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THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE QUARTERLY OF LOCAL ARCHITECTURE AND PRESERVATION



**THE FIVE POINTS HISTORIC DISTRICT:
A COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS**

HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION

Founded 1974

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Cover: The logo for the Five Points Historic District Association is used for historic house markers, publications, flags, and other items. When used as a historic house marker, the sign includes the date and name of the original owner of the structure. Courtesy Susan Bridges.

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THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE QUARTERLY OF LOCAL ARCHITECTURE AND PRESERVATION

Volume XXVII, Nos. 1 & 2

Spring & Summer 2001

THE FIVE POINTS HISTORIC DISTRICT: A COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS

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From the Editor

A neighborhood is rarely defined as strictly and rigidly as a historical district. Neighborhoods grow and change over time, both physically through architecture and emotionally through the people who live there. The designation of an area as a historic district is one way to help preserve the architectural story of a neighborhood's growth and change. But how do we preserve the feeling of a neighborhood?

Architects of the last few decades have tried to analyze the ideal neighborhood of their youth and find the elements that a newly designed neighborhood should incorporate. Seaside, Florida and local Hampton Cove are examples of these planned communities. The ideal neighborhood contains a public plaza or square, stores within walking distance, homes with front porches, an emphasis on pedestrian traffic, and an architectural style which combines many historic details on individual homes to create a cohesive neighborhood. Other planners mimic growth over time by making every fifth house a "Victorian," or adding looping streets that break the grid associated with planned communities.

In researching and interviewing residents of the Five Points Historic District and surrounding neighborhood, the element that stood out was not a single architectural cohesion. It was a sense of history, growth, and a true concern of the neighbors for their homes and each other. Five Points encompasses architecture from the early 1900s to the present. It is cohesive in its sense of place more than its looks. And it tells a story.

The stories are an important element that architects cannot find when analyzing plans, structures, and details. The job of a publication like the *Quarterly* is to record the intangible elements—the history part of historic preservation—and show how the architectural artifacts trigger or contain these very human and emotional elements.

The interviews with residents past and present are amazingly vivid. Particular homes have a well-known story that is still told today, long after the structure is gone. Other stories trace the use, abuse, and reuse



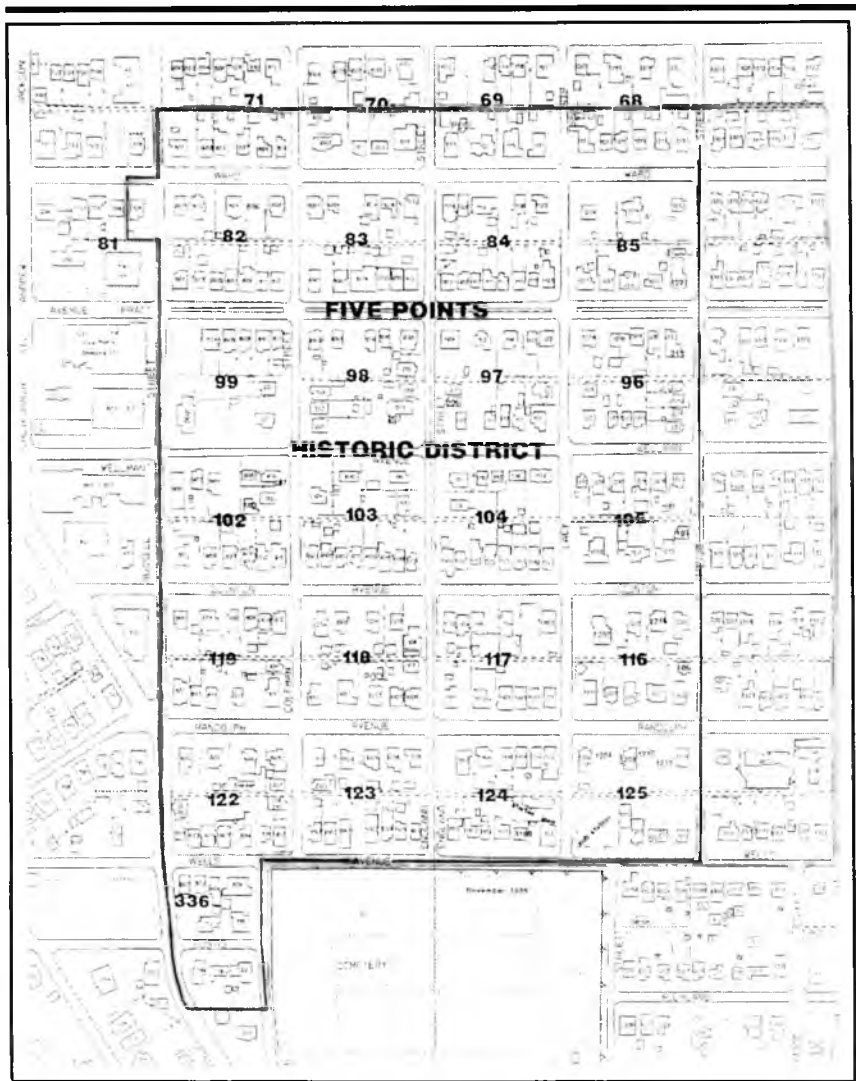
Home—Mother and son sitting on the back porch steps. Courtesy Willard Young and Susan Bridges.

of a home. Series of photographs of families and their homes show the changes to the structure that paralleled changes in the family situation—sometimes more clearly than the owners and neighbors wished.

The neighborhood of Five Points illustrates the changes and growth of residential architecture. For this reason it was designated a Historic District. What cannot be designated or defined is the continuing sense of history that the community of neighbors inhabits, lives, and builds. It is hoped that the following information, photos, and stories will inspire you to visit the Five Points Historic District to understand how it fits into the larger community of Huntsville, but perhaps it will show you the connection between architecture and people on the scale of neighborhood.

—Heather A. Cross

Editorial Note: The format for documentation and citation in this issue follows the most recent updates of the Modern Language Association (MLA) style. Any publishing issues follow The Chicago Manual of Style.



Five Points Historic District, 1999—Although the Five Points Historic District does not cover all of the area known as Five Points, nor the entire East Huntsville Addition, it does encompass prime examples of vernacular domestic architecture from the late 1890s through the 21st century. Houses in the area identified as historic structures are marked with signs denoting the name and date of the structure. Courtesy Susan Bridges.

From Addition to District: An Overview of Five Points

Linda Allen

The first historic district established in Huntsville was Twickenham in 1972; the idea for it began in the early 1960s, but there was considerable opposition to such a move. Also, before it could be established, the state legislature had to adopt enabling legislation giving the city council authority to designate historic districts and set up a review commission with oversight of the district. In 1974 Old Town was designated. Not until 1992 did the next district—the oldest portion of the Alabama A&M University campus—come into being. This makes the Five Points Historic District Huntsville's fourth historic preservation district.

Process

The creation of a district requires that petitions requesting historic status be signed by at least sixty percent of the property owners in a defined area and be submitted to the city. A public hearing before the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission follows receipt and verification of the petitions. The commission's recommendation is forwarded to the city council, which considers the request and votes on the ordinance to establish the district.

A possible Five Points historic district was seriously considered in 1982 when the Historic Huntsville Foundation sponsored a meeting with area residents to assess whether there was sufficient interest on the part of owners to pursue the process. The area targeted extended from Oakwood Avenue to Maple Hill cemetery and from Maysville



The Five Points Historic District marker—Homes in the FPHD display this marker with the name and date of the original owner. The logo is also used on the FPHD Association's newsletter and other items such as flags.

Road to Andrew Jackson Way. Petitions were circulated, but the scope was too large and was unworkable—in part due to large numbers of absentee landowners. Later the target area was reduced to south of McCullough, and work began again. The requisite number of petitions was still unobtainable. The quest lay dormant until 1994 when the city again received inquiries about the procedure from several homeowners. This time they succeeded in securing the necessary support, but only by restricting the boundaries to a smaller area where interest was concentrated. The hope was that if a smaller district could be established, then adjoining blocks might later be encouraged to join the district by following the same procedure.

It took five years for a small group of dedicated neighbors to secure the necessary petitions for a district that runs from Ward Avenue to Wells and Eustis Avenues and from Russell Street to Minor Street. The district encompasses approximately 260 houses and 243 owners of

which sixty-eight percent participated in the district request (see map on page 3).

Architecture

The Five Points District began as the East Huntsville Addition and grew slowly over the course of a century. For this reason it illustrates the change in style and building type for both commercial and residential structures. Neighborhood housing began with types popular at the turn of the 19th century and spanned the



1115 Ward Ave.—*The Livingston home was built in 1929. The bungalow elements include large overhangs, a front dormer, a deep front porch, and a porte-cochere.*
Photo Susan Bridges.



808 Ward Ave.—*Simple Victorian wood-frame homes retain the varied massing and L-shapes of more elaborate Victorians. The exterior details are simpler and restricted to the use of shingles or siding. This updated version is aluminum sided.*
Photo Susan Bridges.



1205 Clinton—*A brick home of Cape Cod massing but detailed around the door and chimney with English Cottage stone work and a slight Tudor influence on the peaks. Photo Susan Bridges.*

entire 20th century stylistic range as infill development occurred.

Rather than a museum-like concentration of one period, the area illustrates the evolution of middle-class housing in 20th century Huntsville. These range from modest one- and two-story vernacular Victorian homes displaying a minimum of decorative woodwork to an endless variety of bungalows that experienced great popularity in the 1920s. The bungalow is primarily identified by a low,

quiet roofline, stick brackets under the eaves, broad front porches, and one- or one-and-a-half stories with front dormers. Some bungalows demonstrated Arts and Crafts details while a few homes revived the English Cottage tradition with a few distinctive details centered around entryways and chimneys.

Mid-century housing for the masses tended toward simple and plain designs based on the Cape Cod house and was constructed of wood. By the 1950s Huntsville experienced tremendous growth, and houses were built wherever there were vacant lots. These houses of the 50s and 60s illustrate the popularity of the ranch style. In a neighborhood of forty feet wide lots, these long low brick homes required a minimum of two lots to stretch across. Even today, new houses appear or older homes are remodeled in a neo-style that freely mixes historic and modern elements and materials to create new designs.



1122 Wellman—*Apartments provided landlords with suburban income. The German Bauhaus influence can be seen on this 1930s building in the large casement windows, simple box shape, and smooth exterior. The shutters and slope to the entry overhang are probably later additions. Photo Susan Bridges.*

Significance

The collection of buildings in the Five Points neighborhood is significant because of what it can tell us of our city's historic and architectural past as well as illustrate the continuing need for housing and a sense of place over time. More specifically:

- The East Huntsville Addition was created as part of the effort of local businessmen to revitalize Huntsville and attract industry and jobs following the destruction brought by the Civil War. The subdivision's beginnings are tied to 19th century events, but they also contributed to the initial effort to shape the city's future through active recruitment of jobs and businesses rather than a continued reliance on agriculture.
- The Five Points neighborhood retains its 19th century grid layout of broad, parallel streets, narrow but deep lots, and rear service alleys which permit pedestrian-oriented streets since cars can be parked and garbage picked up in the rear. It is in fact the prototype of the New Urbanism that shows up in planned communities like Seaside, Florida where architects try to recreate the neighborhood feeling of the past.
- East Huntsville was the first suburb in Huntsville made feasible by the construction of a streetcar line which allowed working people to live farther than walking distance from jobs and shopping without owning an automobile.



Trolley Car—The convenience of the trolley made it possible for workers to live farther from their place of employment, and the sides of cars provided advertising space. Courtesy Old Huntsville Photo Album CD.



1018 Ward Ave.—*The Toney-Uptain home is a two-story Colonial style that was built in 1941. This was the start of adaptations of many historical styles to incorporate modern use. Homes also no longer needed to respond to climate, thus a New England type Colonial in the South. Photo Susan Bridges.*

- As the first—and second—tract of land to be annexed into 20th century Huntsville, the area broke the regular, compact plan of 19th century Huntsville and set a pattern for future annexations as the city grew and prospered.
- At over 100-years-old, the mature subdivision features large trees and substantial plantings, sidewalks, front porches, a comfortable scale, a unity of street line, and a variety of housing styles, materials, sizes, and massing—features which are not possible when a neighborhood is developed over a relatively short time span.
- The Five Points area stands as an example of 20th century, middle-class, vernacular housing because of its incremental construction. When walking its streets, one can see how tastes have changed and evolved over time while still fitting into the Victorian framework that initially formed its boundaries. Overall, its interest and charm come from the continued sense of neighborhood and a history of place.



1315 Ward Ave.—*Modern infill housing combines some historic elements and a general massing of the district. Photo Susan Bridges.*

Linda Allen works for the Huntsville Planning Department. This article was adapted from a presentation she gave on the East Huntsville Addition to the Historic Huntsville Foundation in 2000.

Five Points: A Bright and Shining Star

Gwen Walker

In September 1999, the Huntsville Preservation Commission unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council establish the Five Points Historic District. On October 28, 1999, the City Council cast its final vote, and the Five Points Historic District was born. This was the culmination of months and months of work by residents of the district, city officials, and others. At that same time, the Five Points Historic District Association was organized and is now busy at work in several areas to help preserve and protect this unique neighborhood and to formulate and implement great plans for its future.

Five Points has been an integral part of the fabric of Huntsville. This area was the first annexed by the City of Huntsville and thus became its first “suburb.” The names of the streets are a roll call of the early movers and shakers of the young city: Pratt, Wellman, Wells, Ward. The names of those who have resided in this neighborhood—Pierce, Russell, Grey, Ray, Sparkman, Walker, Locke, Goodson—are all names still familiar to long-time Huntsvillians. Businesses that have located and flourished in the still bustling commercial district—Zesto’s, Star Market, Brownie Drug Store, Propst Drugs, Lanza Grocery Store, The Pub, Jean’s Dress Shop, and Service Cleaners, to name a few—are icons, some still thriving and all remembered by those who have called Huntsville home.

A pivotal point in the history of the city occurred in the late 1800s. Up to the time of the Civil War in 1861, the economy of the area was driven by agriculture, mainly the growing and marketing of cotton. After the end of the War, industrialists and investors began pouring into the South looking for sites to build mills and plants and a labor force to put into them. Here they found an impoverished and war-ravaged people leaving the farms, looking for work, desperately needing jobs. These two forces came together and changed the face of Huntsville forever.



East Huntsville Addition, surveyed May 9, 1892—The four block section left undivided was intended as a park. It was later bought by Emma Wells and subdivided. Courtesy Susan Bridges & H/MCPL (Plat Book 1, p35).

A group of men called The Northwestern Syndicate came to Huntsville from South Dakota. This group included W.I. Wellman, W.S. Wells, James A. Ward, and T.W. Pratt. They joined in a partnership with Col. J.F. O'Shaughnessy and three Huntsvillians—Milton Humes, J.R. Stevens, and C.H. Halsey. This group incorporated and became the Northwest Land Association (NLA). The January 6, 1892 *Huntsville Weekly Democrat* wrote, "The entire capitalization, it is understood, is \$6,000,000 and is very pleasant news to our citizens." Pleasant news, indeed; this was a huge amount of money, even by today's standards.

In addition to starting many of Huntsville's largest mills, this group also began to plan a neighborhood known as the East Huntsville Addition. This neighborhood was never owned by or part of a mill property, but was one of the development projects undertaken by the

Five Points Area—The trolley tracks, and there vicinity to the homes, can be seen through the middle of the photo, just at the level of the woman's elbow.

Courtesy Emery/ Bridges.



NLA. Platted in on February 13, 1888, the future Five Points land was deeded by the North Alabama Improvement Company to the NLA in 1892. Officers of the NLA included W.S. Wells, President and W.I. Wellman, Secretary. Mr. Wellman was also the president of the downtown Farmers' and Merchants' Bank.

In 1900 the announcement was made that the East Huntsville property, now Five Points, was to be placed on sale. It was described in various newspaper publications as "the prettiest residential section in Huntsville" and the "flower" of the residential areas. The *Huntsville Mercury* concluded one article stating, "Certainly the most fastidious prospector will be pleased with the property soon to be offered the public in east Huntsville, and those with sufficient forethought to make the first selections will deserve the congratulations of their friends and a discriminating public."

The jewel of a neighborhood sitting with the foot of Monte Sano to the east, historic Maple Hill Cemetery to the south, Old Town Historic District to the west, and a visible symbol of the city's progressive outlook—Interstate 565—to the north, Five Points is again coming alive. A bright and shining star, it illuminates the rich history of the past and points the way to promises of the future.

Gwen Walker lives in Five Points on Pratt Ave. She has been published in the Old Huntsville Magazine, where a version of this article previously appeared. Ms. Walker also serves as the Secretary and Chairperson of the History Committee of the Five Points Historic District Association (FPHDA).

Five Points Reminiscences

Diane Ellis

Dorothy Love Adair and McKinney “Mack” Thomas share a birth year—1917—as well as decades of memories as childhood playmates in the close-knit Five Points neighborhood on Huntsville’s east side. Dorothy’s recollections actually span a longer period of time because she lived in Five Points much of her life. Mack moved to the area from New Hope when he was four or five years old and left the neighborhood some nine or ten years later.



Mack Thomas’s Five Points home is gone, but he recalls that it was next door to the 1916 DeYoung house located at 201

801 East Holmes Avenue—*The 1905 Adair home as it appears today. Photo Diane Ellis.*

Dement Street (then called 2nd Avenue) and was built in the same style. Dorothy’s home was the two-story house at 801 East Holmes Avenue that anchors the leafy triangle of land bounded by Pratt and East Holmes Avenues, Dement Street, and Andrew Jackson Way. In the front yard is an Old Town Historic District Marker with the words “Adair 1905.” Dorothy was born in this house and lived here off and on until December 1999, when she moved to Somerby at Jones Farm. The Adair house had been built by the Wellman family who owned much of the property nearby on Holmes and Pratt. Dorothy’s family moved into the house in 1912, the fourth family to live there. Dorothy

and Mack's Five Points recollections differ sometimes in the details, but certain images are strong in the memories of both former residents: the few neighborhood businesses; a ditch that was a watercourse for Monte Sano run-off which snaked through the neighborhood, providing myriad play opportunities for kids; the streetcar; and "The Pierce Place."

The Pierce place was the home of J. Emory Pierce, publisher of *The Huntsville Daily Times*, and his family. Their property occupied the Five Points triangle bordered by Dement Street, East Holmes Avenue, and Andrew Jackson Way (5th Avenue then, Mack remembers). It consisted of an architecturally eccentric limestone rock house, plus, Mack recalls, a barn, a garage, and a buggy house. There was a mural painted by Mrs. Pierce inside the house and an "observatory," which was also a playroom for the Pierce's baby girl, Melrose. A stone wall surrounded the property, and Dorothy remembers that the children of the neighborhood played on it all the time.

A portion of that wall can still be found, preserved between the two gas stations now located on the triangle. A plaque on this remnant reads, "This rock wall is the last remaining of a beautiful wall around Mr. J. Emory Pierce's 'CASTLE' on Holmes Street that distinguished this



The Pierce Place—The J. Emory Pierce home at East Holmes Avenue at Five Points, 1925. Now demolished, the home was also known as the Wedding Cake House due to its eccentric architectural style. Photo courtesy McKinney Thomas & Huntsville/Madison County Public Library (H/MCPL).

neighborhood in east Huntsville. The wall matched the structure of the home.” The plaque notes that the work on this bit of preservation was done by the Coca-Cola Company.

Dorothy recalls Mr. Pierce as being a good writer and Mrs. Pierce as also writing, working at home on social items for the newspaper. She clearly remembers Mr. Pierce walking downtown to work each morning, wearing a hat and dangling a walking cane from his arm. Mack recalls that “Mr. Pierce was tall and very erect and dressed very nicely all the time and wore a big hat.” Mack says that it was sometimes Mr. Pierce’s habit to walk down the middle of the streetcar track on his way to work, not giving way to an oncoming train until the last possible moment. With its idiosyncratic house and outbuildings, the rock wall, a pony, and a horse or two, the Pierce’s property was a magnet for children.

The streetcar was also popular with the area’s residents. “Really interesting to everybody,” Dorothy remembers, “The neighborhood boys would hitch rides by hanging onto the outside of the train.” Because her family had a car and she lived close enough to walk or ride her bike to town, Dorothy didn’t ride the streetcar very often, but she remembers that it went from Holmes up one block on Pratt Avenue to what is now Russell Street, turned left, and went out to Oakwood Avenue and on to Dallas Mill. She says the trainman would go to the other end of the train, reverse course, and travel on to the courthouse.

The streetcar was useful transportation for residents of the expanding mill villages, and it served the textile mills in west Huntsville. Mack remembers that there were five cars, and he believes the fare was a nickel or a dime. A passenger could ride downtown, then get a transfer for a nickel to continue on from there. Ticket books were available for frequent riders. Mack had a friend whose father was a motorman.

The ditch was a favorite play place for the neighborhood children—more for boys than girls, as Dorothy recalls, because boys were allowed to engage in more rough-and-tumble activities than young ladies. The dirt trench carried mountain run-off down Wellman, across Andrew Jackson, and under the Pierce property to the opposite side of Dement Street. It went down Dement to East Holmes and Pratt, all the

way to Dallas Avenue, and on under Goldsmith-Schiffman field. Mack remembers playing in the ditch near Wellman Avenue and a hump in the sidewalk where the ditch passed under the Pierce property. As development increased in the area, the city lined the ditch with cement and boxed in the culvert.

Dorothy remembers East Holmes and Pratt Avenues as dirt roads and the presence of fields on Pratt when real estate development was still in the future. Both remember the early business enterprises in the neighborhood, such as the McKissack family's grocery store on East Clinton Avenue and the John Scott Florist and Greenhouse on Wellman, later taken over by the Pearsall family (in 1999 a Pearsall relative, Kirk Carlisle, bought Dorothy's Holmes Avenue house to use for his art business). Dorothy's grandmother and aunt traded at McKissack's, but her immediate family bought their groceries at T.T. Terry's on South Side Square. Mack's family met their grocery needs through their own business. His father and two uncles owned the Lowe Mill store, Chaney and Thomas, until the mill shut down and the family moved to a farm east of New Hope in 1931. Mack helped on the Chaney and Thomas grocery wagon during his Five Points years.

Dorothy also remembers a kind of farmer's market downtown in the Big Spring area as well as the occasional vegetable peddlers with wagons. And "the goat man." The goat man was the legendary Dr. William H. Burritt, who delivered goat's milk in his "square, funny car." Mack recalls that there was "a little bitty one-horse Texaco Station" on Andrew Jackson run by a Mr. Osborn, and a large two-story house on the spot where Star Market is today. The demolition of that house quickened the pace of commercial development in the area according to Dorothy.

Dorothy's recollections of her early years include memories of occasional Sunday afternoon visits to Big Spring Park to witness members of St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church undergo baptism in the spring. She found this to be an unusual and interesting event, and she remembers being told the difference between sprinkling and immersion. Dorothy's father owned an insurance business and many of his clients were participants in the baptisms. The development of the Meadow Gold dairy business occasioned another Sunday pastime

that is part of her childhood memories. After church her father would drive the family to the dairy where he knew which door would be open for him to buy a quart of ice cream to go with the Sunday cake her mother had made the day before.

The years have been kinder to Dorothy's Five Points triangle than to the Pierce family's triangle across the street. Some time after the Adairs moved to 801 East Holmes they remodeled the 1905 house to add a bedroom and a bathroom on the first floor, so the house we see today doesn't look like the original, but it's a very handsome house in its "newer" configuration. Dorothy recalls that in the summer her parents would forsake their downstairs bedroom for a more comfortable night with Dorothy and her brothers upstairs on the sleeping porch. When Dorothy decided to sell the home place, a friend of hers with family and business ties to the neighborhood was able to carry out a sensitive adaptive re-use of the house to suit his business needs. That sleeping porch, with newly insulated windows, is now Kirk Carlisle's office.

The tip of the Adair triangle was a popular playground for kids when Dorothy was a child. She remembers that her mother always wanted to plant grass there but her father said to let the children play, there would be time to plant grass later. The Wellmans had decided that tip of land to the city, with the stipulation that nothing be built on it. Thanks to the Wellmans, Adairs, and Carlisles this little oasis in the middle of Five Points should be as pleasing to future generations as it has been to those in the past.



Home of J.E. Pierce—Photo from a local newspaper, date unknown. Note the fairly consistent size of the bays between the pilasters and the varying symmetry of the facade. Courtesy McKinney Thomas & H/MCPL.



J. Emory Pierce Home—The structures and property at East Holmes Avenue at Five Points were surrounded by a filled stone wall which incorporated electric light fixtures. Photo date unknown, courtesy McKinney Thomas and HMCPL.

Bios

Dorothy Adair attended East Clinton School and Huntsville High School. She earned a B.S. degree from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia and an M.A. in Music Education from Peabody in Nashville. She taught for four years in Dalton, Georgia and spent four years teaching in schools in Germany. Her musical specialties are piano and organ.

McKinney Thomas attended East Clinton School. He graduated from Auburn University and worked in vocational agriculture in Princeton, Alabama. He served in the army in Europe during World War II. He was in the furniture business for years in Huntsville and Birmingham before moving back to Huntsville in 1977.

Diane Ellis is a member of the Historic Huntsville Foundation. She is an occasional writer for the Quarterly and enjoyed this opportunity to interview Five Points "historians," Ms. Adair and Mr. Thomas. Ms. Ellis thanks them for sharing their memories.

The Old Neighborhood

Lynn Jones

“You really never leave a place you love. Part of it you take with you, leaving a part of you behind.”

Author unknown

For most of us growing up in the 1920s, 30s, and 40s—when families tended to move less often—memories of the house and neighborhood where we grew up are deeply etched in our minds. We can close our eyes and remember the scents, the sounds, the coolness of grass on bare feet, the faces of friends and neighbors. We could draw a floor plan of the rooms in our house and see each tree in its place in the yard. We knew our small world intimately.

A part of what is now commonly referred to as the “Five Points” neighborhood holds such memories for Sarah Huff Fisk, Henry Lee Hilson, and Edgar (Ed) Mitchell, all of whom grew up there. Sarah Fisk is an author, illustrator, and researcher. She was the bookkeeper and historian for the Huntsville Manufacturing Company for many years. Sarah was just 4 years old when her family (mother, father, sister, grandmother, and aunt) moved to 700 (now 701) Ward Avenue in 1919. The one-and-one-half story frame Victorian house, built by Charles N. Vaught in 1900, was one of the earliest homes built in the newly platted (1892) East Huntsville Addition, the town’s first modern subdivision, now known as Five Points (Huntsville Planning Dept). The family lived in the home until 1938.

In the 1980s Sarah and her sister, Martha Lee Huff Pinkerton, collaborated to record their memories of growing up at 700 Ward. *In the Style of our Childhood: A Story of Remembrance*, illustrated by Sarah, describes a time “when life seemed far less complex and infinitely more secure” (Fisk & Pinkerton). In the preface they write, “In spite of hardships, fortunes which ranged from affluence to poverty, and the almost complete lack of labor-saving devices, we led an enjoyable and creative life in a caring and supportive atmosphere. Our family encouraged creativity and generously recognized each



Vaught-Huff-Nicholson home, 1911—700 Ward Avenue (now 701) was built in 1900. This view illustrates the more Victorian elements of the wood frame home such as the porch frieze of spindles and brackets and a baulastrade of spindle work rectangles of Eastlake ornament. Note the electric pole and unpaved road. Courtesy H/MCPL.

other's talents. This being before the days of artificial entertainment, we created our own and took joy in it" (Fisk & Pinkerton).

They continue, "During our growing-up years, the lives of most families revolved around the church, community affairs, and the schools, where dedicated teachers were both admired and respected. Friends regularly visited each other, conversation was an art appreciated and enjoyed. These were times when people were courteous and respectful, helped each other, shared sorrow and joys, endured and persevered, neither expecting nor receiving assistance from the government, regardless of their plight" (Fisk & Pinkerton).

In an interview with Sarah, she reminisced about those years. She recalled when electricity was installed in the house, along with indoor plumbing. The family continued to use water from the backyard well house for washing and kept the gas light fixtures "just in case." Ice was delivered by the ice man, Mr. Moore, and stored in an ice box on

the back porch. Mr. Darwin came in a horse and buggy to pick up mail from the mailbox on the corner. The dirt street was regularly sprinkled by the city until it was paved in the 1920s. With no sewer system in place, the city's sanitary wagon came down the alley regularly to empty the privies. Groceries were delivered to the door. Sarah's father, O. C. Huff, planted five peach trees in the back yard, built a playhouse under the pecan tree, and a hen house where the family raised their own chickens.

Children played hopscotch and jacks, roller skated and jumped rope. Sarah and Martha Lee played for endless hours with their dolls and toy animals, often on the big porch. When they needed to go downtown, the family caught the trolley one block from their house at Ward and what was then Sixth Street. From Sixth St. the tracks proceeded one block, "then they made a wide right-hand curve into Pratt Avenue. The tracks went on down Holmes Street into town and then out to Merrimack Village where the cars turned around" (Fisk & Pinkerton). In spite of the public transportation, Sarah's father drove a 1924 Dodge touring car to work.



There were picnics at the Big Spring and memorable circus parades downtown complete with marching band, elephants, circus wagons carrying wild animals, and a noisy steam calliope. The New York Chautauqua was an annual event eagerly anticipated, with a full week of well-known lecturers, music of all kinds, magic shows, drama, craft demonstrations, and children's entertainment that once included Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

"Memories" Corner of Ward and 6th, 1923—An illustration of the trolley that connected Five Points, the mill villages and downtown Huntsville by Sarah Huff Fisk.
Courtesy Linda Riley.

It was at Chautauqua that Sarah and Martha Lee learned about puppets and marionettes and soon were making their own. They wrote plays and, with other children in the neighborhood, gave performances in



700 Ward Avenue, 1962—The ornament of the porch has been replaced by columns, a solid frieze, and a railing of rectangular baulusters. The brick foundation piers have been filled in, and the spindlework of the upper floor balcony is gone. The changes reflect a Colonial Revival style. However, the pediments contain flat decorations that, along with the massing and irregular planes of roof, suggest the late Victorian original. Courtesy Sarah Huff Fisk.

their side yard.
 Admission was 5¢,
 and proud parents
 were the audience.
 Sarah attended the old
 East Clinton School,
 West Clinton Jr. High,
 and Huntsville High
 School (now the
 Merts Center) the first
 year it opened. The
 class “trip” consisted
 of hiking up the
 mountain to Fagan’s
 Hollow.



701 Ward Avenue, 2001— The restoration done in 1979-80 by architect Harvie Jones consisted mainly of repair and painting for emphasis of Victorian detail. Photo Susan Bridges.

While the Depression loomed and harder times were to follow, Sarah treasures the golden days of her youth in the old neighborhood of Five Points. Many of the stately houses that once stood where what is now the Five Points commercial district are gone. Sarah’s former home, modified several times through the years—restored as an art gallery for Evelyn and Tom Wright in 1980 and now lived in by their daughter, Linda Riley, and her husband Ken—still stands. According to local history, “A number of imposing homes were erected in this suburb at the turn of the century, but the Vaught house is the finest of these to survive” (Jones). The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

Henry Lee Hilson worked as an industrial engineer for the Army, NASA, and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center before his retirement. Henry’s eyes sparkle as he begins to talk about growing up in the Five Points neighborhood. The house where he spent most of his growing-up years, 306 Fifth St. (now Andrew Jackson), was demolished some years ago for commercial development. He and his buddies swam at the YMCA, played baseball and football at Wellman Park, and kick-the-can on warm summer nights. Inspired by their favorite movie serial—“Thunder Mountain” at the Lyric Theatre—



***703 Ward Avenue**—The house where Henry Hilson's family moved when he was sixteen. This simple two-story Victorian was one of the styles typical of Five Points in the early 1900s. The home does not exist today, but sat across the street from the Fisk house. Photo courtesy Henry Hilson.*

depicting cowboys riding out of a cave to do good deeds, they formed the Thunder Mountain Riding Club. Their “cave” was a clubhouse upstairs in the Hilson family’s garage, and their steeds were bicycles. Donning cloaks and rattling pieces of tin to make “thunder,” they rode fearlessly through the neighborhood. Henry didn’t recall the good deeds.

Henry lived next door to the Wellman family. Margaret and Jess Young shared the home with Mrs. Young’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Wellman who built the imposing house which stood on a large lot at the corner of Pratt and what is now Andrew Jackson. The Youngs’ son, Willard, was one of Henry’s good friends. Henry recalls that the Youngs sometimes ate breakfast on their screened porch and often had warm salt-rising bread. One whiff of the bewitching scent of that bread drew Henry like a magnet across the lawn on some pretext, and the Youngs always had an extra slice waiting for him.

Late in the afternoon on hot summer days the Young’s handyman and cook, Ellie, would often load up the family car with kids and take them to a small creek several blocks west of the Big Spring, where they would splash and jump around in the water until their teeth chattered.

The Youngs kept a beautiful sleigh in their barn. When it snowed Ellie would hitch that sleigh up to the car and pull the children around in the snow. This same Ellie also dug a deep trench from the back of the Wellman's barn to the Hilson's property line, covered it with boards and then dirt, making a perfect hide-away tunnel where the boys played and had "rubber gun" battles.

Churches were a big part of the community's life at that time. Henry's family belonged to the old First Baptist Church which once stood across from the Russel Erskine Hotel. He recalls the church as similar in its architecture to the Central Presbyterian Church. When the congregation grew too large, Sunday School classes were held in the Blue Room of the Russel Erskine as well as at the old West Clinton Grammar School, which was about a block and a half west of where the Jeremiah Clemens House now stands.

Miss Bessie Russell was one of Henry's favorite teachers at East Clinton School, but he "loved all [his] teachers." He rode his bike to East Clinton as well as Huntsville Jr. High and rode home for lunch every day. Tom Cornell, a director at the YMCA and scoutmaster at the Methodist Church, led hikes to Fagan Spring and Monte Sano.

During high school most socializing was in people's homes, although girls' social clubs like the "J.U.G."s and "Sub Debs" had big Christmas dances at the Russel Erskine. One center of teenage activity that would be the envy of young people today was Broadway's, a block south of Huntsville Hospital on Madison St. Mr. Broadway opened a sandwich shop there with tables, booths, and a dance floor for Friday and Saturday night dancing.

Ed Mitchell—long-time chairman of the Airport Authority, chief organizer of the Alabama Development Office, City Councilman, Co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington D.C., and the visionary force behind the Huntsville/Madison County Airport and the subsequent International Inter-modal Transportation Center—uses a yellow legal pad and pencil to map, diagram and illustrate as he reminisces about growing up in Five Points.

Ed was about two years old when his father, a master mechanic and machinist, built the family's two-story home which still stands at 903 Pratt Avenue. Ed quickly sketches the floor plan, the details crystal clear in his mind. The house had a basement with a furnace that piped heat into the house and a gas hot water heater. He carefully draws each room and the stairs to the two upstairs bedrooms. There was a garage, a porte-cochere, and a nice front porch. Ed remembers it as a comfortable house, in a close-knit neighborhood: "All up and down the streets families were friends." Like Sarah and Henry, Ed can recite the names, and the names prompt stories.

In those days children invented their own entertainment. Ed recalls the elaborate plan devised by him and a group of his friends, including Willard Young, to build a "trolley" which would run from the top of the Young's tall two-story garage to a large oak tree beside

the house. After much scrounging for the necessary materials, a wooden box (about 3' by 3') was built, then suspended from a long rope spanning the considerable distance. Arguing over who would get to ride first, they finally agreed Willard should go first because it was on his property. Launched from the garage loft, Willard and the box gained momentum quickly. The boys watched Willard's expression turn quickly from glee to horror as he—and then they—realized almost at the same time that no provision had been made for stopping the



903 Pratt, mid-1920s—Notice the bungalow roofline, the under-eave brackets, and the vine-covered trellis porte-cochere. This photo also illustrates the light density of Five Points development at this time. Photo courtesy Ed Mitchell.

trolley. Willard and the trolley slammed into the tree and Willard came flying down, miraculously unhurt. It proved to be both the first and last trolley ride.

Ed, too, attended the old East Clinton Elementary school. He will never forget one particular day there. When Ed was in first or second grade, Charles Lindbergh flew his plane over Huntsville. The principal turned the whole school out to watch as Lindbergh flew no more than 100 feet over the school, and the words "Spirit of St. Louis" on the plane's side were clearly visible. That unforgettable moment possibly triggered Ed's lifelong keen interest in the field of aviation.

Sarah, Henry and Ed all remembered the snaking tubular fire escape at East Clinton School. Apparently there were no fire drills, because Sarah said that she was never inside it. Henry said the children were not *allowed* to go in it. Ed gleefully recalled the times he and his friends climbed from the open end at ground level all the way to the top and slid down on waxed paper.

When we begin to talk about high school, Ed goes upstairs to get his 1937 HHS *Pierian* yearbook, with illustrations by Clarence Watts and Ed Monroe, both of whom already showed the talent that would later make them well-known local artists. Ed lettered in baseball, basketball, and football; was voted most athletic; and was vice-president of the senior class. He also joined the National Guard in high school.

The years of the Great Depression were tough for everyone. The Five Points neighborhood was no exception. Hungry people knocked on doors and begged for food. Ed's mother always managed to feed them something. A poignant example of these hard times occurred one year in the 1930s when Ed's HHS basketball team was scheduled to play Phillips High School in Birmingham. There was one problem. Parents always drove the team to their out-of-town games, and, at this particular time, none of them had money to buy gas. Ed's father had a set of very fine measuring instruments which Ed said "he loved more than anything." His father took them downtown and hocked them to pay for the gas. The team won their game.

The stories continue. We step back in time together, as one recollection brings to mind yet another. We are reluctant to stop, even after several hours. What a wonderful gift that we retain these images from our past. The friends we played with, the secret hiding places, and houses around us almost as familiar as our own. The houses, the people, and their stories. The old neighborhood.

Lynn Jones, former chairman of HHF and assistant editor of the Quarterly from 1980-1983, currently serves on the Publications Committee. Ms. Jones would like to thank each of the three persons she interviewed for the time they spent with her, and their willingness to share their memories, photographs, and stories.

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A Five Points Portrait: Alma Goodson

Debra Brasher

On a gorgeous, windy March afternoon, I had the honor of meeting and interviewing one of Five Points' residents of longevity, Mrs. Alma Naomi Englebert Goodson. There are so many stories that could be told about this beautiful woman of 90 years. With two of her three children also in attendance at her Clinton Avenue home, it was obvious this was a family with a lovingly preserved sense of place.

Mrs. Goodson was born in her family home on Bosses Row—now Oakwood Avenue—in the Dallas Mill area. Her father had been a foreman at the mill and needed to live nearby. Alma and her future husband, Houston, knew each other growing up, but it wasn't until "The Picnic at Fagan Springs" that they knew they were meant to be together. Mr. and Mrs. Houston Goodson eloped to Fayetteville, Tennessee in 1929, but kept it a secret. They both taught at Rison School, and, in those days, a husband and wife could not teach in the same school. Up until it was apparent that their first child was on her way, the secret was kept. Mary Lou was born in the house on Bosses Row.

The new family moved from the Dallas Mill area into Five Points on McCullough Street in 1937, and then to Clinton Avenue in 1940. At this time Clinton Avenue ended just beyond their home at the corner of what is now Grayson Street. Prior to 1940, behind the home on Randolph Avenue, was a private high school called Wills Taylor, and a ballpark was located where the family home now stands. During his youth, Houston had played baseball in this park, and used to tease that their home was "out in left field."

It was an eclectic mixture of folks living on Clinton Avenue then. Russian immigrant Jewish, local Protestant, and Catholic families lived side-by-side, and all got along. "It was a real neighborhood," remarked Alma's son, Bill. The whole neighborhood would take chairs outside every evening to visit and keep an eye on the children playing games such as hide 'n' seek. Mrs. Goodson said that "Five Points was quite different" in the 1940s. Alma Goodson, her daughter, Pat, and Bill

agreed that the invention of the air conditioner did away with much of the interaction and socialization of the neighbors.

In their early married life, the Goodsons owned a grocery store located at Bierne Avenue and Fifth Street (now Andrew Jackson Way). It is still standing and is used as a surveyor's office. The building once had another section, an L-shape, which is where the family lived for a short time. They went on to own five neighborhood groceries—one of which was the Wells Avenue Grocery—in Five Points and surrounding neighborhoods. The neighborhood grocery stores went out of business when the larger stores like Star Market set up shop.

The Goodsons purchased Zesto's in 1950 and ran it until 1975. Mr. Goodson coined the names of the famous "Dip Dog" and "Zesto Burger" for the menu items previously known as a "quickie dog" and a "turtle burger." From 1955 until 1975 the family also owned Goodson's Variety Store, a Five and Dime, which Mrs. Goodson managed. She got to know many people from the neighborhood this way. The store was located behind Zesto's where the clock shop used to be. The smaller stores and five and dimes closed as Parkway City and strip malls were built. Mr. Goodson went on to be City Councilman for three years, and presided as President of the Council during the last term, 1964-68.

Debra Brasher, known by some as the "Mother of the Five Points Historic District," was a driving force in establishing the Five Points Historic District and Association. Ms. Brasher is Vice President of the FPHDA and chairs their multi-media committee. She feels that living in and preserving a historic home is an honor and a pleasure.

In Memoriam: Mattie Ozelle Locke

Interview by Rusty George

Written by Debra Brasher

Mrs. Mattie Ozelle Locke's was one of the first signatures received on the petition to help Five Points become a historic district. She liked the idea then, and she hoped the area would continue to improve and grow. Her life was a testimony of the type of folks who live in the district.

Mrs. Locke celebrated her 101st birthday on November 11, 2000. She lived in three centuries and kept an attitude of strength and Southern charm throughout. After growing up in Hurricane Valley as the second of ten children, she and her family moved to Huntsville in 1926.

Married to J. F. Locke at nineteen, Mattie and her new husband received a horse and buggy for their wedding gift. It is rumored that Mr. Locke had \$1.50 when they married, but went on to do quite well. Mrs. Locke is noted to have said, "He could make money on a flat rock." The Lockes purchased a 1926 Ford Touring car and moved with their children to Florida to make their fortune. Unfortunately, a huge hurricane came and blew everything away. The Lockes returned to Huntsville in their Ford, minus the roof.

In 1945 the family moved into a blockhouse Mr Locke built in Five Points. He ran his business out of the first floor, and the family lived on the second floor. The main house was built in 1952. Both houses are still standing. When asked why they chose Five Points Mrs. Locke remarked simply, "We just liked it."

Mrs. Locke, a homemaker until her children were grown, became the bookkeeper for the family business. Mrs. Locke survived her husband and had three children, six grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She credited hard work for her longevity. "That's all I've ever done," said the gracious woman. Mrs. Locke worked until she was ninety. Sadly, Mrs. Locke passed away on the twenty-eighth of November, 2000.

The Wells Avenue Grocery

Debra Brasher

Back in the 1940s and 1950s you had to pass by the Wells Avenue Grocery to travel to and from California Street and Andrew Jackson Way. The road did not go all the way through as it does now. California Street stopped at the intersection of Maple Hill Cemetery and Wells Avenue, and there stood the Wells Avenue Grocery or “Mrs. Porter’s Store.”

Imagine the days of neighborhood grocery stores—a friendly kind of place that you visited on a daily basis. Upon entering the small storefront you saw a counter about ten feet into the store, the cash register sitting on the left of it. On your right and on your left were tall shelves lining the walls, stocked with food items. Behind the counter were various soft drink crates, and perhaps a bucket or two on which to sit and rest, eat lunch, or share a story with your friends. A small stove heated the store. The meat and cheese counter was located near the back where you might purchase your lunch—a couple of slices of bologna, a slice or two of cheese, and a few soda crackers. Credit was extended to all the patrons of the store. It was always a busy place.

As you walked into the small store, Mrs. Porter, a strong, seventy-something-year-old woman who ran the place, would greet you. All the school-aged children knew Mrs. Porter, because they went there every day before and after classes. Rusty George (of Ward Avenue) was one of those children in the 1950s. He and his buddies hung out there. He suggested that Mrs. Porter was good to keep a secret, and that “she was a nice old lady.”

Today, located on the first block of Wells Avenue near the corner of Maple Hill Cemetery, a concrete street marker and the store name, spelled out in colored marbles, still exist.

Living History in Five Points

Susan Bridges

According to the Huntsville *Weekly Democrat*, October 12, 1892, Vol. XXVI, "East Huntsville is a cynosure for citizens in their drives and walks, with its broad, beautiful avenues and street homes and general air of prosperity, makes that portion of town especially attractive." That East Huntsville Addition later became the neighborhood we call Five Points. And that's where we have had the good fortune to reside.

When my husband, Rob, and I first moved into our house, passers-by would inquire about the man who used to sit at the picnic table in our backyard. It was a pleasant feeling that so many people were concerned about Bobby, my father-in-law, but sadly we had to explain that he had recently lost his battle with cancer. We were now the owners of this lovely cottage—a lovely cottage in need of a lot of work and tons of love. Fortunately, we had plenty of love and determination to shape our small house into a comfortable home. But owning a home in Five Points is more than occupying a residence, it's being part of a thriving residential and commercial community.

While we were busy working on a total remodel of our house, hardworking neighbors were busy putting a plan together to establish Five Points as a historic district. We were approached to sign a petition to help convince the City of Huntsville of the importance of preserving the history and way of life so many have known and shared. Of course we wanted to



Mr. M. Emery—Photographed on a pony, as were many neighborhood children. Courtesy Emery/Bridges.



708 Ward Avenue, mid-1920s—Initially purchased by McLane, the home was then sold to Marcus and Addie Emery, O.G. Pitts, and Bobby Bridges. Note the shingled skirt of the enclosed porch, the single front dormer, and the stone foundation. Courtesy Bridges/Emery.

be a part of such a project.

When our neighborhood was designated historic, our curiosity about the history of our home became an exciting adventure. We wanted to know more about our neighborhood, but more specifically, about all of those who had called our home theirs. Who were they and what were their roles in our community? They walked the same sidewalks on summer evenings and visited neighbors living in the homes of friends we visit today. We spent many hours at the courthouse and the Heritage Room of the library reviewing documents and searching desperately for any deed, tax record or mortgage stating the age of our home.

Living Resources

Adding to the excitement of our research was the chance meeting with Mr. Mike Emery, a man who had been born in our home in the early 1920s. Compounding our good fortune was the handful of photographs he had to share showing the house during his childhood.

It was great fun to watch him wander the rooms he had lived in nearly 80 years earlier. It was fascinating for him to show us which parts of the house had been added or changed. Our favorite part of his visit, though, was his reunion with an old playmate, Mr. Winston who still lives across the street.

Now we were more determined than ever to find information on the first owners. Finally, one day after work, I decided to look once more for the document my heart knew existed. The deed of sale stated: "January 23, 1901, Mr. Edwin C. McLane purchased from Mr. W. I. Wellman Lot 8 and ° of Lot 7, Block 81, of the East Huntsville Addition, with the promise to insure the residence thereon..."

In yet another stroke of luck, we have been able to become friends with Willard I. Wellman's grandson, Mr. Willard Wellman Young. He lived with his family in a beautiful home where Regions Bank now stands at one of the "points" of Five Points. At one time, he owned a great



708 Ward, 2001—The Bridges renovated the home as it existed when they inherited it. Note the addition of additional dormers, removal of the shingled skirt and the opening-up and expansion of the porch. Other areas in the rear of the home appear to have been enclosed porches or additions to accommodate modern needs. Photo Susan Bridges.

number of the lots on which our homes were built. The home built for Mr. Wellman's parents still stands on Holmes Street. Mr. Wellman, one of the original planners of Five Points as an officer of the Northwest Land Association, was responsible for many of our homes being built. This planned neighborhood was an effort in support of the numerous mills that the Association was building during the late 1800s and early 1900s. How lucky we are they prized this lovely part of town to plan a community where people would share their lives.

We were able to go further back in time with our research of Five Points when we obtained abstracts recording John Brahan obtaining "quarters" (approximately 160 acre parcels) of land in a grant from the government in early 1800.

With all the research complete, we have grown to realize what it means to live in a historic district. It is an adventure through time. It's an appreciation of the lives of others and their contributions to our community.

Now the passers-by who once asked us about the man at the picnic table are our friends, neighbors, and partners in appreciating and preserving history.

Susan Bridges resides in Five Points and serves as Treasurer of the FPHDA. She also is on the Newsletter Committee for the Association. She enjoys learning local history through research and personal interviews with long-time residents of the area.

The Wellman Family Park: A New Addition

Heather Cross

In 1915 Helen and W. I. Wellman deeded the east half of the small triangular block at Holmes and Pratt in Five Points to the City of Huntsville “to be used and maintained as and for a public park for the benefit of the inhabitants of Huntsville and not otherwise [...] in the event the city abandons the lot or fails to maintain it as a public park, then the title shall revert to the grantors [...]” In 2000 the City Traffic Department planned to make a cut into the block for an asphalt curve and turn lane.

Upon hearing about the proposal to dissect one of the five points that may have given the East Huntsville Addition its name, Susan Bridges began her search for the original deed for the property. During her extensive research on the property, the Wellman family, and their stipulations, she contacted W. I. Wellman’s grandson, Mr. Willard Wellman Young. Mr. Young, as the heir to the Wellman property, had the right to claim the point. He, his wife Erika and Susan and her husband, Rob, met at the Young home in Florida. Together they decided the land should exist as a park for the City of Huntsville.

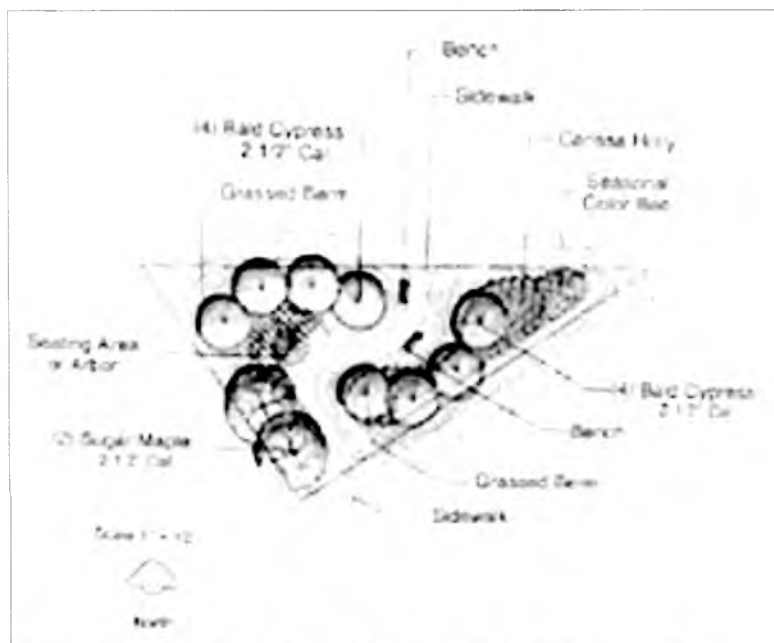


The Wellman Family Park—The east half of the “point” at the corner of Holmes and Pratt as it exists today. The house on the west half (right in the photo) of the block is the Adair house, now owned by Kirk Carlisle.

Photo Susan Bridges.

Meanwhile, one of the recommendations of the Auburn Center for Architecture and Urban Development study of the Five Points area was the addition of green space. With the support of the deed, the study recommendation, Mr. Young, and the Five Points Historic District Association, the corner of Pratt and Holmes will be landscaped with the help of local residents, businesses (Cole Landscaping, Hardee's, and Carlisle Gallery, so far) and Operation Green Team. The finished point will be renamed the Wellman Family Park.

This new addition to the familiar places and homes of Five Points began as part of the 1888 plat of land the Northwest Land Association—composed of investors such as W.S. Wells, Tracy Pratt, and Willard I. Wellman—purchased from the North Alabama Improvement Company in 1892. It seems only fitting that it remain undisturbed except for the footsteps of neighbors of the community and the visitors who enjoy its historic significance and beauty.



*Proposed design of the **Wellman Family Park**—The design is by George Bennett of Bennett Nursery and Trevor Cole, who owns Cole Farm and Landscape and Pondwise. Courtesy Susan Bridges.*



The Wellman Family on their front steps, 1922—FRONT ROW: Henry McDonnell (Margaret in lap); Willard Wellman Young; Henry McDonnell, Jr.; Ada McDonnell; Helen McDonnell. BACK ROW: Miriam Wellman McDonnell; Walter M. Wellman; Ruth Wellman (Walter M. Wellman, Jr. in lap); Helen Seet Wellman; Willard I Wellman; Margaret Wellman Young; Jesse Franklin Young. Four more Wellman children were not yet born. Courtesy Willard Wellman Young.

If you are interested in the
Five Points Historic District Association,
membership information can be obtained from
P.O. Box 10120
Huntsville, AL 35801



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Back issues of the *Quarterly* are being indexed and bundled for sale both individually and in sets. If you are interested in any specific topics, issues, or articles, contact Lynn Jones or Lynne Lowery by telephone at 256-539-0097 or by email at preserve@hiwaay.net.

HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 786

Huntsville, AL 35804

The mission of the HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION is the preservation of historically or architecturally significant sites and structures in Huntsville and Madison County. The Foundation also works to increase public awareness of the value of these sites and structures.

The Historic Huntsville Quarterly of Local Architecture and Preservation, a scholarly journal, and *Foundation Forum*, a quarterly newsletter, are published by the Foundation. The Foundation owns and operates Harrison Brothers Hardware and has partially renovated the Harvie P. Jones Building next door. Tenants occupy the finished space—Bird and Kamback Architects and The Huntsville Inn, a tea room. A warehouse of architectural artifacts and materials for reuse in historic preservation projects within Madison County also is operated by the Foundation.

The Foundation is actively involved in efforts to establish a formal revitalization of downtown Huntsville and sponsors functions to draw attention to businesses that locate in historic properties. In association with the Von Braun Lions Club, the Foundation co-sponsors “Trade Day on The Square” each September. Other events include public briefings, covered-dish suppers, and an annual awards dinner honoring notable contributors to historic preservation.

Foundation membership includes a subscription to the *Quarterly* and the *Forum*, notification of special sales at Harrison Brothers Hardware, invitations to members-only events at historic private homes and buildings, and advance notice and discounts on Foundation-sponsored tours, workshops, lectures and programs. If you would like membership information, please contact the Foundation by telephone at 256-539-0097 or by email at preserve@hiwaay.net.

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