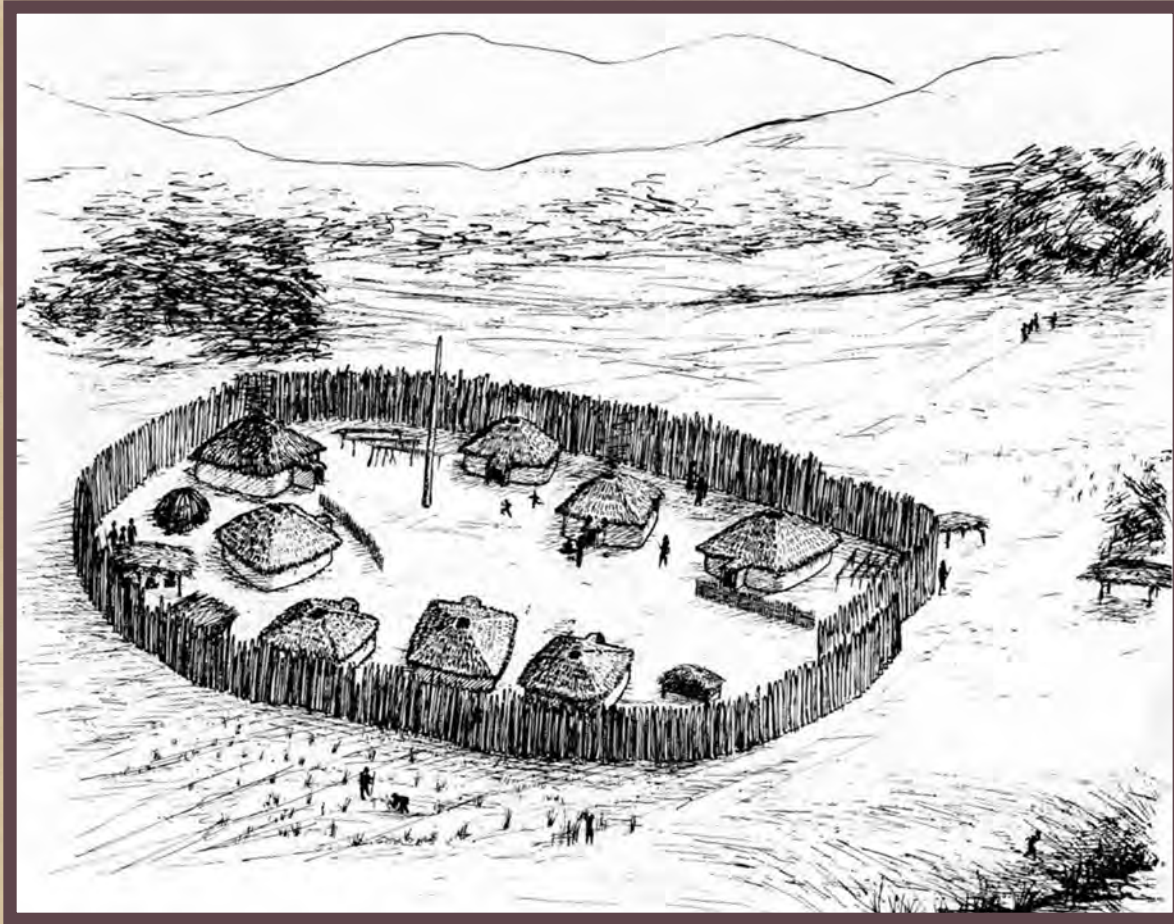


MONTFORD HISTORY AT A GLANCE

The neighborhood-shaping events listed below leave many stories untold, particularly those related to social justice. We encourage our readers to further research these events by starting with a visit to Buncombe County Special Collections at Pack Library or online.



Depiction of Cherokee Village. Source: Swannanoa Valley Museum

8000 B.C. (or before 1783) - The Anigiduwagi, more commonly known as the Cherokee, had sole claim to the land west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

After 1783 - White settlers could apply for land grants. The Woodfin, Rankin, Patton, Courtland, and Pearson families, among others, acquired large tracts of land. Portions of their tracts encompassed Montford. Many of these families increased their wealth using the labor of enslaved people.

1848 - The Rankin-Bearden house/plantation at 32 Elizabeth Place, was constructed on 75 acres. It is the oldest house in Montford today.

1865 - The Battle of Asheville took place on April 6 along Montford's Broadway Street border (near the UNC Asheville Botanical Garden). Confederate Camp Jeter was located along Cherry and Flint Streets.



Site of the Battle of Asheville. Source: NC Markers, NC Office of Archives and History

1871 - Nicholas Woodfin and family gave land to midwife Tempie Avery whom they had formerly enslaved. The vibrant Stumptown community developed adjacent to Tempie's home (32 Pearson Drive). See the panel at Montford and Cullowhee for more information.

1885 - Riverside Cemetery Company was incorporated by a group of investors, including politicians, businessmen and community leaders. Men and youth in Stumptown provided labor for digging graves and landscape maintenance.



Riverside Cemetery. Source: KRT Graphic Design

1890 - Asheville Loan, Construction and Improvement Company (ALC&I Co.) purchased 1,000 acres of land to be subdivided into residential lots and include



Bird's Eye View of Asheville, 1912 (Montford section). Source: Library of Congress

parks and lakes with streets and electric cars running through the area. 300 acres of the property was developed as Montford.

Academy Street was renamed Montford Avenue, which was the family name of Richmond Pearson's ancestor Lord Montford. The name is of French and English (Norman) extraction.

1893 - The ALC&I Co. went bankrupt even though they had created and established the most popular residential neighborhood in Asheville. The area was incorporated as Montford. James Rumbaugh was its one and only mayor.

1894 - George Willis Pack purchased the development of Montford Park (that included land on the other side of the French Broad River) on the courthouse steps.

1900 - Despite Jim Crow segregation mandates, sections of Montford included homeownership by Blacks. The first Hill Street School, an early school for *Negros, was located at 71 Hill Street. By 1914 a larger building was constructed, still inferior to the white schools.

1905 - Montford was annexed by the City of Asheville.

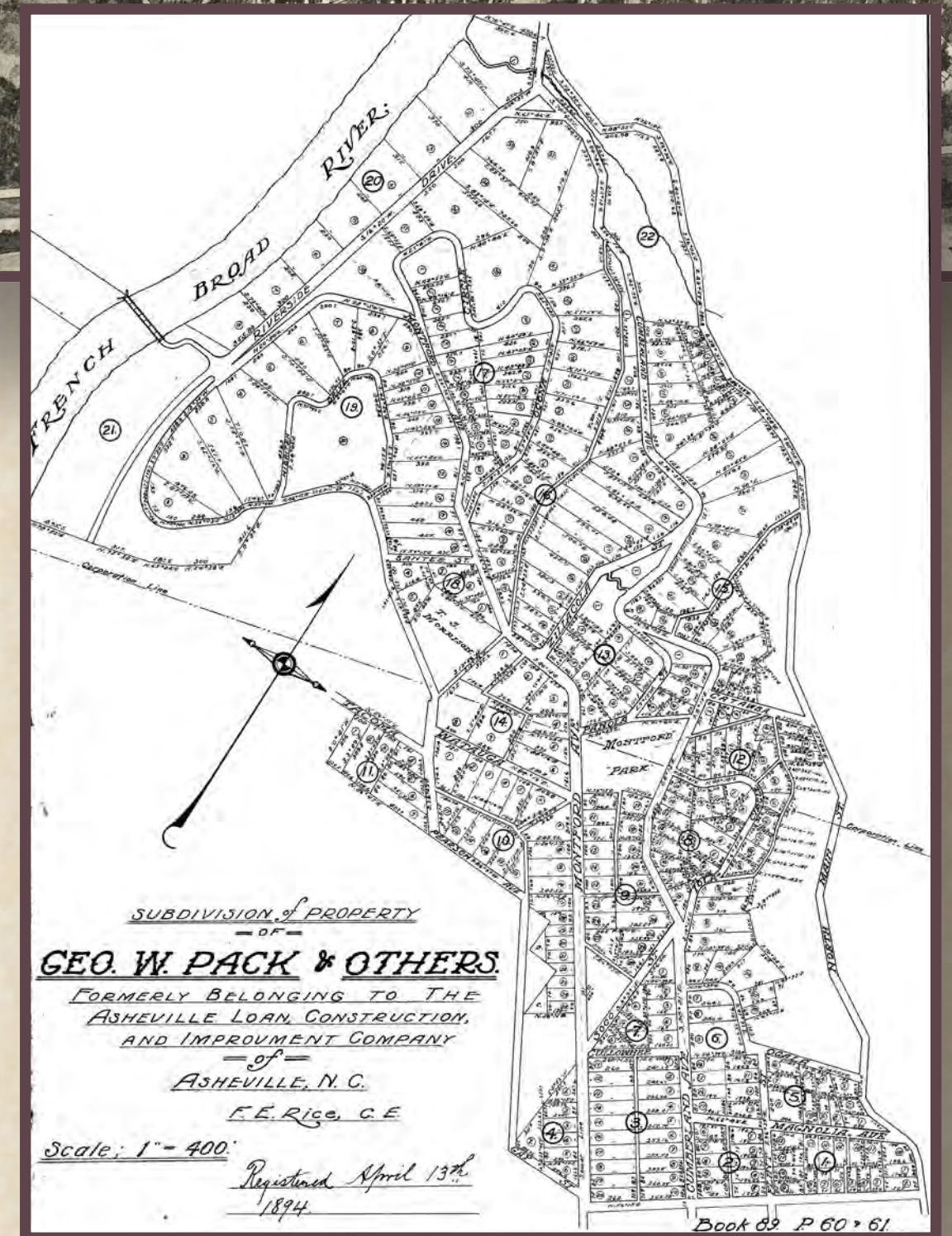
1911 - Dr. William Green Torrence opened a hospital for Blacks at 91 Hill Street.

1916 - Riverside Park, a large recreation complex, flooded and was not rebuilt. It was the destination of the trolley.

1920s - Montford Hills was developed as "The Suburb in the City". Its deeds included a racial covenant prohibiting the sale or lease of land to *Negros.

1929 - The stock market crash caused the beginning of a downturn in Montford. Boarding houses and sanatoriums sprang up in the neighborhood.

1937 - Government maps marked Stumptown and adjacent Black sections of Montford red, meaning they would not be eligible for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance loans. Redlining, as it is known, was a discriminatory practice in which services (financial and otherwise) were withheld from residents of areas that had significant numbers of Black and other ethnic minorities, and low-income residents.



Plat registered by George Pack 1894. Source: Buncombe County Register of Deeds



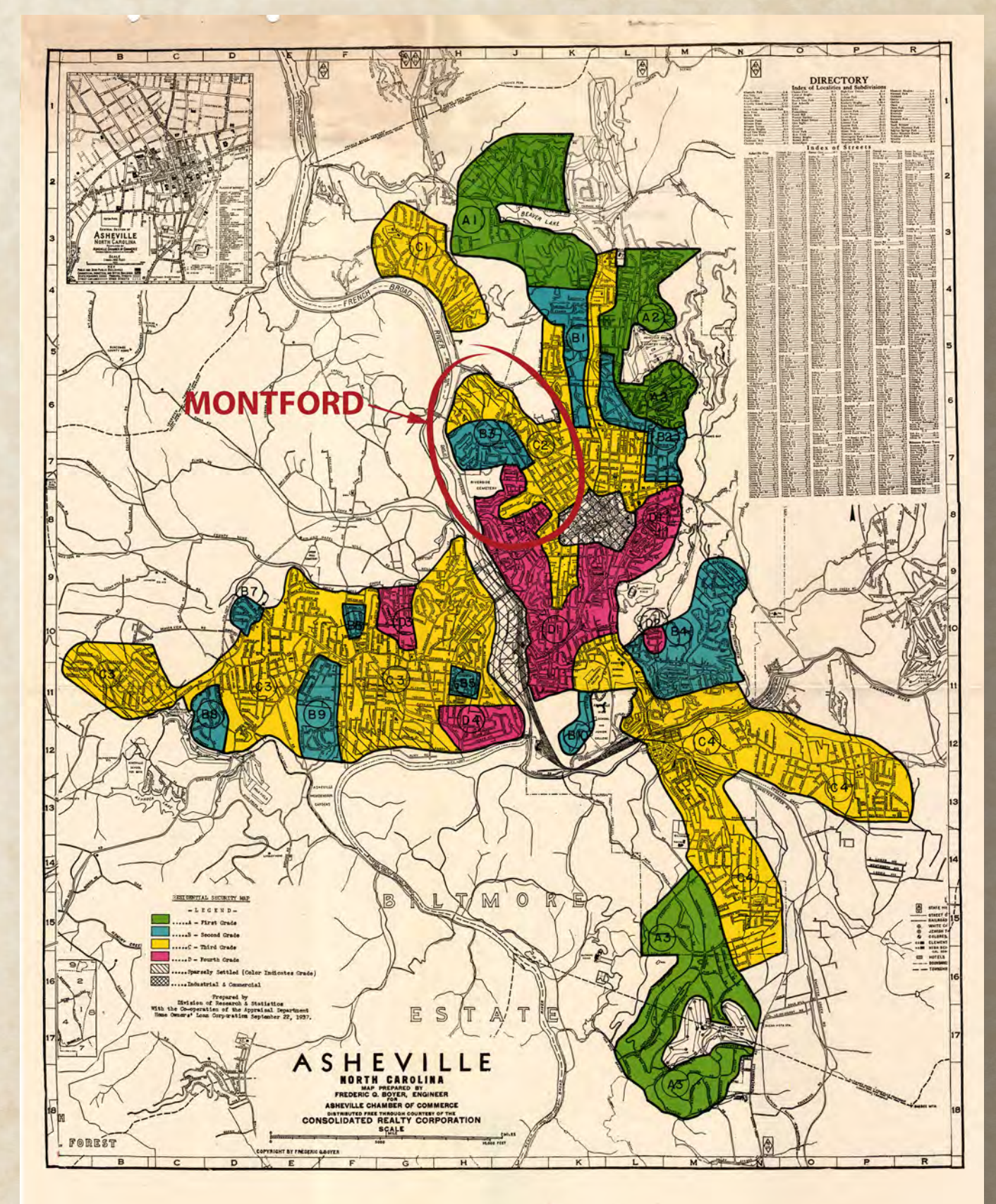
Richmond Pearson. Source: Collection of U.S. House of Representatives

1938 - Flint Street residents, concerned about the construction of a commercial garage in their area, urged the city to adopt a zoning ordinance.

1950s - In 1955, Asheville's Urban Renewal Commission was established, and a year later, the Metropolitan Planning Board was designated the local physical planning agency. On Nov. 20, 1959, Leonard Thompson of 72 Hill St. received the first certificate for housing relocation

under the renewal program. Additional houses, churches and businesses were demolished or burned for the Crosstown Expressway (later becoming I-240). A Montford community club was organized, but only included a portion of the neighborhood.

The timeline continued on the other side.



In 1937 the Federal government created color-coded maps of major American cities to indicate risk factors to mortgage lenders. Green indicated "best," meaning safe. Sections of Montford were designated yellow meaning "declining," blue meaning "desirable," and red meaning "high risk."