

Moody residence with early landscaping by Nolen and Draper.

Myers' Park, on Granville, Harvard, Hermitage and Providence. Then large houses sprouted on Ardsley and the Queens Road boulevard. The middle class also was eager for suburban "country houses." Dartmouth's first modest bungalows are from this period,.

In 1913 developers Patterson and Glascock built several houses: 128 and 221 Hermitage Road and 1626 Queens. Louis Asbury designed the great brick mansion for Charles Moody at 830 Providence, beside the Jamison home. Moody was Charlotte's chief grain and feed dealer. The grain elevators of his Interstate Milling Company still tower above Fourth Ward and are a landmark for drivers entering the city from Brookshire Freeway. Moody's 5,200 sq. ft. home was swivelled around to sit in its own back yard in 1983, facing or rather imperiously gazing down on Granville. "It looks mighty uncomfortable," said one oldtimer. And a Granville resident quipped, "I must be moving up in the world. The Moody house has come to me!"

Also in 1913, builder F. M. Simmons' mansion rose at the corner of the street he developed, Hermitage Court. Mrs. Hamilton Jones, kin to the Myers family, moved into the frame dwelling at 944 Granville. Seven more homes in 1914 included middle class bungalows developed by E. C. Griffith on Dartmouth Place.

The major imprint on the neighborhood, however, was made by the first textile and utility executives. Their homes clustered on the promontory of the original Myers' farmhouse site, and

sit company in which Mr. Chatham is himself the principal stockholder."

Grading the streets had already begun in Myers Park. The Stephens Company, the article continued, "will put down paved streets, cement sidewalks, lay water and sewer lines and build a streetcar system. Electric lights from the city system will be installed at frequent intervals and a suburb of surpassing elegance and attractiveness is mapped out. . . ."

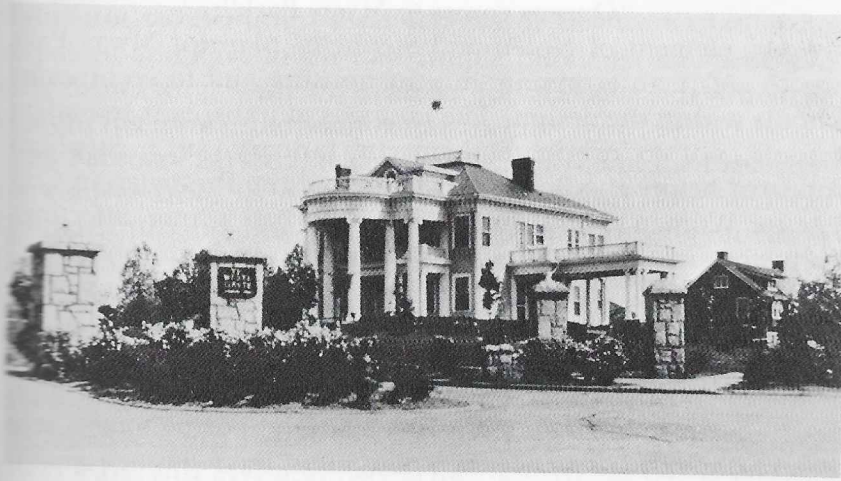
Other vigorous competition listed development of the Vail and Dotger properties in Colonial Heights and further north, "splendid property owned by individual members of the Mecklenburg Country Club" (soon to be renamed Charlotte Country Club). The farmland purchased was to be for a clubhouse, golf links and tennis with half offered to members for investment and about thirty acres held by a group of five members.

With such formidable competition, Stephens wisely joined forces with Charlottean F. M. Simmons. Developer Simmons had made a timely purchase of property adjoining the heart of Myers Park "to develop as a subdivision of the distinctive suburb, Myers Park. An inner circle, so to speak . . . Hermitage Court." Early in 1912, the *Observer* reported Simmons Company's Hermitage Court "will front 525 feet on Providence Road and run with that width 300 feet to the property of Stephens Company and there connecting with the Stephens Company's main boulevard and street car line."

The reporter concluded "Stephens Company is heartily cooperating" with Simmons Company. The identical engineers were used, Holmes Blair and Brent Drane, and to make it a harmonious complement to Nolen's adjacent grand design, landscape architect Nolen would cast his "expert eye." The sixteen large lots paralleling the parkways strip in the center of Hermitage Court would view the pleasing plantings abloom with "Savannah, Myrtle and Dogwood with ornamental electric lighting . . . on large Corinthian standards similar to Asbury Park, Ocean Grove, Long Branch and Deal Beach. Massive gateways of stone would mark each end of the Court, lending tone and exclusiveness to the suburb which would be derived in no other way."

Ads for Hermitage Court in April, 1912, explained the Simmons Company derived the name Hermitage Court from the homeplace of a familiar warrior statesman, "Old Hickory," Andrew Jackson. "The style of the architecture of the gate to





Gates to Hermitage Court and the residence of F.M. Simmons, who developed Hermitage Court under Nolen's direction as a separate but cooperative neighbor to Stephens' Myers Park.

President Jackson's home will be reproduced as near as possible in the gate entrances to Hermitage Court." Andrew Jackson was born just south of Charlotte and his legendary fame was a matter of considerable local pride. Nolen and Stephens evidently built a similar gateway at Ardsley and Providence, which residents remember existed before street widening. The materials in the gateways were identical to those in the main entrance gates to Myers Park at Hawthorne and Fourth Street and to the still visible streetcar waiting stations at the main gate and at the entrance to Hermitage Road. The same stonework appears also in the Jamison home at 802 Providence Road (1913), recently adapted and restored to house Mutual Savings and Loan.

Simmons' large columned home was to dominate the street where predominantly smaller bungalow-style homes prevailed. Col. J. Norman Pease, who soon became known as a leading Charlotte architect/engineer, built on Hermitage Court as a newcomer to Charlotte just as Myers Park was developing. Quite a few up and coming businessmen with families began auspicious careers on Hermitage Court before building larger houses in the interior of Myers Park. Pease himself later moved to Selwyn Avenue, and then to the Eastover neighborhood. He remembers the Court as a close, affable neighborhood. "We even had a mayor of our street, Mrs. Bradley. She took care of the center park strip."