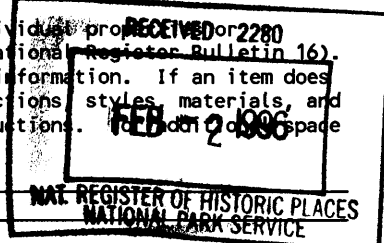


211

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.



**1. Name of Property**

historic name Neville and Helen Farmer Lustron House  
other names/site number n/a

**2. Location**

street & number 513 Drexel Avenue  
city, town Decatur (n/a) vicinity of  
county DeKalb code GA 089  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30030

(n/a) not for publication

**3. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	1
sites		
structures		
objects		
total	1	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Lustron Houses in Georgia.

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards  
Signature of certifying official

1/26/96  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Carol O'Shull 3-18-96

determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

other, explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

Domestic:single dwelling

### Current Functions:

Domestic:single dwelling

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Other:Lustron

### Materials:

foundation	concrete
walls	metal:steel/enamel
roof	metal:steel
other	windows:aluminum

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Neville and Helen Farmer Lustron House is located at 513 Drexel Avenue, Decatur, DeKalb Co., Georgia. The house was erected in the fall of 1949 for Neville and Helen Farmer, who paid \$10,000 for the porcelain-enameled steel building. The house is one of 2,498 that were produced by the Lustron Corporation and one of 22 built in Georgia. The building retains its complete structural and architectural integrity with only a few minor alterations.

The Farmer house is an example of the Lustron Westchester Deluxe two-bedroom model and measures 1,085 square feet.

The house is a one-story, side-gabled ranch type erected on a concrete slab. The exterior porcelain-enameled steel panels are light yellow and measure two-feet square. Window frames are light gray. Porcelain-enameled brown, tile-like roof shingles remain. The roof overhangs slightly at the front and rear but is nearly flush at the gable ends. The two enameled-steel, exterior doors contain a single glass insert.

The front facade features two picture window groups, each consisting of four-light casements flanking a fixed picture window. The main picture window for the living room is a bay window; the bay being one of the upgraded features of the "deluxe" package. The other picture window is located in the front bedroom. The aluminum casement windows are all original. The gutters are also original.

The main entrance to the house is located on the north side facade. A small porch area supported by an enameled porch post with a decorative zigzag trellis in gray remains. The dining room picture window is also located on the north facade.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

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The south side facade features two pairs of symmetrically placed aluminum windows.

The rear facade has a window group for the kitchen area, a single casement bathroom window, a rear door, and a picture window group for the rear bedroom.

The interior of the house features a living room/dining room area, a kitchen, utility room, a bathroom, two bedrooms, and closet space. The interior is also covered with porcelain enameled steel panels measuring 2' x 8'. The panels are vertically scored to give a paneled appearance. The living room/dining room panels are light gray. Ceiling panels measure 4' x 4' and are also gray. Bedroom panels are gray; closet doors are beige. Panels in the kitchen, utility room, and bathroom are two-foot square. The bathroom panel colors are yellow and gray. The kitchen and utility room panels are yellow.

Design features include built-in steel wall furniture and closet space with sliding doors. The built-in unit between the living room and front bedroom contains a mirrored bookcase on one side and a mirrored vanity and counter top with drawers and doors for closet space on the other side. This unit also features sculpted lines.

Exterior and interior wall corners are rounded and contribute to the clean, streamlined look of the Lustron home.

The two bedrooms and bathroom have steel porcelain-enameled flush pocket doors which slide and roll on overhead tracks. There is no protruding hardware on these doors. All closet and storage doors are of the bypass sliding type.

The utility room features panels which conceal the phone service box, the plumbing hook-ups for water and sewer, and an updated electrical circuit breaker box. Hookups for both washer and dryer are also located behind removable panels.

The original stamped steel bathtub measuring 5' 1 1/2" remains. The bathroom toilet and wash basin have been replaced.

The kitchen features a steel single bowl sink and counter top, however, the combination dishwasher/clothes washer was removed.

Additional changes made to the house have been mostly cosmetic. They include installing wall-to-wall carpeting on top of the original asphalt floor tile. The original buffet between the kitchen and dining room and the kitchen cabinets has been replaced with white enameled cabinets and ceramic countertops. The original heating system has also been replaced with central heat and air conditioning.

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National Park Service

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Section 7

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A narrow width of crown molding has been added throughout the house.

A small, nonhistoric tool shed is located at the rear of the property. The house sits on a slight hill and the property is landscaped with mature trees and shrubs.

The original owners, Neville and Helen Farmer, who purchased the house through the Lustron franchise, Jafra, Inc. of Georgia, sold the house to John M. Corlish in 1969 for \$16,500. Mr. Corlish sold the house to Phil G. Grier in February of 1985. The current owner, Roberta Dismukes, purchased the house in 1988. Since living in her Lustron house, she is pleased with the easy care of the house and strives to retain the building's original integrity.

Of the ten Lustron homes constructed in the metro Atlanta area, seven have been located. One has been demolished; two others are still unknown.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally     statewide     locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A     B     C     D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**     N/A

A     B     C     D     E     F     G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

Architecture/Engineering

**Period of Significance:**

1949

**Significant Dates:**

1949

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Roy Blass and Morris Beckman - Illinois architects (designed prototype for the Porcelain Products Company (later renamed Lustron Corporation)).

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**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Farmer Lustron House is significant in architecture and engineering as a good example of post-World War II prefabricated housing and an excellent and intact example of the "Lustron" type of prefabricated house. This innovative and unusual type of prefabrication employed porcelain-enamel baked on steel panels. Erected on a steel frame, easy to maintain, and supposedly well-priced, the Lustron house was touted as the technologically advanced prefab answer to the housing shortage after WWII.

The Lustron Corporation (a subsidiary of the Chicago Vitreous Co.) was formed by Carl Strandlund, an engineer who received a patent for his steel panel design. The Lustron prototype, designed by Illinois architects, Roy Blass and Morris Beckman, was developed to encourage Americans to adopt a new "domestic ideology," efficient and technologically advanced, but conducive to informal, family-centered activity. The floorplan and style were departures from the revival style homes which were thought to now be unsuited for the modern family. The Lustron was contemporary and functionally designed using more modern lines.

The Farmer Lustron House retains much of its original historic fabric and is a good example of the Westchester Deluxe two-bedroom model. Features such as the front bay window, easy-care enameled steel panels, space-saving sliding doors, and built-in components such as the living room book shelves/bedroom vanity are some of the many architectural features used to create a comfortable and modern home. The Farmer Lustron House with its many design features provides a glimpse into American domestic life in the late 1940s.

The Lustron house represents an important type of prefabricated housing and is significant for its association with important developments in post-WWII prefabricated housing.

**National Register Criteria**

The Farmer Lustron House meets Criterion A as an example of the type of innovative use of modern material technology (enameled steel) and marketing techniques (through demonstration homes and dealer franchises) that were used to meet the demands of a severe housing shortage following World War II. The Lustron House clearly contributes to the broad patterns of American history by its association with post WWII prefabrication efforts. It is also an

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example of one of the most innovative efforts by a corporation to alleviate the severe housing shortage.

The Farmer Lustron House meets Criterion C as an example of the type of creative house design used for prefabricated housing during the late 1940s. The house featured a modern, ranch design with high-tech features. Besides the easy-care enameled steel panels, the house features space-saving sliding doors, good storage and closet space, and never fading exterior/interior wall colors. The Farmer Lustron is a good example of the Westchester model manufactured by the Lustron Corporation. The Westchester model is defined in the Multiple Property Nomination Lustron Houses in Georgia, Section F, Associated Property Types.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

**Criterion Exceptions**

The Farmer Lustron House meets Criterion G. It is a very intact example of a Westchester Deluxe model Lustron. Although the Lustron house type is less than 50 years old, the Lustron house has been the subject of recent research and sufficient information is available to allow for professional objectivity.

**Period of significance (justification)**

1949 - date the house was constructed.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

**Contributing:**

1 - Lustron House

**Noncontributing:**

1 - Tool shed

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

Refer to the Lustron Houses in Georgia, Multiple Property Documentation Form.



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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Coombs Lustron House, Porter Co. Indiana. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Sept. 17, 1992.

### **Interviews**

Tom Fetters, Author, 1/5/95, 1/19/95, 1/27/95, 2/3/95.  
Phil Grier, former owner.  
Helen Farmer, original owner.

Wolfe, Tom and Garfield, Leonard, "A New Standard for Living: The Lustron House, 1946-50," Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, 1989, The Curators of University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Missouri.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** (x) N/A

- ( ) 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:**

- (x) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

n/a

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 749240 Northing 3739860

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is indicated by a heavy black line, drawn to scale on the attached tax map.

**Boundary Justification**

The Farmer Lustron House property encompasses the intact 1949 Lustron house and one nonhistoric tool shed.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Lisa Raflo, National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street, NW  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** 4/21/95

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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**Name of Property:** Neville and Helen Farmer Lustron House  
**City or Vicinity:** Decatur  
**County:** DeKalb  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 1995

**Description of Photograph(s):**

1 of 2. Exterior front facade view of the Lustron house; photographer facing southeast.

2 of 2. Exterior front facade view of the Lustron house; photographer facing northeast.

LOT 5  
BLOCK 18-A  
UNIT  
SUB. DAVID HILLS

Neville and Helen Farmer Lustron  
House, DeKalb Co., Georgia

PLAT MAP

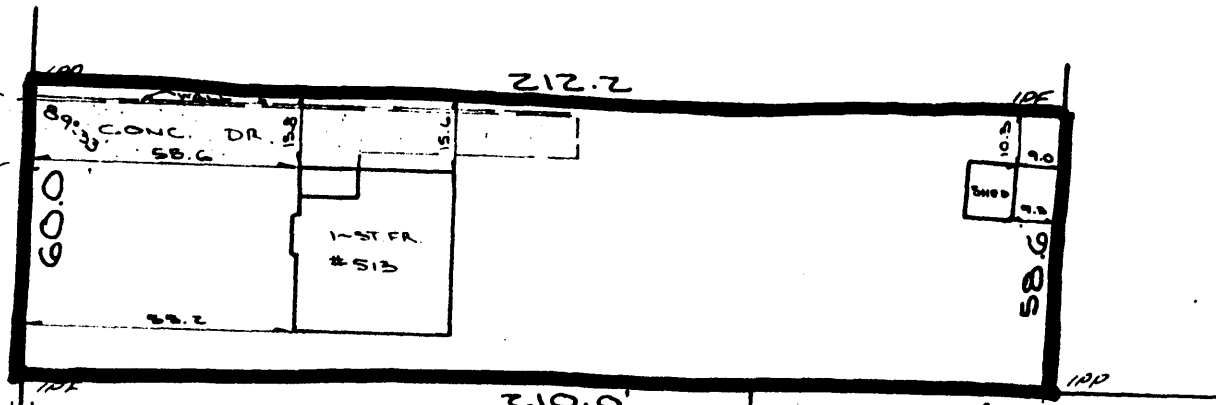
Boundary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scale: 1"-----40'

NOW OR FORMERLY LILLIAN DELONY

-7-

MAG. NORTH

DREXEL AVE



NOW OR FORMERLY PROPERTY OF  
RALPH E. SHAW & MRS. MINNIE SHAW

EMERSON AVE.

ALLEY

I have, this date, examined the  
"FIA OFFICIAL FLOOD HAZARD MAP"  
and found referenced lot (IS NOT)  
in an area having special flood hazards.

PROPERTY OF DOUG BUNCH  
ROBERTA DISMUKES

LAND LOT 245, 15TH DISTRICT  
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCALE 1" = 40' DATE. 1-24-88

REG. LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1751

GEORGIA LAND SURVEYING CO., INC.



In my opinion, this plat is a correct  
representation of the land platted and  
has been prepared in conformity with  
the minimum standards and requirements

*[Handwritten Signature]*

801098

5-15-89 11-17-87

EZ