

LOST.

LOST—On Edgewood avenue, between Pryor and Edgewood theater, one sterling silver hairpin. Finder will please leave at Constitution office and receive reward.

LOST—A red horse, with white face and four white feet, roach mane. Return to S. Booth, Blandtown, and get reward.

STRAYED OR STOLEN—A tall white pointer, answers to name of Mack. I will reward any one furnishing information that will lead to his recovery. H. D. White, police station.

was apprehended by the police authorities.

AFTER THE BALL.

Jesse Thomas, a negro, was taken to the Grady hospital this morning for the purpose of having a bullet carved out of his thigh, which was placed there by a jealous rival at a ball last night.

The ball was at Blandtown, a suburb of Atlanta, and Thomas paid too much attention to a dusky damsel who was attractive to another person who toted a pistol.

The wound is not dangerous.

CHUTES BRING \$1,200.

The chutes now located at Lakewood

Atlanta Constitution
March 24, 1897

"BAD JIM YOUNG" LOOSE SOMEWHERE IN FULTON

South Carolina Has Made an Unappreciated Donation to This Section--Batch of Court and County News.

BAD JIM YOUNG from South Carolina is in Fulton county. Just who "Bad Jim" is and what particular deeds of his in South Carolina entitled him to this sobriquet, County Officers Dunbar and Maddox are unable to say, but they are desirous of having an interview with him. These two officers dropped in on a warm crap game in progress among a bunch of negroes yesterday morning in a patch of woods near Blandtown, and in a few moments the negroes were in wild flight, running over saplings 10 feet high and all other obstacles between them and freedom. But one negro was bagged, and he was carried to the Tower. The presence of "Bad Jim Young" in this county would never have been discovered but for the fact that he left his cap at the scene of the crap game. This cap bears a piece of tin fastened just over the visor, on which is stamped "Bad Jim Young from South Carolina." The times are rather unpropitious for bad niggers to settle in Fulton county.

Atlanta Constitution
August 28, 1906

In no uncertain tones Judge Andy Calhoun announced in the Atlanta criminal court yesterday morning that henceforth he would sentence all persons convicted in his court of vagrancy to imprisonment for twelve months on the county chain-gang, without the alternative of paying a fine, as has been the custom heretofore. He carried out this policy yesterday morning by sentencing three negroes, convicted of vagrancy, to twelve months each.

Others, yet to come to trial, have the same fate in store for them, County Officers Dunbar and Maddox having arrested fifteen negroes on Monday morning upon charges of vagrancy. All of these were found leading profligate existences at a negro settlement called Blandtown.

Twenty-three cases were disposed of in Judge Calhoun's court yesterday, nearly all of them being negroes.

BLANDTOWN NOT ON HOWELL MILL ROAD

Citizens living on the Howell Mill road want it understood that Blandtown, where the murder of L. D. Grant took place last week, is not located on the Howell Mill road, but is approximately a mile away, near the Seaboard yards.

"We have never had any such outrageous crime in our community," said one Howell Mill road citizen, "and our people are not the sort who do such a thing."

Atlanta Constitution August 2, 1914

CONFESSES MURDERS AND MOUNTS GALLOWS

Confessing not only the murder for which he was to be hanged and in which he had previously maintained innocence, Burett Hickman, the negro convicted of the murder of H. G. Bennett, a railroad detective, in Inman Yards on the night of February 21 last year, admitted yesterday morning just before he went upon the gallows the slaying of another negro.

His confessions were made to Deputy Sheriff Plennie Minor. The negro told that he didn't want to face death with two secrets in his heart and a lie upon his lips. He stood the ordeal unshaken, joining in the customary religious service that preceded his death.

Sheriff Mangum sprang the trigger at 11 o'clock and the negro was dead within ten minutes. The second murder to which he confessed was that of Sam Sims, in Blandtown, Ga., three years ago. Hickman had been convicted of the Bennett murder for eight months.

Atlanta Constitution
January 30, 1915

Men Called for Duty.

The following men, all of whom are negroes called for military service by the local board for Fulton county, have been duly passed upon by the proper local and district board and are hereby certified as selected for military duty and not exempted or discharged.

Harrison Foggerson, Bolton; Matthew Espy, Blandtown; Joe Humphries, Route 5, Box 174, Claude Hinton, Armour Fertilizer company; Frank Smith, East Point; Lawrence Demmons, Route 8, Box 349; Rasmus Chick, Blandtown; Robert Alston, Route 5, Box 141; Ulysses Reese, 237 Murray street; Henry Williams, Blandtown, Route 5; Lonnie Lindsay, Route 5, Box 167; Charlie Phillips, East Point; Jim Lee Edwards, Blandtown; James Coleman, East Point; Arthur Calhoun, Egan; Will Liddell, Route A, Atlanta; Coge Baker, 112 Church street, East Point; Buddle Brown, College Park; R. F. Logan, 354 Milton avenue; Rever Martin, Route 5, Box 170; Arthur Williams, East Point; Glenn Seagraves, R. F. D., Atlanta; Ed Robinson, Route 7; Joe Price, care Atlanta Cotton Oil company; Ed Hunnicutt, East Point; Howard Waters, Hapeville; Earl Posey, Inman Yards; Prentice Daniels, South Atlanta; Walter Owens, Armour; Frank Chunn, East Point; Will Barber, Blandtown; John McAllister, Blandtown; Andrew Clark, Bowen avenue; Robert Matthews, East Point; Lon Gibson, Route 5, Box 255, Atlanta; Sanders Stamps, Bolton; Earley Merritt, East Point; John Austin, East Point; Ancia Byrd, Route 5, Atlanta; John H. Sharpe, Egan; William Henry Hood, 75 Furman avenue; James Crawford, Route 5; John F. H. Carter, East Point; John Brantley, South Atlanta; Freeman Trimble, East Point; Theodore Carter, Route A; George Cannon, College Park; D. M. Burton, South Pryor road; Carey W. Petty, 124 Grossman street; Homer Strong, Route 7; Clifford Poole, Route 2; Caro Davis, East Point; Grover Thurman Kirk, Route 3; Ben Herndon, College Park; Artis Stanfield, Route 4; Raymond Haygood, College Park.

These men are notified to hold themselves in readiness to report for military duty at the office of the local board for the county of Fulton at a date to be specified in a later notice to be posted at that office.

MISCELLANEOUS.

COLORED HOMES

**WHITEHALL LOAN & REALTY CO.
MAIN 4000.**

TO colored, lots 50x185. in Blandtown near Seaboard shops, on paved street; price, \$300. small payments. W. P. Waltball, Adair Realty Co., Healey Bldg.

\$4,250—NEW 5-room bungalow; east front; corner lot; near car line; easy terms.

Atlanta Constitution
October 22, 1922

BISHOP FLIPPER MAKES ADDRESS AT CONVENTION

Bishop J. S. Flipper, addressing the Sunday school convention of the Atlanta district, A. M. E. church, at Blandtown Thursday declared that the church bases its teachings entirely on the Scriptures. "Our race," he said, "received its freedom and its friendship with other races on the basis laid down in the Bible. If the negro has succeeded in any permanent degree it has been because of his faith in God and the teachings of His word." "I believe," said the bishop, "in denominational schools and in Christian teachers."

"I am a student of the old school," he continued. "I believe in the old way of carrying on the church. I believe in the old way of worship, of teaching classes in the Sunday school. The preachers of other days were more powerful in the pulpit and community than those of today. Conversion and belief in God meant more 30 years ago than now, it seems to me.

"The things of the Bible and of God must be spiritually known and not mathematically or scientifically discerned and God does not make these known to gratify the ambition of men. The discussion which has gone on in Tennessee should have no evil effect upon the negro race, especially in the south, for the negro churches and the negro race know what it cost them to be able to trust God and good people. We are undergoing tribulations, trials and hardships and we cannot afford to turn aside at this time. Our freedom cost too much and life is too short to allow anyone to turn our minds away from the things we have believed from and through the Bible. We believe in the Bible as the word of God. I read the Bible daily and have more faith in it today than at any time in my life. I pray my humble people and all others to read it and follow its teachings and all will be well."

Dean W. G. Alexander preached the educational sermon.

RETURNING FOR LOOT; 3 NEGROES ARRESTED

Three negro men, who gave police their names as Robert Fomand, of Blandtown; Nathaniel Nelson, 19, of Charleston, S. C., and James Hill, 29, of an Ashby street address, were arrested on suspicion Friday night when they returned to a cache of cigarets in a house of Edgewood avenue, near Fort street, according to police reports. The cigarets were said to have been stolen from a box car on the A. & W. P. railroad and were valued at \$400. Officers had been watching the house on Edgewood for the last few days, waiting for the negroes to return for their loot. Officers John Davis and H. W. Armstrong made the arrests.

Atlanta Constitution April 22, 1933

HITLER PLEDGES SWASTIKA TO GERMAN REICH, TAKES OVER REICH AND OUSTS PRESIDENT

LAWRENCE DARROW PLEADS FOR 81ST YEAR, NAMED ATTORNEY

Champion of Underdog Voted for Role in 'Money Trial', Leopold-Loeb and E. V. Debs Cases.

MASTER PLEADER REBORN TWO MONTHS

Philosophy One of Deriving Satisfaction From Incurring Unfortunates.

CHICAGO, March 13.—(UP)—Lawrence Darrow, champion of the underdog, and father of capital punishment, who won international fame as a defense attorney, is 81 years old today.

MILLER INDORSES SUPER HIGHWAYS

Georgia Would Be Saved Millions of Dollars by Roads, Says Chairman.

Wife at Bedside.

U. S. Control on Cotton and Tobacco Begins With August Marketing

Officials Draft Three-Crop Curbs

Atlanta in Head-On Collision Near Wilmington, N. C., Saturday Night

Major Bibb Dies of Crash Injuries

3-Hour Blaze In Wind Razes 15 Houses

25,000 in London Denounce Hitler

Fight Police and Link Fuehrer, Chamberlain; Boo Nazi Embassy Flag.

Forces Milks to Resign.

Hitler Eats Pea Soup, Applesauce, Chats With Friends of Boyhood

Conductor and Bandit Die in Trolley Fight

'Magic Carpet' to Better Gardening Waits Constitution School Patrons

Press Conference Secrets Of President Made Public

Chief Executive's Aims, Told to Newsmen in Confidence Five Years Ago, Are Released in Transcripts of First New Deal Meetings.

By ARTHUR F. DEGREVE. White House press conference on March 8, 1933, four days after his inauguration, and laid down the rules for future meetings with correspondents.

FRANCE PLANNING TO STRENGTHEN PACT WITH CZECHS

Treaty Would Be Revised To Provide Military Action Against Germany if Nazification Attempted.

PARIS, March 13.—(AP)—France planned tonight to strengthen her treaty with Czechoslovakia to save the republic from any German move as formation of a new people's front cabinet by Socialist Leon Blum was announced.

SOCIALIST BLUM FORMS CABINET

Paris' First Minister of Propaganda Is Named; Post Goes to Frossard.

MAJOR BIBB DIES OF CRASH INJURIES

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Terror-Stricken Residents Flee Flaming Homes



Badly-frightened residents fled from their blandton homes when sparks from a faulty fuse started an inferno that swept away 15 homes yesterday. Here's a panicky trio fleeing before the blistering heat of flames which swept the frame shortly after the photographer snapped the picture.

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FUEHRER RETURNS TO VIENNA TODAY AS 'NEW CAESAR'

Triumphal Entry Postponed for Day While Police Mop Up Opposition to Assure Safety.

INDORSEMENT POLL TO BE HELD APRIL 10

Reich's Boundaries Now Reach From the Baltic to Italy's Brenner Pass.

By the Associated Press. VIENNA.—Austrian became a part of Hitler's German reich, losing its political freedom by two steps: President Wilhelm Miklas resigned; Arthur Seys-Inquart, Hitler-selected chancellor took charge.

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WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Washington, New York, Chicago, and others, listing high and low temperatures.

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who dreams of developing a more beautiful garden.

Beginning at 10 o'clock Wednesday, the school will continue through Friday. Doors will open each day at 9 o'clock and will discuss school classes will be held from 10 to 11:30 o'clock.

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Terror - Stricken Residents Flee Flaming Homes



Radly-frightened residents fled from their Blandtown homes when sparks from a faulty flue started an inferno that swept away 15 homes yesterday. Here's a panicky trio fleeing before the blistering heat of flames which swept the frame shanty in the foreground shortly after the photographer snapped the picture.

Constitution Staff Photo—Stayton.

Blackened Chimneys 'Stand Watch' Over Embers



A grim row of blackened chimneys stood watch last night over dying embers of homes of more than 75 persons, destroyed by a wind-swept blaze. Second chimney from the left marks the spot where the fire started. Before firemen could get water from the nearest plug about a mile away the flames had jumped to houses on all sides.

Constitution Staff Photo—Stayton.

3-Hour Blaze In Wind Razes 15 Houses

Terror - Stricken Residents Flee Homes Turned Into Roaring Infernos.

A three-alarm fire whipped by a sharp wind out of the west yesterday wiped out almost half a negro settlement off Huff road, near the city waterworks, destroying 15 houses, a church and two restaurants while firemen fought to keep the blaze from spreading.

More than 75 negroes were made homeless, firemen reported. Terror-stricken residents swarmed wildly from their homes, swooping up babies, articles of furniture and other belongings while flames swept relentlessly down the row of one-story shanties.

Water Hose Bursts.

More than half a dozen houses were roaring infernos before firemen were able to get water to the scene from the nearest water plug, about a mile away on Howell Mill road.

The first hose firemen connected to the plug burst when water was turned on. Five companies of Atlanta firefighters answered two help calls. The blaze raged three hours before firemen had it under complete control.

One Injured.

One injury was reported. Ray Crawley, of Fire Company 15, was taken to Grady hospital after burning material blew into his eyes.

About 50 houses in the negro settlement, known as Blandtown, were endangered by the flames. Firemen were virtually powerless to check the blaze with limited water facilities.

Most of the residents owned

Continued in Page 8, Column 5.

15 HOUSES BURNED IN 3-HOUR FLAMES

Continued From First Page.

their own homes, it was reported. Two Atlanta real estate companies were agents for a few of the burned houses, but no estimate of damage was available last night.

The flames leaped more than 50 feet in the air from the pine shingle and tar paper roofs. St. Peter's Baptist church, which the residents of the section had built with money they had saved, was destroyed. Two restaurants were also burned.

Several Georgia Power Company power poles were burned, and three lines were down, one 4,000-volt line and two 22,000-volt lines.

Flames Break Out.

The fire broke out about 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon in the kitchen of the home of Tom and Sara Richardson, of 8 Booth street. They said the roof caught when flames from the stove went through a faulty flue.

The blaze spread quickly to houses on each side of it along the narrow street, which crosses Huff road about half a mile behind the city waterworks. Wind swept the blaze up and down the street, wiping out houses on both sides, leaped across Huff road, where six more houses caught fire and were destroyed.

Atlanta firemen answered the first alarm at 3:30 o'clock. Second alarm was answered 15 minutes later. The third help call was turned in about 20 minutes later.

Four Police Cars.

Four Fulton county police cars were sent to the scene to handle heavy crowds of Sunday afternoon riders attracted by the flames and billowing smoke. About 2,000 people watched firemen fight the blaze, it was estimated.

Atlanta firemen stationed three pumping wagons in relays between the Howell Mill road water plug and the flaming houses. They were able to play only three streams of water on the blaze from hose lines connected to the last pumping wagon.

Albert Tidwell, of 56 Huff road, said he was one of the first to reach the scene of the blaze. The negro settlement is off to itself on a slightly rolling ground. No buildings or trees to break the wind are close to the houses.

Only a row of stark, blackened chimneys and red embers remained last night.

ENTIRE COMMUNITY DESTROYED BY FIRE

50 Families In Blandtown, Suburb of Atlanta, Become Homeless As Flames Wreak Havoc.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 24—(Special)—Fire said to have originated in the kitchen of a house occupied by Tom Richardson and his wife, at 8 Booth street, and which spread with amazing rapidity, swept the Negro residential suburban community of Blandtown, Sunday, rendering homeless, at least fifty families.

With the exception of St. Peter's Baptist church and several restaurants, all of the buildings destroyed were small homes, a majority of them owned by the occupants. While some were able to save a portion of their household furnishings, a majority lost everything they possessed, including extra

clothing. Few, it is understood, carried any insurance on houses or contents.

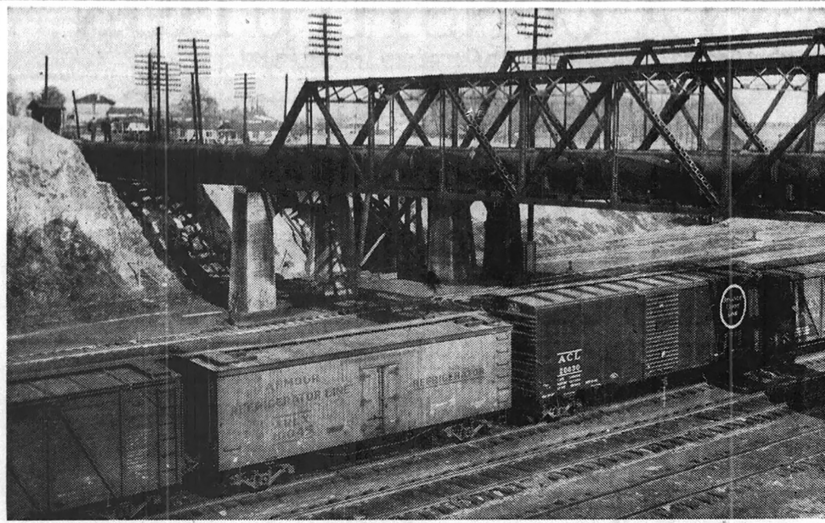
Fire Dep't Helpless

Though five companies of the Atlanta Fire Department fought the spread of the flames for upward of two hours before the fire was brought under control, their efforts were greatly hampered by

the fact that the nearest fire main was a mile distant, and only three streams of water could be made available. Besides the buildings destroyed, many others were damaged.

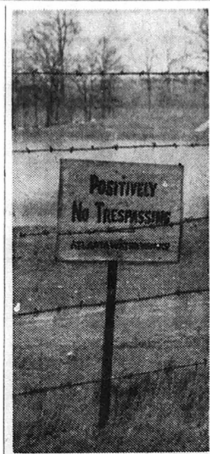
The only person injured was a fireman, who sustained painful but not serious burns.

Pittsburgh Courier
Saturday, March 26, 1938



WHERE LIGHTS ARE NEEDED—The main intake pipes, bringing water to the purification plants from the Chattahoochee river, are shown as they cross the Seaboard tracks at Chattahoochee avenue. "There's not a

light in the neighborhood," said a policeman. "We can't hear at night because of the railroad cars bumping up and down the tracks. They need floodlights and a man at each end of the bridge to do a thorough job."



Constitution Staff Photo—Kenneth Rogers.
CAN A SPY READ?—These melancholy signs—with black lettering on a yellow background—are the main defense of the Atlanta water works system. "Positively No Trespassing" is the emphatic warning signed: "Atlanta Water Works."

Atlanta Water Supply Target For Saboteurs

Continued From First Page.

one end of the bridge that the water pipes parallel.

"I can't see 10 feet at night," the policeman said. "With those box cars being switched back and forth right under the pipes, I couldn't hear somebody trying sabotage if he were to yell at me. He could get down there and hammer and hammer until his dynamite was properly placed and I wouldn't know a thing about it until the whole business was blasted into the air."

"If they'd only spend just a few dollars to put up a couple of floodlights, I might do a better job of guarding. But it's wasting the time and the expense of a policeman having him standing out here all night—just hoping something doesn't happen."

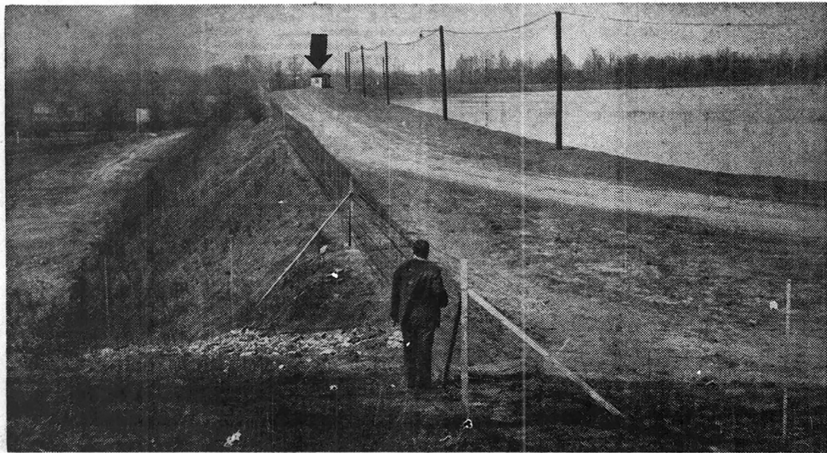
A quarter of a mile away, where guards are stationed at irregular intervals around the giant lakes, a lackadaisical gesture toward sentry duty is maintained.

Just off Howell Mill road at the main entrance to the plant, a policeman sits inside the sentry box and waves a cheery greeting to anyone who enters.

"I'm going over to the office," the driver of the strange automobile yells.

The policeman, without leaving his seat, waves him on.

Where the giant dikes hold the waters of the lake, a roadway encircles one of the reservoirs. The reporter and the photographer drove halfway around the lake



A VITAL SPOT—This view of a dike was sighted from the side of the road. "I can't see 10 feet at night," the policeman said. "With those box cars being switched back and forth right under the pipes, I couldn't hear somebody trying sabotage if he were to yell at me. He could get down there and hammer and hammer until his dynamite was properly placed and I wouldn't know a thing about it until the whole business was blasted into the air."

"will keep out nothing but a cow or a horse." Neighbors also testified the sloping side of the dike is shrouded in utter darkness at night, with no one patrolling the road atop the dike. Note the distance to the sentry box.

before a man halted them from the side of the road.

Home Guards at Night.

"What are you doing in here?" the guard asked.

"Just driving through," he was told.

"Well, being as you got this far," he said amiably, "go ahead. But don't come out here any more. We don't allow anyone in here."

Fast this guard, the reporter and photographer continued into the building housing the filter plant. There, they learned the man they wanted to see was busy, so, while waiting, they wandered at will and without interference through the building.

Among items in the filter plant is a deep well, with a tile bottom. Through this well passes all the water that goes to the city of Atlanta.

Over behind one reservoir is a Negro settlement, known as Blandtown. Any one walking through Blandtown at night could get behind another dike, and tunnel his way to a strategic spot for a dynamite explosion that would empty this huge lake of its 500,000,000 gallons of water.

A similar dike on the other reservoir could be approached through a rock quarry off Northside drive.

The unguarded condition of the entire waterworks system, according to Manager W. Zode Smith has been reported, but, he said last night:

"We don't seem to be able to get ample guards."

Three shifts of policemen from the city force are out there manning the occasional sentry boxes during the day.

By night, a squad of State Defense Home Guards—15 men—patrols the area with rifles and bayonets.

"But—" said an official last night, "we need about 50 men to do a thoroughgoing job."

Suggest Military Basis.

"They were going to put floodlights up," said one of the guards. "They were going to put more men out here at the rate of \$2.50 a

day each. But the question of raising the salaries of city employees came up and the whole business was forgotten."

The failure of the present system of a city police guard was explained.

"Guard duty should be handled here as it is in the Army—two hours on and four hours off, 24 hours a day on a military basis. "You can't expect an elderly policeman to stand in one spot for eight hours at a time," said a waterworks official. "His job becomes tiring and boreome. Such a job would bore any human being. As a result of this present plan, the policemen get careless and forget what they're out here for."

The laxity of the present system was illustrated when the reporter and the photographer wandered all around the reservoirs and the pipelines, climbing up and down embankments, taking pictures, without being accosted by a single guard.

A Negro in Blandtown was asked:

"Are these levees lighted up at night?"

"No, sir."

Unfinished Business.

"Is it dark down here behind these levees?"

"It's mighty dark."

"Do they have a patrol walking around the lakes at night?"

"No, sir."

The problem of the careless guard over the waterworks system was put up to former Mayor LeCraw, said the officer of the armed services. The mayor laid the whole proposal in the lap of the commanders of the Fourth Corps Area and the Army immediately dumped the issue back into the lap of the mayor.

"This will have to be a community or a state problem," the Army told the mayor. "If we were to have soldiers guarding all the

waterworks and bridges in left for foreign service."

The matter, it is said, has since been resting in the pile of unfinished business at city hall.

Around the reservoirs the city has set up some simple barbed-wire fences.

"Anybody could climb under or crawl between that barbed wire," said a neighbor. "It'll stop only a horse or a cow."

A waterworks official said plans had been considered to charge these barbed-wire fences with electricity, "but the menace to human life was considered too serious."

Ignored Plant Signs.

At intervals around the lakes and the purification plant are detected, faded signs, with black lettering on a yellow background, reading: "Positively No Trespassing—Atlanta Water Works."

No one objected when the reporter and photographer ignored these official warnings and crawled around the ground where the pipes are braced on steel and concrete supports. No one objected when the two men drove their automobile inside a gate that bore such a sign.

During the last World War, soldiers from the Fifth Georgia regi-

Blandtown Case Backfires On Two County Policemen

ATLANTA, Georgia — (SNS) —

By C. LAMAR WEAVER

Two Fulton county officers who had arrested a 19-year-old Blandtown youth for disturbing public worship had their case backfire on them recently when Solicitor General John I. Kelly, of Fulton county criminal court, disclosed Wednesday that his office refused to return an indictment against the accused.

The dismissal of the case was largely due to the unstinting efforts of a white real estate broker, and attorney, A. Guy Smith, who termed the officers' actions as most unbecoming.

The accused youth, Willie Ruff, was reportedly arrested by Officers V. L. Thrasher and J. D. Roberts on charges of disturbing public worship at the St. Peter's Baptist church. The youth was taken to Fulton tower where the St. Peter's Baptist church. The youth was taken to Fulton tower where he remained 12 days incommunicado. He was finally released on a \$200 bond signed by himself when Mr. Smith, who claimed that the charge was unfounded, began a probe of the matter.

NO DISTURBANCE SEEN

Mr. Smith declared that the accused was creating no disturbance in the vicinity at the time of his arrest. He said that Ruff and other Negro youths were at a drink stand situated over a thousand feet from the church when the two officers approached and ordered them to "go to church or jail." Although they were improperly dressed for attending church, all of the youths but Ruff shuffled off to church, the attorney asserted. Ruff desisted, saying he was on his way to Atlanta, Mr. Smith added.

In reference to the officers' conduct, the realtor said:

"I have never heard such abusive language used as these officers used to that boy; they threatened to beat him and at the same time cursing him with all the profanity known in the English language."

Mr. Smith insisted that if the youths had created any disturbance

in the vicinity as the officers had claimed, he would have observed it since he was sitting in his parked car about 30 minutes before the arrest.

NO WARRANT ISSUED

Moreover, to make an arrest on a charge is disturbing public worship the officers are prescribed by law to act only when a warrant has been sworn to by a plaintiff, it was learned. No such warrant was issued in the case of Ruff.

Even the pastor and a deacon of the church issued statements that no such disturbance as charged was prevalent in the church vicinity when the youth was arrested.

The pastor explained that the officers had driven people into the church on other occasions. On each occasion the alternative ordered by the two officers was "go to church or go to jail." Some Negro residents of the community were reportedly ordered from their homes and cars by the officers.

WRITES SOLICITOR

In a statement issued to the Solicitor, Mr. Smith wrote:

"I have been told by them (Negroes) that several weeks prior to this Sunday, the same officers came out and went from house to house and ran the Negroes out, making them go to church, not allowing them to dress properly and they were rushed into church and some of them didn't have on sufficient clothing to be decent on the street, much less church. I am interested in Blandtown as a property owner in that section and always glad to see this section policed properly. The conduct I saw was most unbecoming to any officer and the language used by them should relieve them of their duties on the police force."

When confronted by your reporter, Solicitor General Kelly said his office went as far as it could in the matter when the case was dismissed. He inferred that any action to reprimand the officers would be within the jurisdiction of Fulton County Police Chief G. Neil Ellis and the Police Board.

The Chief could not be contacted at his office Wednesday.

Atlanta's Oldest House Razed To Make Way for Modern Plant

ATLANTA (AP) — The 99-year-old Huff house, Atlanta's oldest home, has been razed and plowed into a red mud field.

Host to officers of the Confederate and Union armies during the Civil

War, the old house stood high on Huff Road overlooking the hills where soldiers fought the Battle of Peachtree Creek in 1864.

Built by Jeremiah Huff in 1855 from rough-hewn pine and brick, the house had flown the banners of three nations. The Confederate flag fluttered over its seven chimneys, then later was hauled down when Union troops took over the home.

Between the two there was the British flag. It was raised by a Scotsman who lived near the Huffs and who used the Union Jack as a warning to vandals during the siege of Atlanta.

Although a Georgia historical organization had made plans to buy it, the house was crumbled by a bulldozer and its wreckage burned and plowed under.

Members of the Georgia Educational Exchange, who wanted to make the home a shrine, expressed surprise and shock when they learned that it had been destroyed.

They said they were ready with the first payment when the news came.

Rome News
May 13, 1954

Chemicals Among Issues For Blandtown

Threat of toxic chemicals is one of the concerns residents of Blandtown in Neighborhood Planning Unit D want addressed by officials they've invited to the third annual Blandtown Reunion scheduled for Aug. 12 at the Atlanta Waterworks Lodge at 650 Green St. N.W.

The meetings are held because so many people have moved away that "the only times we got to see each other was at funerals," said Azalee Wharton, 65, president of the Blandtown Community Association.

Last year's reunion drew about 300 residents.

The group would like to see the exodus from Blandtown end. They maintain the community is shrinking because of the encroachment of industry.

The number of households in the traditionally closely-knit predominantly black neighborhood has dwindled from around 300 to about 50, said Mrs. Wharton, and most of the remaining residents are elderly. Blandtown consists of Fairmount and Boyd avenues, and Culpepper, English and Booth streets.

They especially want the Atlanta Board of Education to make the North Metro Psychological Center for youths, formerly the John Whittaker Elementary School and soon to be phased out, and converted to a senior citizens facility.

Blandtown dates to the early 1890s when businesses and houses began clustering around the Seaboard Railway.

A meal of barbecue chicken and ribs, potato salad, and baked beans is priced at \$10. Festivities begin at 9:30 a.m. Information: 351-6670.

— Actor Cordell

SALE IS FAVORED OF DISINFECTANT PLANT OF ATLANTA

Atlanta's deceased animals are no longer to oppress the downtrodden taxpayer, as in the past, if council and Mayor Sims approve the sanitary committee's recommendation voted Friday afternoon to sell the disinfectant and refining plant at Blandtown to the Atlanta Chemical company.

It has cost the city \$900 a year to supply coal for the plant. The chemical company offers to pay \$1,000 a year for four years for the deed to the plant and to supply its own fuel in consideration of all post-mortem rights to cats, dogs, rats, cows, mules, horses, mice ad nauseum in Atlanta. The company proposes to make fertilizer out of them.

If the deal goes through, the sanitary committee proposes to buy more garbage trucks.

Blandtown Industrial

The northwest Atlanta neighborhood of Blandtown will now turn into an industrial area, because of the council's approval of a zoning change from a residential area. Councilmember Jared Samples, who represents Blandtown as part of District 9, says that the change had to take place in order for the area to be consistent with this year's community development plan. He adds that housing in the area was in too bad a shape for Blandtown to remain residential.

District 10 Representative C.T. Martin was the only councilmember voting

Continued on page 15

YOUR GOVERNMENT

Continued from page 1.

against the zoning change. Martin opposes the new CDP because he feels that citizens did not get enough input into the plan.

From industrial . . .



CHARLOTTE B. TEAGLE / Staff

Developers see fertile ground on west side of Midtown . . . to residential

By **DAVID PENDERED**
dpendered@ajc.com

A swath of Atlanta that's straight out of "Gone With the Wind" may become the city's next funky neighborhood. And with more than three square miles of land available for reuse, this one could be huge.

Atlanta's original and still vibrant industrial corridor, on the west side, is just about the only place in the city left in which to attempt big mixed-use projects. Assembling large tracts



KIMBERLY SMITH / Staff

elsewhere is too expensive a gamble for most developers.

Part of the area's attraction may be its fabric of Atlanta history, which no one has gotten around to unraveling and

repackaging. The crossroads where Atlanta was surrendered to the Yankees during the Civil War — the corner of Northside Drive and Marietta Street — is now a construction site for

Norfolk Southern's Inman Yard (above) stays busy on the west side of Midtown. That hasn't discouraged developers, to the surprise of Melvin Carmichael (left), 70, who recalls many of the area's former factories, boardinghouses and meat-packing plants.

apartments. The windowless cooler of an old meatpacking plant is a condominium in a bustling building. Roads and train yards hum with never-ending freight traffic.

There's a muscular attitude, with diesel to back it up.

Old-timer Melvin Carmichael can't believe the evolution of the part of town he's called home for all his 70 years. His mind's eye recalls the factories and boardinghouses that sprang up

➤ Please see **WEST SIDE, F5**

West side: Developers see potential

Continued from F1

along Atlanta's first artery: the railroad.

"The old U-Haul place that's condos now? That used to be trailers full of pigs to be slaughtered," Carmichael recalls. "The building across the street from here [Alta West apartments], that was a meat house with a dairy. Just behind it is where they used to kill cows, used to shoot them in the back."

Carmichael sweeps his hand over the western horizon across Howell Mill Road from Star Iron and Metal Co., where he has worked for 26 years. Star is among the last five of 24 recyclers that have dotted the area in the past three decades.

"They want to call this West Midtown, or Midtown West, and we always called it just the west side," Carmichael says. "But once they get the new bridge open over the Downtown Connector, they just might be able to bring Midtown all the way from Peachtree Street over here."

The 17th Street bridge is best known as the portal from Midtown to Atlantic Station, now rising above the southwestern shoulder of the Brookwood Interchange. The 138-acre mixed-use project could not have gotten off the ground without a connection to the heart of Atlanta. The two communities were severed when the Downtown Connector was built in the 1960s.

An added benefit of the bridge was to be the potential reopening of the west side of Atlanta's urban core. But until lately, there has been little evidence that would happen anytime soon.

Winter Co. now is poised to start the boldest mixed-use project yet in the industrial district. The company has long been a pioneer in redeveloping decayed parts of town that since have rebounded. But this is a 24-acre residential and retail project in a part of town that hasn't seen new homes built in decades.

Next summer, Winter plans to open 183 townhouses and 10,000 square feet of retail space on the site of a former lumberyard facing Marietta Boulevard. Prices are a tad lower than condos in Midtown, starting in the upper \$100,000s and rising quickly above \$250,000.

The nearby freight yards of Norfolk Southern and CSX railroads spur heavy truck traffic, and nearby retailers cater to rougher elements of the warehouse crowd and perhaps residents of a few lonely apartment complexes aimed at local workers.

The closest current retail



The intersection of Howell Mill Road and Chattahoochee Avenue is busier these days as more residents move into the traditionally industrial area. A group of residents and businesses wants to ease congestion along Howell Mill and feeder streets.

Photos by KIMBERLY SMITH / Staff

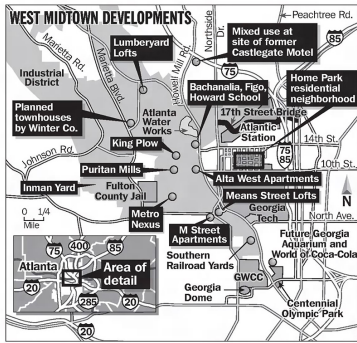
neighbor of the planned M West townhouse development is a triple-X-rated emporium. The closest grocery store is a convenience store. But Winter suspects that the environment bolsters the attraction of units priced for young professionals starting their careers.

"Obviously there's some scruffy commercial," says Carl Meinhardt, Winter's vice president of design, who has worked in London, New York and Florence, Italy. "But that's the new Atlanta. People are much more casual about their neighborhood and are willing to accept certain things."

A seismic change

People have been accepting things in this industrial corridor since the end of the Civil War. And in this case, it was a freight and warehouse district that expanded into a former residential neighborhood that once had four churches, a health clinic and small shops.

Winter's site is at the western tip of a historic black community called Blandtown. Bequeathed to a former slave who quickly lost it for not paying taxes, Blandtown grew after the Civil War as a housing development for blacks working in the freight yards and related industries. But the city of Atlanta caused a seismic change in the early 1950s, according to a book by Georgia Tech professor Larry Keating. "Race, Class and the Atlanta Housing Market."



KATIE RIDLEY / Staff

Atlanta annexed Blandtown in 1952 and in 1956 rezoned it from residential to heavy industrial, Keating writes. Georgia's highway department soon classified Blandtown's main streets as truck routes, sealing the end of the area's housing era, Keating writes.



Businessman Elliot Hamner says he'll sell all west side newcomers 'Welcome aboard.'

Railroads moved swiftly to expand in the area. Two of today's biggest freight carriers opened yards there in 1957: Norfolk Southern's Inman Yard and CSX's Tiltford Yard. The two railroads now average nearly 150 trains a day. They say Atlanta is the only city they serve where developers plan to flank their rail yards with mixed-use projects. The railroads say they can do little to accommodate such change.

"We want to be good neighbors, but people have to have certain expectations about us as good neighbors," says CSX spokesman Gary Sease. "We sound train horns because it's a safety requirement. Trains entering and departing rail yards are often moving very slowly, or engaged in switching, and blocked crossings are another community issue."

Sease offers a bit of advice for those contemplating a move near a rail yard. "Be advised, we are a business trying to grow. Whatever number of trains we run on this line now, we hope to run more next year."

Pioneers fret

Growth also is the goal of other businesses that have edged toward the rail yards over the past decade. But progress seemed hit or miss, partly because the industrial region is so expansive that it swallows whole developments like a python.

That was the scenario facing Means Street, a former factory district of Marietta Street that was retrofitted in the early 1990s into loft housing and offices. Likewise, the upscale Bacchanalia restaurant seemed a remote outpost when it moved to Howell Mill Road in 1999. Not to mention

entities or between them and the existing community."

'It's all upside'

That situation may improve if two unrelated improvement efforts gain traction.

A group of residents and businesses has been meeting for months to discuss shared concerns on the extreme northern boundary of the industrial corridor. The group hopes to ease traffic congestion along Howell Mill Road, just south of I-75, and feeder streets that link to the warehouse district. The various streets carry 3,000 to 4,000 trucks per day, according to a study Atlanta completed in 2000.

Pressure for a quick solution is rising in part because of a development at the corner of Howell Mill and I-75. The former site of a one-time landmark hotel that had been taken over by prostitutes is slated to be built into a residential and retail community.

Atlanta officials have met several times with the group and hope to present recommendations early next year, says Bob Shelor, who oversees the city's capital projects.

On the southern edge of the industrial district, the group of Marietta Street supporters is trying to create a vision for their area. They want to study the area and develop potential solutions with financial support from the Atlanta Regional

of the central city.

Atlantic Station, the mega-development, is just the beginning. Along with improved access from Midtown because of the 17th Street bridge, Northside Drive is expected to see a surge of traffic from folks headed to huge residential and retail developments from Buehead and from I-75. A key intersection improvement will enhance access from Northside toward the industrial district.

The Georgia Aquarium, set to open in 2005, is expected to attract 2.5 million visitors a year to its site near Centennial Olympic Park. Right next door to the aquarium is to be a new World of Coca-Cola, a museum that draws nearly a million visitors a year to its site in a facility at Underground Atlanta. And once blighted neighborhoods flanking I-75 have seen rebirth.

"A huge, vibrant retail and residential district is emerging behind our back in what had been a no man's land," says Bill Gould, a pioneer developer of residential lofts on Means Street and longtime leader of a group that tries to unify the area, the Marietta Street Artery Association.

On the other hand, it is very much in flux and realistically in danger of serious damage and detriment due to the sizable projects on the ends of our community," Gould says. "There's no tangible evidence of any collaborative planning efforts. We have three or four major players, each with internal visions of expanding their needs. And there is very little interaction among those

Commission, a planning agency.

The effort is getting a push from the redevelopers of Puritan Mills. They are so bullish that they recently bought a warehouse, from Mead Corp., that will be renovated into about 35,000 square feet of rental space.

"I think it's all upside in this area," says John Reagan of Urban Realty Partners. "Whether we can get everybody water and sewer could be a problem, depending on what happens at the city. But there's no reason that if this region is planned correctly, and with the right sponsorship, we can't have tremendous population growth. And in urban redevelopment, commercial follows residential."

That trend is prompting the owners of a warehouse to start considering other uses for a facility they had redeveloped into a center for data storage and disaster recovery. Rather than taking a loss on selling the building, MetroNexus is looking for ways to capitalize on the area's renewal.

"We'll continue to earmark a piece of the building for [data] purposes, because we've installed a huge amount of power and fiber," says Alex Twining, president of MetroNexus.com. "That raises the question of what to do with the rest of the building. Clearly the King Plow [Arts Center] and Puritan Mills show a demand for office use. But this is a much bigger building."

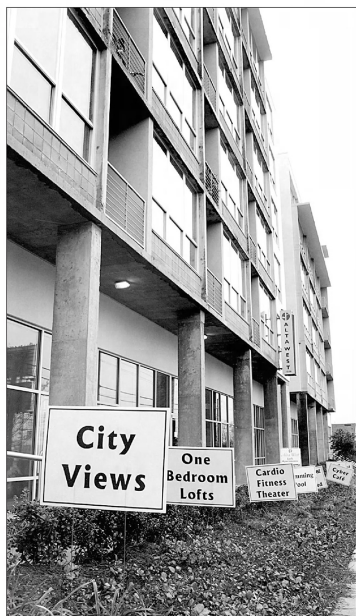
MetroNexus covers nearly 1 million square feet, more than three times the combined size of the other two facilities. The property abuts the former Mead warehouse, prompting some blue-sky thoughts by Twining about the possibilities of merging the sites.

"You can visualize a very different piece of earth in that location, not unlike an Atlantic Station type of development," Twining says. "Big blocks like ours and Mead's, eventually, will become the new urban town. That could mean putting a street grid back in and building a mix of residential and retail."

Back at the recycling shop on Howell Mill Road, Melvin Carmichael isn't alone in marveling at the potential evolution of his old neighborhood. Star Iron's owner, Elliot Hamner, sees it coming.

"Over the past five years people have run out of places in the city to develop," Hamner says. "I've been here 28 years, and I'll stay as long as I can, because I consider my greatest accomplishment the jobs I've created and the work ethic I've instilled in my son."

"But I say 'Welcome aboard' to all the new people."



The Alta West loft apartments on Howell Mill Road at 11th Street are attracting young professionals and students who want to be close to the center of the city.



Mirko Di Giacomantonio is the co-owner and head chef at Osteria Del Figo Pasta on Howell Mill Road. It's one of several trendy restaurants on the west side of Midtown.



Forgotten school awaits salvation

Built in 1959 in Westside, Whittaker languishes in poor real estate market.

By Kristina Torres
ktorres@ajc.com

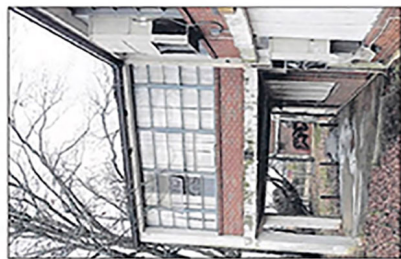
The decline of Atlanta's Whittaker School started before it even opened, a campus built in 1959 for a historically black neighborhood already doomed to obsolescence.

Yet the school survives, however tattered, boarded-up and graffiti-laden off Huff Road in the city's now fashionable Westside, Atlanta's original industrial corridor. It is for sale for the second time in three years, a victim of circumstance now much as it was back then.

"The market's terrible," said Tim Holdroyd, a longtime Midtown real estate broker whose firm, City Realty Advisors, is handling the sale. "But it's a great location."

The school's 1.62 acres are just blocks from Bacchanalia restaurant, fabric marts and new condominiums, as well as a stone's throw from the Atlan-

Whittaker continued on B4



Whittaker School has fallen into disrepair since being abandoned more than a decade ago. A developer bought it in 2006, but his plans for the campus fell through. PHIL SKINNER FOR AJC.COM

Metro School waits in Westside

Whittaker

continued from B1

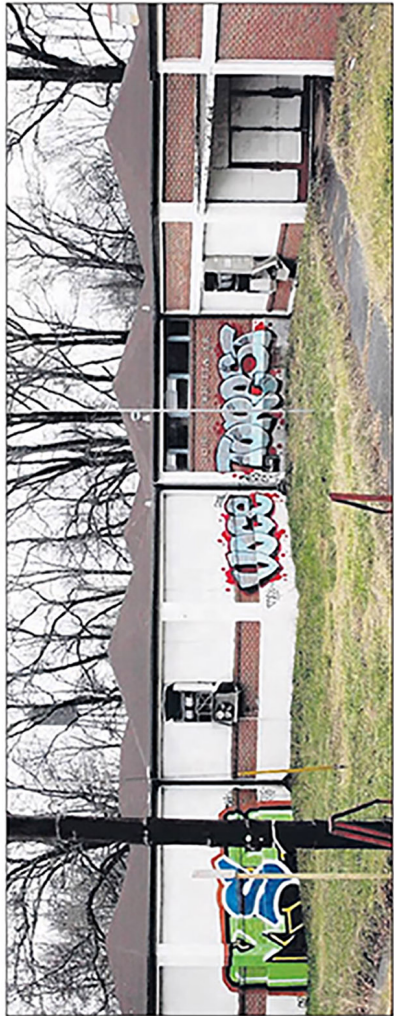
ta Water Works at Howell Mill Road. Of course, none of that existed in the early 1890s, when businesses and houses began to cluster around several rail spurs built off Seaboard Railroad's main line.

Blantown, as the neighborhood was called, got its name from Felix Bland. A former slave, Bland after the Civil War took ownership of the land willed to him by his former owner, according to the memoir, "My 80 Years in Atlanta," by Sarah Huff, who was 8 years old when Sherman shelled the city in 1864 and whose family gave Huff Road its name.

Bland quickly lost the land for not paying taxes. A developer took title and began carving out a residential area. Then came the rail spurs, around which a mill, a fertilizer factory and a stockyard opened, according to a book by Georgia Tech professor Larry Keating called "Race, Class and the Atlanta Housing Market."

With those businesses came jobs. And with jobs came a close-knit, predominantly black community that supported four churches, a public

NOW



Whittaker opened as an elementary school with hexagonal classrooms in 1959. The building on the Huff Road campus is now boarded up. PHIL SKINNER FOR AJC.COM

THEN: 1959



Atlanta Public Schools archive

health clinic and more. Blantown thrived until the early 1950s, Keating writes.

The fast-growing city of Atlanta annexed Blantown in 1952 and in 1956 rezoned it from residential to heavy industrial. Georgia's highway department soon classified Blantown's main streets as truck routes, sealing its fate, according to Ke-

ating. It would be a neighborhood no more.

Railroads moved swiftly to expand in the area. Two of today's biggest freight carriers, Norfolk Southern and CSX, opened yards there in 1957. That same year, the city school system began a \$17.2 million bond program to build 22 new buildings. One of them was Whittaker, which

opened as an elementary school two years later. According to school board minutes from Aug. 11, 1958, the "Blantown" community requested that it be named for John P. Whittaker, an educator and longtime registrar of Atlanta University.

The Whittaker School campus boasts a surprisingly modern architectural style, with hexagonal

made the school home to a program for children with learning disabilities. But that, too, didn't last long. The campus closed again in 1974. Four years later, the system began leasing the building to an outside education agency, although the building has been abandoned now for more than a decade.

A developer, Robert L. Silverman, bought the school in 2006. At the time, it seemed a good omen: Silverman, who has a passion for historical buildings, had redeveloped the old Bass High School in Little Five Points. He paid \$3.18 million, according to Fulton County property records, and "was planning to use it as his own offices," Holdroyd said. Then the economy soured. Those plans fell through.

Now back on the market, Whittaker's selling price has fallen from \$2.8 million to \$1.5 million. Holdroyd said at least 25 groups have looked at it over the past two years, including the Howard School, which was in talks to buy but backed out because of a "business decision," the school's Cilella said.

The building needs a complete gutting, which Holdroyd estimates could cost as much as \$700,000; one construction quote in 2007 pegged it at \$1.2 million. The area around it is redeveloping, but Whittaker still waits.

"It's a matter of the times and a matter of the cost," Holdroyd said. "It is unique and, as such, limits the scope of buyers."

classroom "pods" built of concrete with a red-brick exterior. Records from the school system's archives do not name the architect. According to Holdroyd, there are no load-bearing walls in the entire building.

"It's fascinating," said Marifred Cilella, head of school for the private Howard School, which in January 2007 moved to a new campus next door to Whittaker. "Obviously, it's a product of its time, [built] to support pedagogy by designing the classrooms a certain way."

But Blantown was already lost, dwindling from more than 300 households to about 50 within two decades. Whittaker closed in the early 1960s, "a victim of a population shift when business moved in and residents began moving out," according to The Atlanta Constitution in 1969.

By then, the city had

Housing boom erasing enclaves' country feel

By **DIANE GLASS**
dglass@ajc.com

"You didn't see anything but trees back when I moved here," says George Parkey, a 71-year-old Riverside resident. "I worked at the rail yards nights and weekends."

But on his days off, Parkey and his family enjoyed life there. They swam and fished in the Chattahoochee River. Every day, they tended to their gardens and a back yard full of farm animals that included a bull.

Today the neighborhood and others nearby have lost their country feel. They are part of the long, hilly stretches of land and industry along the Chattahoochee River in the city of Atlanta's northwest corner, with I-75 and I-285 conveniently nearby. Clustered in between today's industries are those residential enclaves dating before 1900, built solely to house workers for earlier mills and railroads.

Originally home to Cherokee and Creek Indians, the area was later a passageway for trains moving supplies during the Civil War. Neighborhood lore spins tall tales about Confederate gold buried somewhere in the area.

No one on record has yet to find these riches, but the unique history of the area is apparent in the distinct character of these neighborhoods, connected by the common railways branching out from Inman Yard.

Blandtown

Around 1890, the Seaboard railway supported a small community of homeowners in

the area now known as Blandtown. Author Sarah Huff credits its name to an African-American named Felix Bland, who took his surname from the white family that supported his education and deeded him land. Today, Blandtown's dwindling population is an example of trendy marketing capitalizing on the edgy feel of industrial neighborhoods. Nearby stands Bacchanalia restaurant, fabric marts and a coffee house, just a stone's throw from the Atlanta Water Works.

Bolton

Back in 1893, Bolton incorporated. Respected landowners Thomas Moore (Moore's Mill Road), Martin DeFoor (DeFoor's Ferry Road) and James Collins shaped Bolton's early community. A nexus for local industry, Bolton was annexed by the city of Atlanta in the 1950s and designated for future industrial development. Today, Bolton's older homes are surrounded by newer, residential development. Three former Bolton schoolhouses, dating back to the early 1900s, are at risk of being torn down with the neighborhood's changing landscape.

Hills Park

Tucked away along the well-traveled Marietta Road truck route, Hills Park was originally home to railway workers. With the advantage of being Atlanta's highest geographic point, Hills Park served as a strategic camp during the Civil War as a stronghold of the Confederate army. Civil War soldiers are buried nearby in

INDUSTRIAL ENCLAVES

Neighborhoods around the industrial development in ZIP 30318 show a 994 percent increase in new home sales and a 10 percent increase in existing home sales.



CHUCK BLEVINS / Staff

the historic Crestlawn Memorial Park cemetery. Recently, the neighborhood organized its first association and is targeted for infill housing development atop a nearby recycling center bordering Crestlawn.

Riverside

A wealthy landowner named Spink scrambled in stealth during the Civil War to bury his hoards of gold in what is today the Riverside community, according to author Ernest Andrews. The Spink heirs searched in vain for countless days but came up empty-handed. The legendary gold remains unclaimed, but Spink Street commemorates his legacy, wending its way across this small community. It's a place where the post office would name a street after a man so that they could remember where to send his mail, reminisces longtime resident Parkey. "Now, I don't see many people I know, but I see

a lot of houses." In these times, Riverside's large lots are attracting the attention of developers scrambling for buildable land.

Whittier Mill Village

Long before the Sun Belt established a reputation for cheap labor and low-cost housing, New England capitalist W.B. Whittier moved his cotton mill to Georgia at the turn of the century. Whittier built New England style homes lining the hill next to the mill to house the workers, who were compensated with a silver dollar a day. Today, Whittier Mill is a designated historic neighborhood. Part of the old mill still stands against an expanse of green meadow designated for park development in Atlanta's Northwest Framework plan, a revitalization blueprint for the city.

— Staff researchers Richard Hallman and Nisa Asokan contributed to this article.

Atlanta Constitution
August 20, 2011

Masquerade's move to West Midtown is off, foe says

Man fought the club's relocation near where he is building homes.

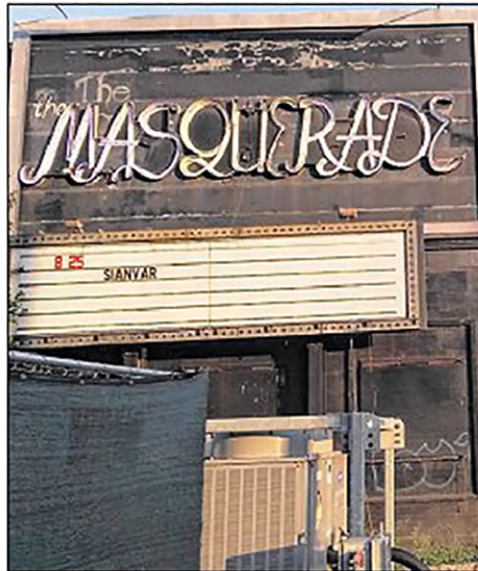
By Matt Kempner
mkempner@ajc.com

Exactly where and when the The Masquerade music venue will find a long-term home in Atlanta still isn't clear.

But the popular intown club won't be moving to the site it planned to on Atlanta's Westside, according to the home builder who sued to stop the project.

As part of a recent settlement of the lawsuit, the club's owner agreed not to relocate to the site picked out on Fairmont Road in an area known as Blandtown or West Midtown, said Steve Brock of Brock Built Homes.

Particulars of the settlement are confidential, but Brock said it didn't include any exchange



The Masquerade, a longtime music venue on North Avenue in Atlanta, is a gritty-looking spot, which some fans say is part of its appeal. MATT KEMPNER / AJC

of money.

The Masquerade's management didn't respond to requests for comment Monday and Tuesday.

Brock fought the club's relocation near where he is building homes. The Masquerade, which uses three stages named Heaven, Hell and Purgatory, has struggled with the shift from its current longtime spot on North Avenue near the Atlanta Beltline and Ponce City Market. The club leased the North Avenue location, which now is part of a larger planned redevelopment.

Particulars of The Masquerade's move keep shifting.

With the lawsuit looming, management had announced plans to temporarily relocate to Kenny's Alley at Underground Atlanta. That move has been delayed at least once, to Nov. 4.

But Craig Waters, the general manager at Underground Atlanta, said Tuesday that he anticipates the opening will take another two weeks or so until final city inspections and approvals are completed.