

Loan No: 025700035581  
Borrower: CURTIS BALLENGER AND WIFE, SALLIE STEARNS

Inst # 1999-01560

AFTER RECORDING MAIL TO:

CHRIS BATTLES  
3150 HIGHWAY 52 WEST  
PELHAM, AL 35242

01/12/1999-01560  
11:25 AM CERTIFIED  
SHELBY COUNTY JUDGE OF PROBATE  
012 CRH 231.60

[Space Above This Line For Recording Date]

## MORTGAGE

THIS MORTGAGE ("Security Instrument") is given on the **eleventh** day of **January, 1999**. The grantor is **CURTIS BALLENGER AND WIFE, SALLIE STEARNS**, whose address is **101 CAPE COD CIRCLE, ALABASTER, AL 35007** ("Borrower"). This Security Instrument is given to **NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE OF BIRMINGHAM, A FEDERALLY CHARTERED COMMERCIAL BANK**, which is organized and existing under the laws of **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, and whose address is **1927 FIRST AVENUE NORTH, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203** ("Lender"). Borrower owes Lender the principal sum of **One Hundred Thirty Thousand Four Hundred and no/100 Dollars (U.S. \$130,400.00)**. This debt is evidenced by Borrower's note dated the same date as this Security Instrument ("Note"), which provides for monthly payments, with the full debt, if not paid earlier, due and payable on **February 1, 2029**. This Security Instrument secures to Lender: (a) the repayment of the debt evidenced by the Note, with interest, and all renewals, extensions and modifications of the Note; (b) the payment of all other sums, with interest, advanced under paragraph 7 to protect the security of this Security Instrument; and (c) the performance of Borrower's covenants and agreements under this Security Instrument and the Note. For this purpose, Borrower does hereby mortgage, grant and convey to Lender and Lender's successors and assigns, with power of sale, the following described property located in **SHELBY County, Alabama**:

**SEE EXHIBIT "A" (LEGAL DESCRIPTION) ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR ALL PURPOSES.**

which has the address of

**6524 MILL CREEK CIRCLE  
HOOVER, Alabama 35242  
("Property Address");**

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD this property unto Lender and Lender's successors and assigns, forever, together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property, and all easements, appurtenances, and fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this Security Instrument. All of the foregoing is referred to in this Security Instrument as the "Property."



*[Handwritten signatures]*

**BORROWER COVENANTS** that Borrower is lawfully seized of the estate hereby conveyed and has the right to mortgage, grant and convey the Property and that the Property is unencumbered, except for encumbrances of record. Borrower warrants and will defend generally the title to the Property against all claims and demands, subject to any encumbrances of record.

**THIS SECURITY INSTRUMENT** combines uniform covenants for national use and non-uniform covenants with limited variations by jurisdiction to constitute a uniform security instrument covering real property.

**UNIFORM COVENANTS.** Borrower and Lender covenant and agree as follows:

**1. Payment of Principal and Interest; Prepayment and Late Charges.** Borrower shall promptly pay when due the principal of and interest on the debt evidenced by the Note and any prepayment and late charges due under the Note.

**2. Funds for Taxes and Insurance.** Subject to applicable law or to a written waiver by Lender, Borrower shall pay to Lender on the day monthly payments are due under the Note, until the Note is paid in full, a sum ("Funds") for: (a) yearly taxes and assessments which may attain priority over this Security Instrument as a lien on the Property; (b) yearly leasehold payments or ground rents on the Property, if any; (c) yearly hazard or property insurance premiums; (d) yearly flood insurance premiums, if any; (e) yearly mortgage insurance premiums, if any; and (f) any sums payable by Borrower to Lender, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8, in lieu of the payment of mortgage insurance premiums. These items are called "Escrow Items." Lender may, at any time, collect and hold Funds in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount a lender for a federally related mortgage loan may require for Borrower's escrow account under the federal Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 as amended from time to time, 12 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq. ("RESPA"), unless another law that applies to the Funds sets a lesser amount. If so, Lender may, at any time, collect and hold Funds in an amount not to exceed the lesser amount. Lender may estimate the amount of Funds due on the basis of current data and reasonable estimates of expenditures of future Escrow Items or otherwise in accordance with applicable law.

The Funds shall be held in an institution whose deposits are insured by a federal agency, instrumentality, or entity (including Lender, if Lender is such an institution) or in any Federal Home Loan Bank. Lender shall apply the Funds to pay the Escrow Items. Lender may not charge Borrower for holding and applying the Funds, annually analyzing the escrow account, or verifying the Escrow Items, unless Lender pays Borrower interest on the Funds and applicable law permits Lender to make such a charge. However, Lender may require Borrower to pay a one-time charge for an independent real estate tax reporting service used by Lender in connection with this loan, unless applicable law provides otherwise. Unless an agreement is made or applicable law requires interest to be paid, Lender shall not be required to pay Borrower any interest or earnings on the Funds. Borrower and Lender may agree in writing, however, that interest shall be paid on the Funds. Lender shall give to Borrower, without charge, an annual accounting of the Funds, showing credits and debits to the Funds and the purpose for which each debit to the Funds was made. The Funds are pledged as additional security for all sums secured by this Security Instrument.

If the Funds held by Lender exceed the amounts permitted to be held by applicable law, Lender shall account to Borrower for the excess Funds in accordance with the requirements of applicable law. If the amount of the Funds held by Lender at any time is not sufficient to pay the Escrow Items when due, Lender may so notify Borrower in writing, and, in such case Borrower shall pay to Lender the amount necessary to make up the deficiency. Borrower shall make up the deficiency in no more than twelve monthly payments, at Lender's sole discretion.

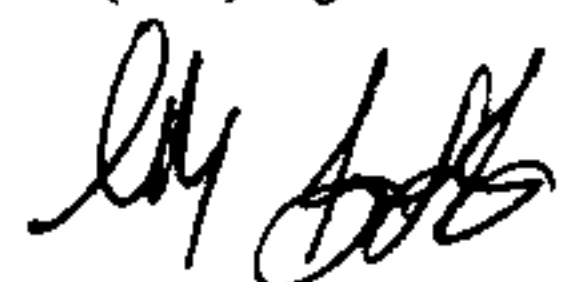
Upon payment in full of all sums secured by this Security Instrument, Lender shall promptly refund to Borrower any Funds held by Lender. If, under paragraph 21, Lender shall acquire or sell the Property, Lender, prior to the acquisition or sale of the Property, shall apply any Funds held by Lender at the time of acquisition or sale as a credit against the sums secured by this Security Instrument.

**3. Application of Payments.** Unless applicable law provides otherwise, all payments received by Lender under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be applied: first, to any prepayment charges due under the Note; second, to amounts payable under paragraph 2; third, to interest due; fourth, to principal due; and last, to any late charges due under the Note.

**4. Charges; Liens.** Borrower shall pay all taxes, assessments, charges, fines and impositions attributable to the Property which may attain priority over this Security Instrument, and leasehold payments or ground rents, if any. Borrower shall pay these obligations in the manner provided in paragraph 2, or if not paid in that manner, Borrower shall pay them on time directly to the person owed payment. Borrower shall promptly furnish to Lender all notices of amounts to be paid under this paragraph. If Borrower makes these payments directly, Borrower shall promptly furnish to Lender receipts evidencing the payments.

Borrower shall promptly discharge any lien which has priority over this Security Instrument unless Borrower: (a) agrees in writing to the payment of the obligation secured by the lien in a manner acceptable to Lender; (b) contests in good faith the lien by, or defends against enforcement of the lien in, legal proceedings which in the Lender's opinion operate to prevent the enforcement of the lien; or (c) secures from the holder of the lien an agreement satisfactory to Lender subordinating the lien to this Security Instrument. If Lender determines that any part of the Property is subject to a lien which may attain priority over this Security Instrument, Lender may give Borrower a notice identifying the lien. Borrower shall satisfy the lien or take one or more of the actions set forth above within 10 days of the giving of notice.

**5. Hazard or Property Insurance.** Borrower shall keep the improvements now existing or hereafter erected on the Property insured against loss by fire, hazards included in the term "extended coverage" and any other hazards, for which Lender requires insurance, including, but not limited to, floods or flooding, earthquakes or hurricanes (whether or not such hazards are required to be insured against at the time the Loan is made). All insurance required by Lender shall be maintained in the amounts and for the periods that Lender requires. The insurance carrier providing the insurance shall be chosen by Borrower subject to Lender's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. In the event the Property improvements are now, or at any time during the term of this Security instrument are determined to be, in a Special Flood Hazard Area, Borrower must obtain and maintain flood insurance.





Borrower acknowledges and agrees that failure to insure the Property, which is the security for this agreement, according to the terms and conditions of this covenant 5 is an event of default subject to the remedies available to Lender under this agreement. If Borrower fails to obtain or maintain any coverage described herein, Lender may, but shall have no duty to, obtain such coverage or substantially equivalent coverage with an insurance carrier of Lender's choice, protecting only Lender's interest in the Property in accordance with covenant 7, all at Borrower's expense. Lender shall have no duty or obligation to obtain any insurance protecting Borrower's interest in the Property, or covering risks for which Lender has not required insurance, as described in the first paragraph of this covenant 5, even if Borrower has previously obtained or maintained such insurance coverage, including, without limitation, a homeowners policy. Lender may, in its sole discretion, obtain insurance in whatever amounts and types Lender deems adequate to protect Lender's interest in the Property, regardless of the unpaid balance remaining under the Note or the amounts remaining due under this Security Instrument. For this purpose, Lender will deem its interests to be adequately protected by an insurance policy with coverage equal to the value of the improvements located on the Property securing Borrower's loan. Lender may determine the value of the improvements by assuming as accurate the value assigned to the improvements in the insurance policy that Lender's records reflect was most recently held by Borrower prior to the insurance policy obtained by Lender. Borrower acknowledges and agrees the amount may not be equal to the actual value or replacement value of the improvements, and any such insurance Lender obtains may not protect Borrower's interest in the Property.

Borrower acknowledges and agrees that the cost of the insurance coverage so obtained by Lender may significantly exceed the cost of insurance Borrower could have obtained, as described in the first paragraph of this covenant 5, if Borrower had purchased the insurance directly, and further may provide Borrower with less or no insurance coverage protecting Borrower's interest in the Property. Borrower further acknowledges and agrees that Lender may obtain any such insurance directly or through an insurance agency or insurer affiliated with Lender and Lender or Lender's affiliate may receive a commission or other compensation in connection with obtaining such insurance. All insurance policies and renewals shall be acceptable to Lender and shall include a standard mortgagee clause. Lender shall have the right to hold the policies and renewals. If Lender requires, Borrower shall promptly give to Lender all receipts of paid premiums and renewal notices. In the event that Borrower cancels a policy on the Property and Borrower replaces it with a different policy, Lender may charge Borrower a reasonable fee (subject to applicable law, if any) to change its records to reflect the new policy. In the event of loss, Borrower shall give prompt notice to the insurance carrier and Lender. Lender may make proof of loss if not made promptly by Borrower. In the event Lender acquires the Property through foreclosure or otherwise, Borrower assigns to Lender its rights to any refund of unearned premiums and any other rights of Borrower under the insurance policy.

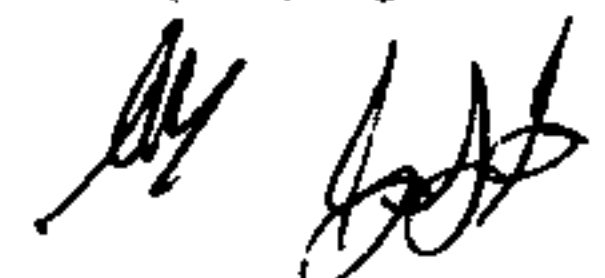
To the extent Borrower obtains any form of insurance coverage for the Property without being directed to do so by Lender, such as flood, earthquake or hurricane coverage, such policy shall include a standard mortgagee clause and shall name Lender as mortgagee. Any insurance proceeds from such policy shall be additional security for the Note and Lender shall have the same rights to such policy and proceeds as it has with regard to Lender-required insurance policies discussed in this covenant 5.

Unless Lender and Borrower otherwise agree in writing, insurance proceeds shall be applied to restoration or repair of the Property damaged, if, at Lender's sole discretion, the restoration or repair is economically feasible and Lender's security is not lessened. During such repair and restoration period, Lender shall have the right to hold such insurance proceeds until Lender has had an opportunity to inspect such Property to ensure the work has been completed to Lender's satisfaction. Lender shall have the right to deduct fees for such inspections from the insurance proceeds unless prohibited by applicable law or regulation. Fees for public adjusters or other third parties retained by Borrower shall not be deducted from the proceeds and shall be the sole and separate obligation of Borrower. If, in Lender's sole determination, the restoration or repair is not economically feasible or Lender's security would be lessened, the insurance proceeds shall be applied to the sums secured by this Security Instrument, whether or not then due, with any excess paid to Borrower. Borrower shall remain responsible for any sums remaining due and payable under the Note and this Security Instrument. If Borrower abandons the Property, or does not answer within 30 days a notice from Lender that the insurance carrier has offered to settle a claim, then the proceeds will be automatically assigned to Lender. Lender may use the proceeds to repair or restore the Property or to pay sums secured by this Security Instrument, whether or not then due. The 30-day period will begin when the notice is given.

Unless Lender and Borrower otherwise agree in writing, any application of proceeds to principal shall not extend or postpone the due date of the monthly payments referred to in covenants 1 and 2 or change the amount of the payments of principal and interest due under the Note. If under covenant 21 the Property is acquired by Lender, Borrower's right to any insurance policies and proceeds resulting from damage to the Property prior to the acquisition shall pass to Lender to the extent of the sums secured by this Security Instrument immediately prior to the acquisition.

The provisions contained in this covenant 5 are subject to limitations under applicable law, if any.

**6. Occupancy, Preservation, Maintenance and Protection of the Property; Borrower's Loan Application; Leaseholds.** Borrower shall occupy, establish, and use the Property as Borrower's principal residence within sixty days after the execution of this Security Instrument and shall continue to occupy the Property as Borrower's principal residence for at least one year after the date of occupancy, unless Lender otherwise agrees in writing, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, or unless extenuating circumstances exist which are beyond Borrower's control. Borrower shall not destroy, damage or impair the Property, allow the Property to deteriorate, or commit waste on the Property. Borrower shall be in default if any forfeiture action or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, is begun that in Lender's good faith judgment could result in forfeiture of the Property or otherwise materially impair the lien created by this Security Instrument or Lender's security interest. Borrower may cure such a default and reinstate, as provided in paragraph 18, by causing the action or proceeding to be dismissed with a ruling that, in Lender's good faith determination, precludes forfeiture of the Borrower's interest in the Property or other material impairment of the lien created by this Security Instrument or





Lender's security interest. Borrower shall also be in default if Borrower, during the loan application process, gave materially false or inaccurate information or statements to Lender (or failed to provide Lender with any material information) in connection with the loan evidenced by the Note, including, but not limited to, representations concerning Borrower's occupancy of the Property as a principal residence. If this Security Instrument is on a leasehold, Borrower shall comply with all the provisions of the lease. If Borrower acquires fee title to the Property, the leasehold and the fee title shall not merge unless Lender agrees to the merger in writing.

**7. Protection of Lender's Rights in the Property.** If Borrower fails to perform the covenants and agreements contained in this Security Instrument, or there is a legal proceeding that may significantly affect Lender's rights in the Property (such as a proceeding in bankruptcy, probate, for condemnation or forfeiture or to enforce laws or regulations), then Lender may do and pay for whatever is necessary to protect the value of the Property and Lender's rights in the Property. Lender's actions may include paying any sums secured by a lien which has priority over this Security Instrument, appearing in court, paying reasonable attorneys' fees and entering on the Property to make repairs. Although Lender may take action under this paragraph 7, Lender does not have to do so.

Any amounts disbursed by Lender under this paragraph 7 shall become additional debt of Borrower secured by this Security Instrument. Unless Borrower and Lender agree to other terms of payment, these amounts shall bear interest from the date of disbursement at the Note rate and shall be payable, with interest, upon notice from Lender to Borrower requesting payment.

**8. Mortgage Insurance.** If Lender required mortgage insurance as a condition of making the loan secured by this Security Instrument, Borrower shall pay the premiums required to maintain the mortgage insurance in effect. If, for any reason, the mortgage insurance coverage required by Lender lapses or ceases to be in effect, Borrower shall pay the premiums required to obtain coverage substantially equivalent to the mortgage insurance previously in effect, at a cost substantially equivalent to the cost to Borrower of the mortgage insurance previously in effect, from an alternate mortgage insurer approved by Lender. If substantially equivalent mortgage insurance coverage is not available, Borrower shall pay to Lender each month a sum equal to one-twelfth of the yearly mortgage insurance premium being paid by Borrower when the insurance coverage lapsed or ceased to be in effect. Lender will accept, use and retain these payments as a loss reserve in lieu of mortgage insurance. Loss reserve payments may no longer be required, at the option of Lender, if mortgage insurance coverage (in the amount and for the period that Lender requires) provided by an insurer approved by Lender again becomes available and is obtained. Borrower shall pay the premiums required to maintain mortgage insurance in effect, or to provide a loss reserve, until the requirement for mortgage insurance ends in accordance with any written agreement between Borrower and Lender or applicable law.

**9. Inspection.** Lender or its agent may make reasonable entries upon and inspections of the Property. Lender shall give Borrower notice at the time of or prior to an inspection specifying reasonable cause for the inspection.

**10. Condemnation.** The proceeds of any award or claim for damages, direct or consequential, in connection with any condemnation or other taking of any part of the Property, or for conveyance in lieu of condemnation, are hereby assigned and shall be paid to Lender.

In the event of a total taking of the Property, the proceeds shall be applied to the sums secured by this Security Instrument, whether or not then due, with any excess paid to Borrower. In the event of a partial taking of the Property in which the fair market value of the Property immediately before the taking is equal to or greater than the amount of the sums secured by this Security Instrument immediately before the taking, unless Borrower and Lender otherwise agree in writing, the sums secured by this Security Instrument shall be reduced by the amount of the proceeds multiplied by the following fraction: (a) the total amount of the sums secured immediately before the taking, divided by (b) the fair market value of the Property immediately before the taking. Any balance shall be paid to Borrower. In the event of a partial taking of the Property in which the fair market value of the Property immediately before the taking is less than the amount of the sums secured immediately before the taking, unless Borrower and Lender otherwise agree in writing or unless applicable law otherwise provides, the proceeds shall be applied to the sums secured by this Security Instrument whether or not the sums are then due.

If the Property is abandoned by Borrower, or if, after notice by Lender to Borrower that the condemnor offers to make an award or settle a claim for damages, Borrower fails to respond to Lender within 30 days after the date the notice is given, Lender is authorized to collect and apply the proceeds, at its option, either to restoration or repair of the Property or to the sums secured by this Security Instrument, whether or not then due.

Unless Lender and Borrower otherwise agree in writing, any application of proceeds to principal shall not extend or postpone the due date of the monthly payments referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 or change the amount of such payments.

**11. Borrower Not Released; Forbearance By Lender Not a Waiver.** Extension of the time for payment or modification of amortization of the sums secured by this Security Instrument granted by Lender to any successor in interest of Borrower shall not operate to release the liability of the original Borrower or Borrower's successors in interest. Lender shall not be required to commence proceedings against any successor in interest or refuse to extend time for payment or otherwise modify amortization of the sums secured by this Security Instrument by reason of any demand made by the original Borrower or Borrower's successors in interest. Any forbearance by Lender in exercising any right or remedy shall not be a waiver of or preclude the exercise of any right or remedy.

**12. Successors and Assigns Bound; Joint and Several Liability; Co-signers.** The covenants and agreements of this Security Instrument shall bind and benefit the successors and assigns of Lender and Borrower, subject to the provisions of paragraph 17. Borrower's covenants and agreements shall be joint and several. Any Borrower who co-signs this Security Instrument but does not execute the Note: (a) is co-signing this Security Instrument only to mortgage, grant and convey that Borrower's interest in the Property under the terms of this Security Instrument; (b) is not personally obligated to pay the sums secured by this Security Instrument; and (c) agrees that Lender and any other Borrower may agree to extend, modify, forbear or make any accommodations with regard to the terms of this Security Instrument or the Note without that Borrower's consent.



**13. Loan Charges.** If the loan secured by this Security Instrument is subject to a law which sets maximum loan charges, and that law is finally interpreted so that the interest or other loan charges collected or to be collected in connection with the loan exceed the permitted limits, then: (a) any such loan charge shall be reduced by the amount necessary to reduce the charge to the permitted limit; and (b) any sums already collected from Borrower which exceeded permitted limits will be refunded to Borrower. Lender may choose to make this refund by reducing the principal owed under the Note or by making a direct payment to Borrower. If a refund reduces principal, the reduction will be treated as a partial prepayment without any prepayment charge under the Note.

**14. Notices.** Any notice to Borrower provided for in this Security Instrument shall be given by delivering it or by mailing it by first class mail unless applicable law requires use of another method. The notice shall be directed to the Property Address or any other address Borrower designates by notice to Lender. Any notice to Lender shall be given by first class mail to Lender's address stated herein or any other address Lender designates by notice to Borrower. Any notice provided for in this Security Instrument shall be deemed to have been given to Borrower or Lender when given as provided in this paragraph.

**15. Governing Law; Severability.** This Security Instrument shall be governed by federal law and the law of the jurisdiction in which the Property is located. In the event that any provision or clause of this Security Instrument or the Note conflicts with applicable law, such conflict shall not affect other provisions of this Security Instrument or the Note which can be given effect without the conflicting provision. To this end the provisions of this Security Instrument and the Note are declared to be severable.

**16. Borrower's Copy.** Borrower shall be given one conformed copy of the Note and of this Security Instrument.

**17. Transfer of the Property or a Beneficial Interest in Borrower.** If all or any part of the Property or any interest in it is sold or transferred (or if a beneficial interest in Borrower is sold or transferred and Borrower is not a natural person) without Lender's prior written consent, Lender may, at its option, require immediate payment in full of all sums secured by this Security Instrument. However, this option shall not be exercised by Lender if exercise is prohibited by federal law as of the date of this Security Instrument.

**18. Borrower's Right to Reinstate.** If Borrower meets certain conditions, Borrower shall have the right to have enforcement of this Security Instrument discontinued at any time prior to the earlier of: (a) 5 days (or such other period as applicable law may specify for reinstatement) before sale of the Property pursuant to any power of sale contained in this Security Instrument; or (b) entry of a judgment enforcing this Security Instrument. Those conditions are that Borrower: (a) pays Lender all sums which then would be due under this Security Instrument and the Note as if no acceleration occurred; (b) cures any default of any other covenants or agreements; (c) pays all expenses incurred in enforcing this Security Instrument, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees of 15% of the sums due under the Note described above or the amount allowable under applicable state law; and (d) takes such action as Lender may reasonably require to assure that the lien of this Security Instrument, Lender's rights in the Property and Borrower's obligation to pay the sums secured by this Security Instrument shall continue unchanged. Upon reinstatement by Borrower, this Security Instrument and the obligations secured hereby shall remain fully effective as if no acceleration had occurred. However, this right to reinstate shall not apply in the case of acceleration under paragraph 17.

**19. Sale of Note; Change of Loan Servicer.** The Note or a partial interest in the Note (together with this Security Instrument) may be sold one or more times without prior notice to Borrower. A sale may result in a change in the entity (known as the "Loan Servicer") that collects monthly payments due under the Note and this Security Instrument. There also may be one or more changes of the Loan Servicer unrelated to a sale of the Note. If there is a change of the Loan Servicer, Borrower will be given written notice of the change in accordance with paragraph 14 above and applicable law. The notice will state the name and address of the new Loan Servicer and the address to which payments should be made. The notice will also contain any other information required by applicable law.

**20. Hazardous Substances.** Borrower shall not cause or permit the presence, use, disposal, storage, or release of any Hazardous Substances on or in the Property. Borrower shall not do, nor allow anyone else to do, anything affecting the Property that is in violation of any Environmental Law. The preceding two sentences shall not apply to the presence, use, or storage on the Property of small quantities of Hazardous Substances that are generally recognized to be appropriate to normal residential uses and to maintenance of the Property.

Borrower shall promptly give Lender written notice of any investigation, claim, demand, lawsuit or other action by any governmental or regulatory agency or private party involving the Property and any Hazardous Substance or Environmental Law of which Borrower has actual knowledge. If Borrower learns, or is notified by any governmental or regulatory authority, that any removal or other remediation of any Hazardous Substance affecting the Property is necessary, Borrower shall promptly take all necessary remedial actions in accordance with Environmental Law.

As used in this paragraph 20, "Hazardous Substances" are those substances defined as toxic or hazardous substances by Environmental Law and the following substances: gasoline, kerosene, other flammable or toxic petroleum products, toxic pesticides and herbicides, volatile solvents, materials containing asbestos or formaldehyde, and radioactive materials. As used in this paragraph 20, "Environmental Law" means federal laws and laws of the jurisdiction where the Property is located that relate to health, safety or environmental protection.

**NON-UNIFORM COVENANTS.** Borrower and Lender further covenant and agree as follows:

**21. Acceleration; Remedies.** Following Borrower's breach of any covenant or agreement in this Security Instrument, Lender at its option may require immediate payment in full of all sums secured by this Security Instrument, without further demand and may invoke the power of sale and any other remedies permitted by applicable law. Lender shall be entitled to collect all expenses incurred in pursuing the remedies provided in this paragraph 21, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees of 15.00% of the sums due under the Note described above or the amount allowable under applicable state law and costs of title evidence.



If Lender invokes the power of sale, Lender shall give a copy of a notice to Borrower in the manner provided in paragraph 14. Lender shall publish the notice of sale once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in **SHELBY County, Alabama**, and thereupon shall sell the Property to the highest bidder at public auction at the front door of the County Courthouse of this County. Lender shall deliver to the purchaser Lender's deed conveying the Property. Lender or its designee may purchase the Property at any sale. Borrower covenants and agrees that the proceeds of the sale shall be applied in the following order: (a) to all expenses of the sale, including but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees of 15.00% of the sums due under the Note described above or the amount allowable under applicable state law; (b) to all sums secured by this Security Instrument; and (c) any excess to the person or persons legally entitled to it.

**22. Release.** Upon payment of all sums secured by this Security Instrument, Lender shall release this Security Instrument without charge to Borrower. Borrower shall pay any recordation costs.

**23. Waivers.** Borrower waives all rights of homestead exemption in the Property and relinquishes all rights of curtesy and dower in the Property.

**24. Agreement to Mediate or Arbitrate.** Except as set forth below, all claims, counter-claims, disputes, legal controversies, and other matters in question arising out of, or relating to the extension of credit (the "Loan") by Lender to Borrower which is evidenced by the Note, this Security Instrument and all other instruments executed in conjunction with them (collectively the "Loan Agreements") shall be **MEDIATED** by the Borrower and the Lender. This means Borrower and Lender will use an impartial third party (the mediator) to try to resolve the disputed matters instead of filing a lawsuit. If Borrower and Lender cannot agree on the selection of a mediator for a dispute, the mediator shall be selected as follows: within 5 business days of the notice that either Borrower or Lender have decided to mediate, Borrower and Lender shall each name a mediator and notify that mediator and the other party of the selection. Within 5 business days of their selection the mediators shall jointly select an independent mediator to mediate the dispute. The mediation shall occur at a time and place mutually convenient to all parties within a fifty-mile radius of Borrower's residence but no later than 30 days after the mediator is selected.

Borrower and Lender agree to participate in the mediation in good faith with the intention of resolving the dispute, if possible. Legal counsel may, but is not required to, represent Borrower or Lender at the mediation. All mediation sessions will be private, and all information disclosed during the mediation will be confidential. The mediator may prescribe other rules for the mediation. Expenses of the mediation including the mediator's fee shall be shared equally between Lender and Borrower, if allowed by applicable law. Attorneys fees and related expenses are each party's responsibility.

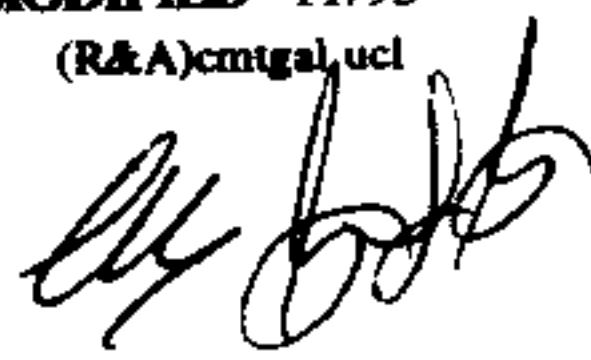
This Agreement to mediate is specifically enforceable.

If for any reason the mediation is not completed within 45 days after the mediator is selected, or if after the mediation, the dispute is still unresolved, such dispute shall be resolved solely and exclusively by arbitration in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association then in effect to the extent allowed by applicable law **except as set forth below**. **THE ARBITRATION WILL TAKE THE PLACE OF ANY COURT PROCEEDING INCLUDING A TRIAL BEFORE A JUDGE OR A JUDGE AND JURY. ANY SUCH ARBITRATION SHALL BE CONDUCTED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, AND NOT AS PART OF A COMMON OR CLASS ACTION. IT IS EXPRESSLY ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED BY BORROWER AND LENDER THAT ANY PURPORTED COMMON ISSUES OF LAW OR FACT SHALL BE RESOLVED ON SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. IF THE APPOINTED ARBITRATOR OR PANEL OF ARBITRATORS SHOULD AWARD ANY DAMAGES, SUCH DAMAGES SHALL BE LIMITED TO ACTUAL AND DIRECT DAMAGES AND SHALL IN NO EVENT INCLUDE CONSEQUENTIAL PUNITIVE, EXEMPLARY OR TREBLE DAMAGES AS TO WHICH BORROWER AND LENDER EXPRESSLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO CLAIM TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.** This agreement to arbitrate shall be specifically enforceable. The award rendered by the arbitration shall be final, nonappealable and judgment may be entered upon it in accordance with applicable law in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The laws applicable to the arbitration proceeding shall be the laws of the state in which the Property is located. The arbitrators shall have no power to vary or modify any of the provisions of the Loan Agreements.

Borrower and Lender agree that the mediation and arbitration proceedings are confidential. The information disclosed in such proceedings cannot be used in subsequent litigation which may result from the dispute.

Borrower and Lender agree that the Loan Agreements executed in conjunction with this loan for one or more of the following conditions involves interstate commerce, because the Borrower's loan is being (i) provided by a lender organized under the laws of, and with its principal place of business in, a state different than the state in which the Borrower resides and the property is located; (ii) made with funds provided by an institution chartered under the laws of either the United States or of another state and physically located in another state; (iii) made to be sold to one or more investors organized under the laws of and physically located in other states; (iv) made to be pooled to back securities issued by a trust organized under the laws of and physically located in other states and sold to investors organized under the laws of and physically located in other states; or (v) repaid by the Borrower on a monthly basis to the Lender in **AL** for remittance to such out-of-state investors.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Agreement to mediate or arbitrate shall not apply with respect to either (i) the Lender's right, but not the obligation, to submit and to pursue in a court of law any actions related to the collection of the debt; (ii) foreclosure proceedings, whether pursuant to judicial action, power of sale, assent to a decree or otherwise, proceedings pursuant to which Lender seeks a deficiency judgment, or any comparable procedures allowed under applicable law pursuant to which a lien holder may acquire title to the Property which is security for this loan and any related personal property (including an assignment of rents or appointment of a receiver), upon a default by the Borrower under the mortgage loan documents; or (iii) an application by or on behalf of the



Borrower for relief under the federal bankruptcy laws or any other similar laws of general application for the relief of debtors, through the institution of appropriate proceedings. These proceedings may be necessary as a matter of law.

**25. Riders to this Security Instrument.** If one or more riders are executed by Borrower and recorded together with this Security Instrument, the covenants and agreements of each such rider shall be incorporated into and shall amend and supplement the covenants and agreements of this Security Instrument as if the rider(s) were a part of this Security Instrument.

[Check applicable box(es)]

☒ Adjustable Rate Rider

☐ Graduated Payment Rider

☐ Balloon Rider

☒ Other(s) Exhibit "A"

☐ Condominium Rider

☐ Planned Unit Development Rider

☐ Rate Improvement Rider

☐ 1-4 Family Rider

☐ Biweekly Payment Rider

☐ Second Home Rider

BY SIGNING BELOW, Borrower accepts and agrees to the terms and covenants contained in pages 1 through 7 of this Security Instrument and in any rider(s) executed by Borrower and recorded with it.

Witnesses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and title:

  
CURTIS BALLENGER (Seal)  
-Borrower

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and title:

  
SALLIE STEARNS (Seal)  
-Borrower

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Seal)  
-Borrower

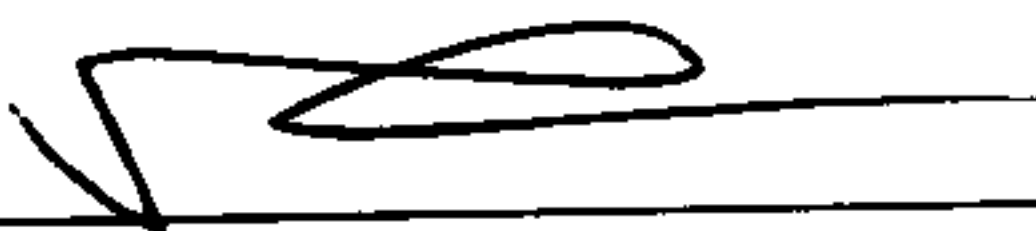
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Seal)  
-Borrower

STATE OF ALABAMA, SHELBY County ss:

On this 11th day of January, 1999, I, a Notary Public in and for said county and in said state, hereby certify that **CURTIS BALLENGER AND WIFE, SALLIE STEARNS**, whose name(s) are signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who are known to me, acknowledged before me that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, they executed the same voluntarily and as their act on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand and seal of office this the 11th day of January 1999.

My commission expires: 2-25-2001

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

B. Christopher Battles

This instrument was prepared by

ROBERTSON & ANSCHUTZ, P.C.  
JEANNE BORDELON  
2425 WEST LOOP SOUTH, SUITE 800  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027-4207

Lot 38, according to the Survey of the Final Record Plat of Greystone Farms, Mill Creek Sector, Phase 2, as recorded in Map Book 21, page 21 in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Alabama; being situated in Shelby County, Alabama.



Loan No: 025700035581  
Borrower: CURTIS BALLENGER AND WIFE, SALLIE STEARNS

## ADJUSTABLE RATE RIDER

(LIBOR 6 Month Index - Rate Caps)

THIS ADJUSTABLE RATE RIDER is made this **eleventh** day of **January, 1999**, and is incorporated into and shall be deemed to amend and supplement the Mortgage, Deed of Trust or Security Deed (the "Security Instrument") of the same date given by the undersigned (the "Borrower") to secure Borrower's Adjustable Rate Note (the "Note") to

**NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE OF BIRMINGHAM, A FEDERALLY CHARTERED COMMERCIAL BANK**  
(the "Lender") of the same date and covering the property described in the Security Instrument and located at:

**6524 MILL CREEK CIRCLE**

**HOOVER, AL 35242**

[Property Address]

**THE NOTE CONTAINS PROVISIONS ALLOWING FOR CHANGES IN THE INTEREST RATE AND THE MONTHLY PAYMENT. THE NOTE LIMITS THE AMOUNT THE BORROWER'S INTEREST RATE CAN CHANGE AT ANY ONE TIME AND THE MAXIMUM RATE THE BORROWER MUST PAY.**

**ADDITIONAL COVENANTS.** In addition to the covenants and agreements made in the Security Instrument, Borrower and Lender further covenant and agree as follows:

### **A. INTEREST RATE AND MONTHLY PAYMENT CHANGES**

The Note provides for an initial interest rate of **9.125%**. The Note provides for changes in the interest rate and the monthly payments, as follows:

### **4. INTEREST RATE AND MONTHLY PAYMENT CHANGES**

#### **(A) Change Dates**

The interest rate I will pay may change on the **first day of February, 2002**, and on that day every **Six month(s)** thereafter. Each date on which my interest rate could change is called a "Change Date."

#### **(B) The Index**

Beginning with the first Change Date, my interest rate will be based on an Index. The "Index" is the average of interbank offered rates for 6 month U.S. dollar deposits in the London interbank market based on quotations of major banks, as published by the Southwest Edition of The Wall Street Journal. The most recent Index figure available as of the date 45 days before each Change Date is called the "Current Index."

If the Index is no longer available, the Note Holder will choose a new index that is based upon comparable information. The Note Holder will give me notice of this choice.

#### **(C) Calculation of Charges**

Before each Change Date, the Note Holder will calculate my new interest rate by adding **Five and Seven Eighths** percentage points (**5.875%**) to the Current Index. The Note Holder will then round the result of this addition to the nearest one-eighth of one percentage point (**0.125%**). Subject to the limits stated in Section 4(D) below, this rounded amount will be my new interest rate until the next Change Date.

The Note Holder will then determine the amount of the monthly payment that would be sufficient to repay the unpaid principal that I am expected to owe at the Change Date in full on the Maturity Date at my new interest rate in substantially equal payments. The result of this calculation will be the new amount of my monthly payment.

#### **(D) Limits on Interest Rate Changes**

The interest rate I am required to pay at the first Change Date will not be greater than **12.125%** or less than **7.125%**. Thereafter, my interest rate will never be increased or decreased on any single Change Date by more than **One** percentage points (**1.000%**) from the rate of interest I have been paying for the preceding **6** months. My interest rate will never be greater than **15.125%** or less than **7.125%**.

#### **(E) Effective Date of Changes**

My new interest rate will become effective on each Change Date. I will pay the amount of my new monthly payment beginning on the first monthly payment date after the Change Date until the amount of my monthly payment changes again.



**(F) Notice of Changes**

The Note Holder will deliver or mail to me a notice of any changes in my interest rate and the amount of my monthly payment before the effective date of any change. The notice will include information required by law to be given me and also the title and telephone number of a person who will answer any question I may have regarding the notice.

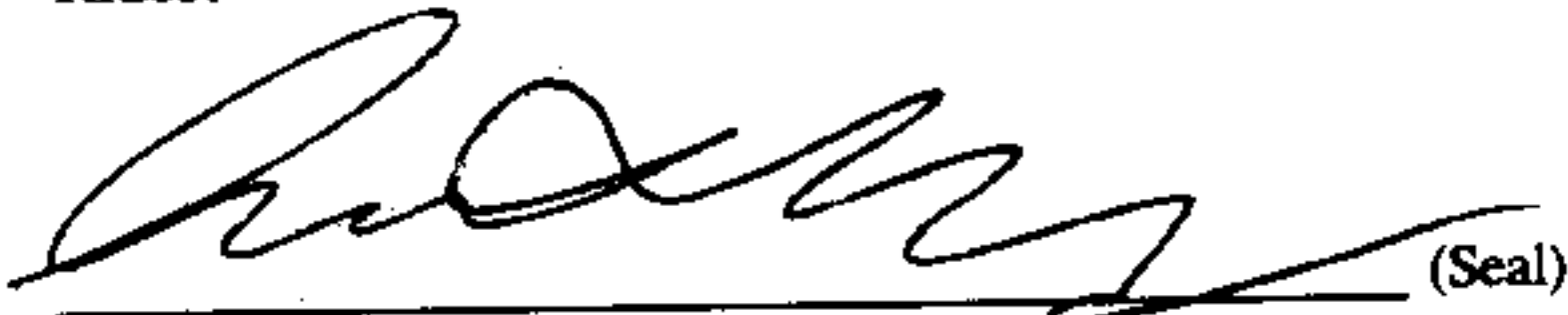
**B. TRANSFER OF THE PROPERTY OR A BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN BORROWER**

Uniform Covenant 17 of the Security Instrument is amended to read as follows:

**Transfer of the Property or a Beneficial Interest in Borrower.** If all or any part of the Property or any interest in it is sold or transferred (or if a beneficial interest in Borrower is sold or transferred and Borrower is not a natural person) without Lender's prior written consent, Lender may, at its option, require immediate payment in full of all sums secured by this Security Instrument. However, this option shall not be exercised by Lender if exercise is prohibited by federal law as of the date of this Security Instrument. Lender also shall not exercise this option if: (a) Borrower causes to be submitted to Lender information required by Lender to evaluate the intended transferee as if a new loan were being made to the transferee; and (b) Lender reasonably determines that Lender's security will not be impaired by the loan assumption and that the risk of a breach of any covenant or agreement in this Security Instrument is acceptable to Lender.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, Lender may charge a reasonable fee as a condition to Lender's consent to the loan assumption. Lender may also require the transferee to sign an assumption agreement that is acceptable to Lender and that obligates the transferee to keep all the promises and agreements made in the Note and in this Security Instrument. Borrower will continue to be obligated under the Note and this Security Instrument unless Lender releases Borrower in writing.

BY SIGNING BELOW, Borrower accepts and agrees to the terms and covenants contained in this Adjustable Rate Rider.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CURTIS BALLENGER (Seal)  
Borrower

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SALLIE STEARNS (Seal)  
Borrower

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Seal)  
Borrower

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Seal)  
Borrower



Loan No: 025700035581  
Borrower: CURTIS BALLENGER AND WIFE, SALLIE STEARNS

## NOTICE CONCERNING MORTGAGE SERVICING TRANSFER AT SETTLEMENT

The servicing of your loan will be transferred effective **March 1, 1999**. This is the date on which your mortgage payment is first due to the lender to whom the servicing of your loan will be transferred (the "Transferee Servicer") pursuant to the assignment, sale or transfer of the servicing of your loan.

### TRANSFEEE SERVICER

The name, address and telephone numbers of the Transferee Servicer are as follows:

**UNITED COMPANIES LENDING CORPORATION  
4041 ESSEN LANE, BATON ROUGE, LA 70809  
(800) 825-1881**

To obtain answers to inquiries relating to the servicing of your loan, you may contact the Transferee Servicer by calling the Customer Service Department at the above number.

### LOAN ORIGINATOR

To obtain answers to inquiries relating to the origination or transfer of servicing, you may contact the lender originating your loan by calling:

**NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE OF BIRMINGHAM  
205/583-3299  
(Toll-free or collect call telephone number)**

The **Loan Originator** will immediately cease to accept payments on your loan. The initial payment and all subsequent payments will be accepted by the **Transferee Servicer** at the address indicated above. **UNITED COMPANIES LENDING CORPORATION** will provide you with a payment coupon booklet within the next two weeks. If, for some reason, you do not receive your coupon booklet before your next payment is due, please write your loan number on your check or money order and send it to the address listed above.

The assignment, sale or transfer of the servicing of your mortgage loan does not affect any term or condition of the security instrument(s) other than terms directly related to the servicing of such loan. The fire and/or homeowners insurance policies currently carried on your property will be transferred to **UNITED COMPANIES LENDING CORPORATION** and will remain in full force. This transfer will not affect the payment of your insurance renewal premiums and taxes.

You should also be aware of the following information, which is set out in more detail in Section 6 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) (12 U.S.C. §2605):

During the 60-day period following the effective date of the transfer of the loan servicing, a loan payment received by the Loan Originator before its due date may not be treated by Transferee Servicer as late, and a late fee may not be imposed on you.

Section 6 of RESPA (12 U.S.C. §2605) gives you certain consumer rights. If you send a "qualified written request" to your loan servicer concerning the servicing of your loan, your servicer must provide you with a written acknowledgment within 20 Business Days of receipt of your request. A "qualified written request" is a written correspondence, other than notice on a payment coupon or other payment medium supplied by the servicer, which includes your name and account number, and your



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reasons for the request. [If you want to send a "qualified written request" regarding the servicing of your loan, it must be sent to the Transferee Servicer's address above.]

Not later than 60 Business Days after receiving your request, your servicer must make any appropriate corrections to your account, and must provide you with a written clarification regarding any dispute. During this 60-Business-Day period, your loan servicer may not provide information to a consumer reporting agency concerning any overdue payment related to such period or qualified written request. However, this does not prevent the loan servicer from initiating foreclosure if proper grounds exist under the mortgage documents.


A Business Day is a day on which the offices of the business entity are open to the public for carrying on substantially all of its business functions.

Section 6 of RESPA also provides for damages and costs for individuals or classes of individuals in circumstances where services are shown to have violated the requirements of that Section. You should seek legal advice if you believe your rights have been violated.

The undersigned have read the above and fully understand it.

Date: January 11, 1999

  
CURTIS BALLENGER Borrower

  
SALLIE STEARNS Borrower

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borrower

\_\_\_\_\_  
Borrower

Inst # 1999-01560

01/12/1999-01560

11:25 AM CERTIFIED  
SHELBY COUNTY JUDGE OF PROBATE  
012 CRH 231.60

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