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Huntsville Houses Vanished

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224 West Holmes Avenue, possibly the Dickson House. This house was a near-twin to the house located at 415 West Holmes Avenue, pictured on the cover. Both were caught in the urban renewal project.

Cover :

A Victorian house at 415 West Holmes Avenue. One of several homes in the downtown area that were demolished in the late 1960's and early 1970's during the urban renewal program. Photograph by Louise Marsh.

Photographs:

By Louise Butler Marsh: pages 10 (top), 14 (bottom), 15, 16 (bottom), 24, Front Cover.

Courtesy of the Huntsville Public Library, Zeitler Room : pages 2, 4-9, 10 (bottom), 11-13, 14 (top), 16 (top), 17-23.

Huntsville Houses

Vanished

Featured in this issue are old houses which have vanished from the Huntsville scenery. A few of them were lost to fire in the last century; some have burned or have been razed in this century to make way for other construction. Several were among the earliest homes built in Huntsville, and many of them were superb examples of their various styles of architecture. So disaster and progress have taken their toll, but without progress, Huntsville would still be a small, sleepy cotton town.

Fortunately, many people have begun to recognize the importance of our rich architectural heritage. Historic districts and civic boards have been formed, and zoning laws and building codes have been made more favorable toward historic preservation. Perhaps the progress made in the preservation movement will help to prevent the intentional destruction of our many remaining treasures of early domestic architecture, which add to the beauty and charm of Huntsville.

Although several of these houses have been featured in past **Quarterlies**, pertinent information was not readily available on many of the homes pictured here. In fact, if readers can provide further information on any of these homes, the editor can be reached through the HHF P.O. Box address or at 883-8474 or 536-3631.

For much information and identification of a number of these homes, special thanks are in order to Linda Bayer of the Huntsville Planning Department, to Margaret Henson of the Huntsville Library Heritage Room, and to Louise Marsh who provided several excellent photographs and colorful reminiscences.

The houses featured in these pages represent only a portion of the homes that have disappeared from Huntsville neighborhoods. Perhaps in due time, photographs will surface of other long-gone homes. In the meantime, native Huntsvillians and long-time residents are herein offered a nostalgic tour through the past, and relative newcomers can perhaps imagine the way our old residential streets used to look.



608 Adams Street. The John Wallace Home. At least two additions were built onto this house - the front part appears to have been added in the late 1800's, and the bungalow style porch was probably added after that. The house was torn down in the early 1970's and a new home was built on this site.





Church Street. The Hertzler Home.



445 W. Clinton Avenue. The A. F. Evans Home, from a 1901 photograph with two notations penciled on back: "1st A. & M. Bldg." and "This is where I boarded during the year 1900. - A.P.B." This home was caught in the urban renewal program of the late 1960's and early 1970's.





This Eustis Avenue house was located two doors east of the Green Street intersection - approximately on the site of the present Madison County Health Department. Built prior to 1819, probably by Col. John Read, it was reputed to have been one of Huntsville's earliest houses. It was originally a two-story log house in the Federal style, with weatherboarding added later. In the mid-1800's, it was the home of Dr. and Mrs. Amatus Burrett, grandparents of Dr. William Burrett whose Monte Sano mansion is now a museum.





This photo, taken by Alex Bush in 1935, shows the Dr. Burrett House on Eustis Avenue after having been remodeled. It was demolished prior to the 1952 construction date of the Madison County Health Department.





Eustis Avenue - at the northeast corner of Green Street. The Calhoun House, built during 1833-1840 by William Smith, was inherited by Smith's granddaughter, Mary Smith Calhoun. During the Civil War, the house was used as a hospital for federal troops and later as Union headquarters. The mansion also housed a dancing academy, the U. S. Circuit Court (Frank James was tried and acquitted there in 1884), tenements, and a private school. The house was torn down in 1911.





The Eustis Avenue home of T. W. Pratt, president of West Huntsville Cotton Mills Company. Pratt bought this house in 1920. Now on this site is the annex of the First Presbyterian Church.



Fountain Row (formerly named Oak Street). The Hutchens Home was near the present Public Library. 1963 photograph.

325 Franklin Street - northeast corner of Franklin and Gates. The George R. Holmes Home. The Huntsville Clinic was located in this house prior to its demolition. A brick office building is presently on this site.





221 N. Green Street. The William F. Struve Home. The top photograph was taken in 1890 and the bottom one in 1914. Now on this site is the Winn-Dixie Super Market at Walker and Meridian streets near Monroe.





The Monte Sano summer home of William F. Struve, from a 1902 photograph.



The Grove plantation, built in 1815 by Dr. James Manning. The mansion was located approximately at the site of the present Mental Health Center, in the area bounded by Lowe, Fountain Row and Williams streets. The house was torn down in the mid-1920's.





600 Grove Avenue - southwest corner of Grove (now named Manning) and Madison streets. The Lawler-Daye House, for many years a rooming house, was demolished in 1976. An office building is now at this location.

700 E. Holmes Avenue at Five Points. The J. E. Pierce Home, built of limestone. From a 1925 photograph. Pierce was general manager and editor of the Times Publishing Company.





516 E. Holmes Avenue. The old Suggs Home. This house burned in 1976.



W. Holmes Avenue. The Mrs. Mastin Home in 1969. This early early brick house in the Federal style was caught in the urban renewal project.





W. Holmes Avenue. The Dr. Moorman House in 1964, also located in the urban renewal area.

W. Holmes Avenue. A Victorian cottage with Moorish turret. Yet another one in the urban renewal area. 1968 photograph.





203 Lincoln Street. The O'Neal-Miller House. Owned by the Central Presbyterian Church, this house was demolished in 1982 to provide open space for future church needs.

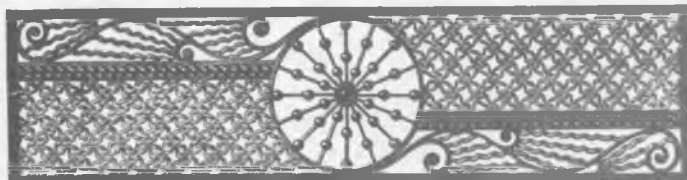


Madison Street. The Frances Davis Home, pictured in 1968, was torn down in the late 1960's or early 1970's. An office building is now on this lot.



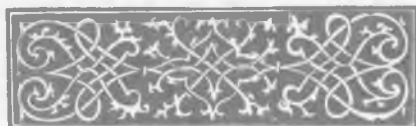


Meridian Street across from Lincoln Mills. Abingdon Place, home of Milton Humes, the agent of Lincoln Mills. On the garage at right, notice the castellated roofline which corresponds to the rooflines of the mill buildings. This house, owned by the Huntsville Boys Club, was torn down c. 1969, and a modern, more functional Boys Club building was constructed on the site in 1970.





Meridian Street near Oakwood Road. Forestfield, built c. 1835, home of James Robinson. This early photograph is of Oaklawn (Meridian Street at Highway 72 East), home of James Robinson's brother John. The two houses were nearly exact duplicates. Forestfield burned during the Civil War, but Oaklawn survives, as stately as ever.





Meridian Street. Melrose Place, home of F. W. Webster. Built c. 1907, it was designed by Huntsville architect Edgar L. Love. A Webster house, possibly this one, was torn down c. 1922 to make way for a subdivision off Meridian Street.





Monte Sano Mountain. Gatehouse and gate to the James O'Shaughnessy lodge.



Monte Sano Mountain. The James O'Shaughnessy lodge, from an 1890 photograph taken before the house burned in March of that year.





Oakwood Road at Pulaski Pike. Orchard Place, home of Maj. Milton Moss. Built c. 1904, it was originally called Hilltop. In 1925 the house and 228 acres were purchased for use as a Golf and Country Club. After the house burned in August 1933, the barn was used for a while as the clubhouse. Huntsville Country Club still occupies this site.





604 Randolph Avenue. The Donegan-Campbell House was torn down c. 1926. Huntsville High School was built there in 1927, later becoming Huntsville Junior High and presently the Annie Mertz Center.





Whitesburg Drive. Piedmont Stock Farm was the home of W. F. Garth. Built in the late 1800's, the house was designed by Huntsville architect Edgar L. Love.



Whitesburg Drive. The Fleming Home.





Randolph Street. The Laxon Home. "The Death of a House" is the name of a watercolor painted by Louise Marsh from this photograph taken in 1966. The steeple of the First Methodist Church is visible in the center background.

