

City took root in neighborhoods

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College Hill

In 1837, trustees of the soon-to-be Greensboro Female College, North Carolina's first chartered women's college, bought 211 acres south of Market Street and west of Cedar Street in the northeastern section of what would become College Hill, one of the city's three major historic districts.

The area was originally dubbed "Piety Hill" because of the number of ministers living on the hill overlooking the Methodist-affiliated school. One of those ministers was the Rev. Sidney D. Bumpass, whose 1847 Bumpass-Troy House on Mendenhall Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bumpass established The Weekly Message, North Carolina's first Methodist newspaper, in 1851, and his wife, Frances Webb Bumpass, printed the paper from their home after he died.

In the mid-1890s, the General Assembly established a state Normal and Industrial College (now UNCG) just west of the historic district, and the area's name became College Hill.

In 1891, further growth was prompted by the district's inclusion in the city's newly expanded limits and the introduction of the electric streetcar to the area in 1902.

College Hill's earliest surviving residence is the Walker-Scarborough House, which once stood at the edge of the Blandwood estate.

The neighborhood remains mostly intact, with Queen Anne homes from the late 1800s and Craftsman bungalows and foursquares from the 1910s and early 1920s.

Dudley Street

The Dudley Street neighborhood, named for James B. Dudley, black educator and founder of what is now N.C. A&T, was developed in the 1890s to serve the college and was considered the city's premier black neighborhood at the time.

The neighborhood was centered on Dudley's "Magnolia Castle," where Booker T. Washington is rumored to have stayed on visits to the city.

Many of the city's early black leaders have made their home in the Dudley neighborhood. Some of the most influential were Ferdinand Bluford and Warmouth Gibbs, later presidents of A&T; Dr. George Simkins, the first black man to run for Greensboro City Council; tinsmith Sidney Carter, who built flues for tobacco barns; and William Long, whose plaster work is showcased in the Guilford County Courthouse.

Dudley helped the General Assembly with legislation to develop the Agriculture and Mechanical College for Colored People (now A&T) in 1891. He served as president of the college from 1896 until his death in 1925.

Dudley offered the campus as a training camp for black soldiers during World War I, earning the recognition of having trained more black soldiers than any other institution in the country.

The neighborhood has struggled repeatedly to achieve official historical recognition. After urban renewal took most of the historical buildings in the area in the 1960s, the neighborhood lost its structural history and qualification for designation as a historical district.

Fisher Park

Originally a marshy land thought unfit for the construction of the Guilford County courthouse,

Fisher Park was developed, albeit slowly, on the plans of Capt. Basil J. Fisher, which he began in 1889.

Fisher deeded the park in the middle of the district to the city in 1902. The city built a road around it, and eventually houses were built. Between 1910 and 1920, the suburb around the park was officially established.

From the beginning, residents in the neighborhood have been of the upper and middle class, building mostly bungalow and foursquare style houses at first.

With the influence of three major architects and the large park running diagonally through the neighborhood, most of the buildings in Fisher Park were residential.

The most conspicuous exceptions are the three churches that stand within a block of each other on North Greene Street.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Temple Emanuel and First Presbyterian Church were built respectively in the 1920s with designs by Hobart Upjohn and Harry Barton.

Charles C. Hartmann, another influential Greensboro architect, designed the Julian Price House on Fisher Park Circle in 1929, one of several houses in Fisher Park to be individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Another National Register house on Fisher Park Circle is the Latham-Baker House, which was built for businessman James Edwin Latham in 1913.

Glenwood

In 1903, Telfair Sanitarium, founded in part by Dr. W.G. Telfair of New York, was built in Asheville for the treatment of "senile, nervous and mental, alcoholic and drug patients."

The sanitarium moved to Glenwood Park in 1907 and the name changed in 1918. Clara Peck, Greensboro's first public health nurse, became the matron in 1920 when the sanitarium was used for tuberculosis treatment. A parking lot now occupies the location.

In 1909, the Carolina Real Estate & Investment Co. built the first 50 homes in the Glenwood neighborhood from pre-cut lumber in floor plans that homebuyers chose from a catalog.

The company also offered the state of North Carolina 25 acres of free land in Glenwood around this time in an effort to relocate the state capital from Raleigh to Greensboro.

Three schools were built in the neighborhood in the 1920s to replace a wooden school built in 1912 at Freeman Mill Road and Fairbanks Street. Glenwood Graded School was the first, built on the site of the old wooden school. The Charles D. McIver School on West Lee Street is Glenwood's only building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Glendale School at West Florida Street and Van Wert Street was built in 1928 and renamed Clara J. Peck School in 1929.

Glenwood flourished in the 1930s when the trackless trolley service ran between downtown Greensboro and Grove Street, the heart of the neighborhood. It was one of the first neighborhoods in the city to be promoted through the newspaper.

Irving Park

Irving Park was established when the newly developed Greensboro Country Club bought about 59 acres of land in the district north of downtown in 1911 from Alfred M. Scales.

Throughout the next year, Scales sold lots to the south of the country club property for high-income housing, a practice that eventually led to the creation of the Irving Park real estate company in 1914.

A brochure for the company listed A.W. McAlister, president of the Pilot Life Insurance Co. and the man credited with bringing the game of golf to Greensboro, as president of the Irving Park Co.

The "park" in Irving Park comes from the rounded tree-lined streets, three small wooded areas and the 18-hole golf course that surrounds the central country club.

The golf course, designed by Donald Ross, opened in 1912. A few years later, landscape architect John Nolen began plans for the Irving Park neighborhood but stopped in 1920.

Robert B. Cridland was hired to finish the job, adding the area north of Irving Place and east of Granville Road to the plans.

The most common styles of housing in the neighborhood were Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival

On Nov. 5, 1921, the Greensboro Country Club clubhouse burned down, but was rebuilt the next year.

After much growth during the 1920s, the Irving Park Co. liquidated during the Depression to pay off debts and finally dissolved in 1940.

Lindley Park

After dabbling in the nursery, sewer pipe and peach-growing businesses, J. Van Lindley moved on to become the president of Security Life and Annuity Co., one of the insurance companies to merge with Jefferson Standard in 1912, and in 1902 donated 60 acres north of Spring Garden Street to be used for a lake and amusement park.

The idea for the amusement park allegedly came from Mrs. Emmanuel Sternberger when she heard about the playgrounds of Philadelphia while being treated there for a sickness. The playgrounds there were funded by stamp sales, so when Sternberger returned, she started selling 25-cent stamps to go toward Greensboro recreation areas.

The amusement park, operated by Greensboro Electric Co., was an exciting place for many early Greensboro residents. People rode the electric street cars out to the park and attended shows, dances and horse races and went swimming and skating on the lake.

This area survives as a park and the Greensboro Arboretum between Spring Garden Street and Walker Avenue.

In 1905, a frame school was built at Bruce and Spring Garden streets. The school no longer exists but was replaced by the former Pomona High School, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1920.

The school, one of the first large consolidated schools in Greensboro, was later renamed for Lindley.

The lake and amusement park closed in 1917 and Earle Sumner Draper designed the Lindley Park neighborhood in its place.

South Greensboro

South Greensboro Historic District, which includes the Arlington Park and Ole Asheboro neighborhoods, began as a sparsely populated area with only a few houses and estates in the late 1870s, none of which survive today.

Development was slow and limited to Asheboro Street until the 1920s, when the Arlington Park subdivision was established in the southwestern part of the district.

The district was almost completely residential from its beginning, with some Italianate and Queen Anne houses, but because it was home to a mostly middle-class population, most houses were the bungalows and foursquares seen elsewhere in early Greensboro.

As early as 1896, though, the area had a small commercial center of four brick buildings on the south side of Asheboro Street selling drugs and groceries. Between 1905 and 1915 the Southside

Hose Co. was attached to these buildings, and though it is no longer a firehouse, it is the only one of the buildings still standing.

At one time there were three churches on Asheboro Street, one of which was Asheboro Street Friends Church (now Skeenes Chapel Holiness Church) the only one of the three that still stands.

There were also two two-story school buildings that were replaced in 1922 by the former David Caldwell School, which still stands.

Although the trolley ran right down Asheboro Street, it did not seem to have much of an impact on the residents of South Greensboro, who continued working in or near downtown, the railroad and surrounding industries providing most of the jobs.

South Greensboro was the name given to the white neighborhoods of southern Greensboro, though after World War II the majority of the district became African American and Asheboro Street became Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in 1989.

Summit Avenue (Aycock)

The Summit Avenue Historic District, one of the three major historic districts in Greensboro, includes what is known as the Aycock district on one side of East Bessemer Avenue and the mill villages from the Cone brothers' textile mills on the other side of the street.

In 1892, the Cone brothers, Moses and Ceasar, came to the area to develop the first textile-finishing plant in the South, the Southern Finishing and Warehouse Co.

In 1895, they built a 200-loom factory they called Proximity Cotton Mill because it was located northeast of downtown Greensboro near the cotton fields. They convinced their partners, the Sternbergers, to move to Greensboro and build Revolution Mill. By 1905 the Cones had opened two other textile mills in the area.

The Cones built villages around their mills, and also developed the land between Summit Avenue and downtown into a middle- and upper-class neighborhood.

Members of the Cone and Sternberger families built their homes in what was to become the Aycock neighborhood.

The Cones made an agreement with the city of Greensboro to pave Summit Avenue, which quickly became a vital thoroughfare to the area, giving the district its name. By 1913 the Summit Avenue Building Co. had subdivided almost all of the land with the help of New York architects Starrett and Van Vleck, who designed four brick school buildings. The largest of these buildings was the Charles B. Aycock School.

Charles Brantley Aycock was the governor of North Carolina from 1901 to 1905. Almost 3,000 schools were built in the state, giving him the recognition as an "education governor."

Another important building in the district is the World War I Memorial Stadium. Greensboro's minor league team played there for years before moving downtown, but the stadium is still one of the oldest in the country still hosting baseball games.

Warnersville

The neighborhood of Warnersville, though not officially recognized as a historical neighborhood, was the site of the area's first suburb for ex-slaves.

Yardley Warner, a Quaker from Pennsylvania, came to the area in the 1860s to found the community, then left to continue his work elsewhere, leaving William Unthank in charge. Unthank sold the lots to ex-slaves and officially established the community.

According to James Griffin, member of the Warnersville Executive Advisory Council, most of the black businesses in Greensboro today came out of Warnersville in the 1900s. Bennett College, he said, was founded in the basement of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church when the building

was in Warnersville.

Union Cemetery, east of the 900 block of Elm Street, is the burial site of many influential African Americans in Guilford County.

The Warnersville Recreation Center was built in 1959, around the time that all of the houses, which had become rundown, were being razed, and the center has been the heart of the community ever since.

Warnersville's boundaries are East Florida Street at Elm-Eugene, north to Lee Street, West to Freeman-Mill Road, south to Randleman Road and back to East Florida.

Griffin is working with the newly formed historical committee to gather information for a formal request to designate Warnersville as a historical community.

Westerwood

Arthur K. Moore, a Quaker who came to Greensboro in 1914 to establish the real estate department of Guilford Insurance and Realty, formed his own business in 1922 and took over Guilford's Westerwood development of highly demanded medium-priced homes.

Many homes were built on-site in Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. The William Paisley house on Hillcrest was built in 1820 and is the oldest continuously inhabited residence in Greensboro. It was moved to the street from downtown in 1930.

The oldest original home in the neighborhood is a Queen Anne built in 1900 by Edward Wooten at 605 Guilford Ave.

Westerwood, stretching from Cedar Street to Aycock, includes part of Lake Daniel Park.

Moore's Prairie-style house on Mendenhall Street was called "Castle Charming" in the 1920s, because of its yearly display of the latest furniture. Also during this time, almost 100 homes were built in the neighborhood, the most development up to that point.

Development naturally waned during the Depression and World War II, but the neighborhood was relatively complete by 1955.

The North Carolina Children's Home Society was based in Westerwood from 1935-41 in a 32-room house on Fairmont Street. The Harden Thomas Martin house at 204 N. Mendenhall St., called Double Oaks Inn Bed and Breakfast (now closed), is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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