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Letter to the Editor

Freeda Brockway Darnell

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Letter to the Editor:

July 30, 1994

Mrs. Elise Stephens, Editor
Historic Huntsville Quarterly
P.O. Box 786
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Dear Mrs. Stephens,

Thank you for the excellent summer edition of the *Quarterly*. Each article is important and informative. The variety of the articles reflects the variety of the work done and to be done by the Foundation.

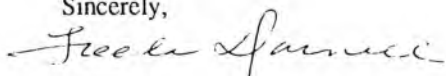
Perhaps your readers would like to know of the Foundation's part in the preservation of the A. G. Plummer house, the subject of Mr. Gary Griner's excellent article entitled, "A. G. Plummer, House Carpenter."

The 1984 HHF Board of Directors laughingly called themselves "Watchdogs." And watchdogs they were, for that was the "Harrison Brothers Hardware" year and the I-565 demolition year. There was great concern for very old trees, houses and businesses that were in the way of progress. We were also aware that the Church of the Nazarene needed space for a church life center and that they were planning to have the Plummer house, which they owned, demolished. As is often the case, the Board only learned about the danger to the Plummer house after the "deal was done." Brenda Courtney, Board Member, was asked to contact the church and possible buyers, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Orton. Mr. and Mrs. Orton were local antique dealers and Mrs. Courtney knew of their love for "old and valuable things." The Ortons wanted the house, the church wanted the space, Mr. Kennedy wanted the house-moving job and all was well. The Foundation was happy to be the matchmaker and very happy that the house was SAVED!

This timely article also helps point to another project that was begun in 1984, but not yet completed. Efforts were started to organize a preservation district for East Huntsville. Perhaps now that energetic and interested young couples, such as Heidi and Robert Contrell, live in the district, the time is right to renew the effort to preserve the area.

Thank you again for your efforts to report and record history.

Sincerely,



Freeda Brockway Darnell



Photo by Carol Highsmith; featured in *America Restored and Historic America*. (see Advertisements, page 177).