## Variance Application for 218 Strawberry Lane

This requests consideration from your board for the only property in the City limits which has been so impacted by the no flag lots rule and pole widths. There is no property this large in Clemson and on the water. The survey, by Clemson Engineers Surveyors with 223.63 feet between them and not close to our house was to code just 6 years ago. We ask a variance to use that survey.

Now to the history of this road as I've known it. My parents walked down it, basically a path, in 1947 with Coach "Goat" McMillan (from whom they rented an apartment) and chose this lot. I grew up in this house surrounded by briars, trees and red bugs (so called Chiggerville). People still tell how their families on Riggs Drive and Strode Circle felt sorry for us being in such a remote forest area. Mostly families of professors and the military built nearby. We, kids of Chiggerville, walked about a mile to Calhoun Clemson School (where the post office is now). Sometimes Uncle Bill Greenlee would let us ride in his horse pulled wagon. Such happy memories live on!

The road was paved when I was little. I remember scraping my knees in the tar and gravel in the summertimes. Mother and Daddy loved it here and Daddy especially enjoyed it. Friends and I walked behind our houses to pick violets in the swampy area. We never really saw the Seneca River.

In about 1958, the Hartwell Dam was built. Engineers were always in the yards and meetings were held. Daddy said it'd be a "dam mud hole". Never knew if that was a pun. Even the first year, when trees and house tops sometimes floated by, ski boats pulled skiers through the floating debris.

The first Daniel High was built and all us walked to the top of Strawberry Lane to catch the bus. Days continued to be wonderful ones and six of us still either own property here or come back to visit.

When Daddy grew to love the lake after all, he, Tom Milford, Marlin Bruner, Bob Burley and others would fish. Second and third generations grew up with my three children when we moved back in 1979. Both boys drove school buses- sometimes two buses were parked in our drive.

You are always welcome to come sit on our back porch, have a Coke and deliberate this appeal or just visit.

Our children and grandchildren come often and, we, as heirs, love every inch of the 1.7 acres.

With the coming of million dollar houses, our taxes rose exponentially, more than some others in the City. Assessments were contested and fixed but we know it is a sign of changing times.

Some elements of new codes seem contradictory. Some flag lots would contribute to density, but we ask for a survey of uniquely large space for two zoned houses, while, just next door, there's "an envelope on a stamp", leaving them land locked and needing our land. So far, they partially cabled their dock on our property; removed our trees they felt might hurt their property (out through our front yard) because there is no room on their side of the line), and sprayed and cleared about 100 ft. on our property, as

"a favor" to us. Chad Owens asked to buy some of that he'd cleared and we gave a price, but he said it was too much for land he couldn't build on. When I asked what else he wanted to build, he said, he didn't want to build, just thought I'd "like some quick cash". Maybe he thought we needed quick cash, but it's hard to live next door to a three million dollar house, knowing our property can't be sold for what land on the lake in Clemson is worth.

We did have one of the lots approved two years ago, but had to deed part of our front yard to the City in order to have necessary code width for the drive. When I learned it meant we would have to demolish this house if we ever, "ever" wanted to have two lots on the lake, I didn't accept those deterrents. The "substandard" cul d' sac has worked for 73 years, even as huge trucks used it during the latest constructions.

Some trucks carried hundreds of boulders the size of refrigerators and some gigantic trucks pulled flat bed trailers with 60 foot trees on them. Ask Todd... how bad it was. Yet, never did a truck or flat bed even brush our fence.

The Fire Marshal said the width of the flag drives, as well as the size of the cul d' sac were wider than many he's faced and would be no problem for his trucks.

I apologize for the length of this, but it's condensed. I'll be glad to write more and more. It's been rewritten several times.

Thank you for your attention and hope you'll see why the variance for the 2014 survey should be approved.

Sincerely,

**Judith Hill Fairey** 



circa 1948

## 218 Strawberry Lane



circa 1998

