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Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30268
October 24, 2020

To: Chattahoochee Hills City Council
CC: Chattahoochee Hills Historic Commission and Parks Commission
Subject: Proposed Barn Quilt at the Beavers House

I am submitting for City Council discussion and approval, a proposed barn quilt design which I created for the historic John F. Beavers House at Campbellton Park.

In keeping with the goal of the Chatt Hills Barn Quilt Trail to honor and showcase the rural heritage in our City, I created a barn quilt with historic relevance for this oldest known house in Fulton County (now owned by Chattahoochee Hills). Here is how I decided upon the design.



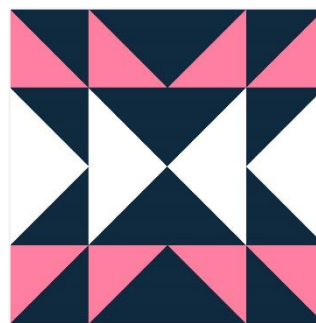
Sisters Irene & Mary Lynn Lee reminisce about the family quilts their mother made while they lived in the historic Beavers House.

I contacted sisters Irene Saul and Mary Lynn Oxford (née Lee), who were both born and raised in the Beavers House, to ask if they had any quilts their mother had made while living there. As it turned out, they did. Their mother Sarah was an avid quilter who passed down the tradition – and the family quilts – to her children.

Irene & Mary Lynn spent an hour showing and telling the history of a dozen quilts made by their mother. Like many rural families in the early 1900s, their mother utilized the materials on hand to make the family quilts. The sisters each pointed out cloth in the different quilts that came from their dresses, father’s shirts, and even the seed sacks, as was popular during that era. To think that they still had the quilt their father slept underneath, and several made from the sacks that held seed for the family chickens and cows, well, it just doesn’t get more special than that.

One quilt in particular caught my eye, as it was a pattern that seemed familiar, but one I couldn’t quite place. Was it an eight-point star pattern, or was it one called Blazing Arrows?

Knowing that a quilt block can have many different names and that it can look entirely different depending upon the color placement, I decided to replicate one block with the colors their mother used and name it in her honor, *Sarah’s Choice*.



Sarah’s Choice Barn Quilt



Preferred Location on Garage



I propose that the *Sarah’s Choice* barn quilt be installed on the garage located at the Beavers House.

This is the preferred location since it is visible from the road, and it does not place anything on the historic structure of the Beavers House. If the City desires, we could also place a carsonite trail post on the property with a QR code – that is a matrix barcode which may be scanned with cell phones to a link on the website that includes historic information. A mock-up of the design and placement is provided at the left.

Optional Free-standing Barn Quilt

Another placement option would be to create a free-standing display for the *Sarah’s Choice* barn quilt. The quilt could be displayed by itself, or along with historic information on the Beavers House and the quilt.

This option would be an exception to our quilt trail’s policy, since we have been advised by Community Development that free-standing artwork may be considered a *sign* under our city’s zoning, so we should only display the barn quilts on buildings and structures. However, in the case of city-owned property, we would be glad to make an exception to our policy, if that is what the Council desires and approves. Mock-ups of free-standing displays are provided below.



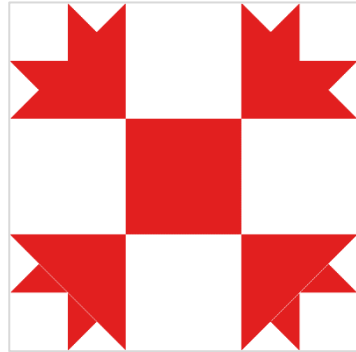
For your information, although not part of this proposal, I am also including a barn quilt I designed for the Fountain Family Barn across the street from the Beavers House on Cochran Rd. It is also based on an heirloom quilt made by Sarah Lee while living in the Beavers House. This seems appropriate since the Lee Family built that barn, and the Fountain Family also owned and lived in the Beavers House for a time.

It is the hope of our Chatt Hills Barn Quilt Trail committee and volunteers that adding the *Sarah’s Choice* quilt block will honor the heritage of Beavers House and inform – and delight – those who visit Campbellton Park.

The Fountain Family Barn

Located across the street from the Beavers House on Cochran Rd., is a lovely old barn built by the Lee Family when they lived in the Beavers House and farmed the property. After the Lee's sold the property to an investment firm, the next family to own the Beavers house and its property was Lance & Talitha Fountain. While they no longer own the Beavers House, they continue to live on the property they own across the road, and the barn property is now in the Fountain Family Trust, managed by their son Daren.

Daren has agreed to host a barn quilt, but gave no preference for a barn quilt design. I plan to propose a custom design based on another of Sarah Lee's heritage quilts, which may be named, *Turkey Tracks 'round the Lee Barn*.



Sarah Lee's quilt is made from a pattern named Turkey Tracks or Chicken Tracks. This pattern would make an excellent barn quilt, since its simple design will show up well on the barn, which is placed a distance from the road.

