



Hermitage Court Gateways

Hermitage Court - 1912



*By Dr. Dan L. Morrill
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On February 28, 1912, the *Charlotte Observer* announced that Floyd M. Simmons of the Simmons Company, a local real estate firm, had purchased a tract of land which was contiguous with Myers Park, the elegant streetcar suburb which the Stephens Company had recently begun. John (1869-1937), the landscape architect for Myers Park, also designed the Simmons development, which was named "Hermitage Court." ¹ Hermitage Court opened on October 10, 1912. ² Among the amenities of the suburb were massive entrance gates at either end of the boulevard. ³ "It is believed by the developers these gateways will lend a tone and exclusiveness to the suburb which could be derived in no other way," the *Charlotte Observer* reported on March 21, 1912. ⁴ Construction of the gateways was in progress by early September 1912. ⁵ They were finished before the official opening of Hermitage Court on October 10, 1912. The *Charlotte Observer* was expansive in its description of these edifices.

At either entrance to Hermitage Court is a handsome granite gateway, pointed with red cement mortar. The work on these was done by two Scotchmen who came here for the purpose from Aberdeen Scotland last June. On one Gate appears the inscription, "Ye Easte Gayte," and on the other, "Ye Weste Gayte." They are designed after the entrance ways to Andrew Jackson's old home near Nashville.⁶

Notes

¹ *Charlotte Observer* (Feb. 28, 1912), p. 6.

² *Charlotte Observer* (Oct. 10, 1912), p. 5.

³ For an early photograph of the western gate, see *Charlotte Observer* (Nov. 3, 1912), p. 9.

⁴ *Charlotte Observer* (Mar. 21, 1912), p. 6.

⁵ *Charlotte Observer* (Sept. 2, 1912), p. 5.

⁶ *Charlotte Observer* (Oct. 10, 1912), p. 5.