

2014 CALENDAR

wpn board meeting
Wed, Jan. 22, 7 pm

wpn happy hour
January 24, 7 pm
Lauren and Daniel
Schneidewind
2600 Highland Ave,
404-376-4434

wpn book club
Sun, Jan. 26, 3pm
at Debbie Savage's
house, 2583 Old
Roswell Rd.
**The Day The World
Came To Town: 9/11 in
Gander, Newfoundland**
by Jim DeFede

WPN book club
Sun, Feb. 23, 3pm
at Madge Jackson's
house, 1449 Spring St.
David Copperfield
by Charles Dickens

wpn general assembly
meeting in City Council
Chambers
Tues, Feb. 25, 7 pm

wpn happy hour
February 28, 7 pm
To claim this date,
contact Jill Huitron at
404-376-5114
jill.huitron@harrynorman.com

wpn membership
renewal begins
March 1st

wpn happy hour
March 21, 7 pm
To claim this date,
contact Jill Huitron at
404-376-5114
jill.huitron@harrynorman.com

wpn book club
Sun, March 30, 3pm at
at Leanne Fey's house,
1496 Spring St.
Book tba

continued on next page

"Big Green Egg Chili" a big winner at Chili Cook Off and Moustache Bash! — by Suzy Miller

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BENTLEY

On a bright, crisp October day, Williams Park hosted its Annual Chili Cook Off and Picnic at Liz and Ron Davis's park-like side yard. Hayli McQuade and Nicole Bennett, co-chairs for the event, chose a Moustache Bash theme, providing moustaches to all neighbors not naturally endowed. Nearly one hundred WPN members attended the festivities.

With close to twenty delicious entries, the honorable judges had quite a challenge picking the winning chili. Judges this year were Caroline Wohl Parker, Chris Cannon, and Andre Gomez, a chef at Kevin Rathburn's Steak House and a soon-to-be-Williams Park neighbor. The judging criteria were taste, texture and creativity. A wide variety of recipes,



Charlie McQuade, Finn Bennett, even the scare crow and the pumpkins—everybody wears facial hair at the moustache bash. Event co-chairs Nicole Bennett and Hayli McQuade wore theirs hanging from matching necklaces.



place went to Chris Morrison's "Blue Shirt Guy Chili." Two of the three, appropriately, brought their own natural moustaches. Jeremy Fort, awarded Honorable Mention, was presented with a moustached pacifier—what every new father needs.



#3 #1 #2
the winning chilis were all cooked by men this year

ranging from traditional chilis to a vegetarian chili, were in competition. First Place was awarded to Daniel Rice's entry dubbed "Big Green Egg Chili" because his recipe starts by smoking a beef brisket on his Green Egg. Coming in at a close second was Lem Ward's "Wild Man Chili." Third

The City of Smyrna provided a shiny Ladder Pierce Velocity fire truck for kids of all ages to experience. Five local firemen were on hand giving tours of their truck and sharing stories. Firemen, Jody Collins, Jimmy Gregory, Jay Ratliff, Frank Romano and Steven Chop were



continued on next page...

2014 CALENDAR

wpn easter egg hunt
Sat, April 12, 3 pm
details tba

wpn board meeting
Wed, Apr. 16, 7 pm

wpn happy hour
April 18, 7 pm
To claim this date,
contact Jill Huitron at
404-376-5114
jill.huitron@harrynorman.com

wpn book club
Sun, April 27 at 3pm
at Suzy Miller's house,
1610 Ivy Springs Rd.
book tba

wpn spring social
Sat, May 3, 4pm
details tba

wpn happy hour
May 16, 7 pm
Jill and Daniel Huitron
1539 Roswell St,
404-376-5114

wpn happy hour
June 20, 7 pm
Daniel Kissner and
Korey Whitchurch
1562 Hawthorne Ave.
612.889.4990

wpn board meeting
Tue, July 15, 7 pm

wpn happy hour
July 18, 7 pm
Rich & Jenine Merritt
2620 Gilbert St.
770-431-1659

wpn summer social
Sat, July 26, 4pm
(Christmas in July)
details tba

wpn board meeting
Wed, Sept. 3, 7 pm

'Stache bash *cont'd*

"paid" for their efforts with all the chili they could eat.

The election of WPN officers was also held at the event. Keith Bentley was re-elected as President. Lee Friedman was elected as the Vice-President, Lem Ward was re-elected to Secretary, Liz Davis was re-elected to Corresponding Secretary and Myrna Evens was elected as WPN's new Treasurer. Madge Jackson was honored as the retiring Treasurer. Ron Davis remains as immediate past President. WPN will continue to be in excellent hands thanks to the leadership team.

With everyone in attendance bringing food to share, the picnic spread covered three long tables. There was a piñata for the kids, and no WPN outdoor event would be complete without the Jumping House. Laughter and good conversation with neighbors and friends abounded throughout the fall afternoon, all making for a memorable day.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BENTLEY



Judges this year were (left to right) Chef Andre Gomez, soon to live in WP, wearing appropriate facial hair, Caroline Wohl accompanied by son Parker (not a single 'stache between the two) and Chris Cannon (5:00 shadow doesn't really count). Five fire fighters, all clean shaven, gave truck tours for chili. Thanks to all y'all.



Jimmy and Beverly Denny—eating and grinning.



The piñata was in the shape of a moustache—what else?



Warren toured the truck and ate the grub but didn't wear the moustache.

Clearly, Harris is having fun, but little William Sudderth is just about to protest his moustache.



Vivian Crifasi is wearing the helmet, but her father Bob is the one who was more excited about the fire truck tour.

WELCOME

to these new members

— on anderson —

- Kevin & Monique Packer
- Christina & Gabe Darnell

— on gilbert street —

- Lyndsey & Karsten Knololoch
- Lance Avery & Taylor Kennedy
 - Cara, Patrick & Banyan Thurman

— on ivy spring —

- Frank & Karine Chauveau
- Sherry Klein

— on marston —

- Robin & Sean Berger
- Casey & Barry Rutherford

— on mimosa circle —

- Nathan Dischinger & Halie Walden

— on roswell street —

- Susie & Eddie Bonds
- John & Robyn Zercher

— on walker street —

- Brad & Kari Hackett

So, when you see these new people, say "hello."

Hey, can you do us a little favor?

When a new neighbor moves in near you, let us know. Contact Joan Friedman at friedman1500@gmail.com or by phone at 678-239-4987 so we can welcome the newcomers.

Thanks!

News in and around Williams Park

On September 22, WPN held its first annual (we hope) golf outing at Dogwood Golf Club in Austell. Bob Crifasi, who is a member there, was kind enough to set up tee times for us. Twelve golfers participated this time and we had a wide range of scores, but everyone had a good time. Mike Bullard had the low gross score with an 82 (he's recovering nicely from his broken thumbs), while Tim Savage won the coveted Kim Jong-Il Memorial Trophy for the low net score. Highest gross score went to Dickie Cook (we're still counting his strokes). Anyone interested in the next outing please contact me, ray.miller05@yahoo.com and we will add you to the contact list.

—Ray Miller



On October 19, a group of neighbors from around Durham Park held a very successful park clean up day from 9:00 until noon. Scott 'Chainsaw' Schara, Ellery Mangas, Andrew Walker, Chris Kuhn, Marcus King, Rick Tilley, Matt Bennett, Jared Swafford, Graham Wickham, Alex White, Jeremy Fort and Kevin Cranford worked through the morning taking down dead limbs, pulling weeds from the water gardens, laying mulch and clearing the creek bed. In just a few hours we made some real progress beautifying the park. It was so gratifying, we made plans to meet more often to keep it easier to maintain as a place for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

Among the goals we still have to meet are laying rocks around the perimeters of the water gardens and clearing the entire creek of dead trees and bushes. It was a great

morning spent catching up with neighbors and getting something done. A big thanks to all who participated. We'll send out information before the next clean up day for those interested in helping. —Jeremy Fort

A number of unfortunate incidents have occurred in Williams Park over the past few weeks. There's been a beggar knocking

on front doors, packages taken off front porches, unlocked cars being ransacked and one car stolen. Clearly we have some unsavory characters passing through. Our best way to combat this type activity is:

1. Be vigilant. Lock your doors and cars. Be alert when you're out walking the dog. If you see something that looks questionable, call the police.

2. Watch out for your neighbors and ask them to watch out for you. If you're out of town, let a neighbor or two know to keep an extra look out on your house.

3. Report all suspicious activity to the police at 770-434-6666 for non-emergencies (no matter how minor) or 911 for emergencies. It's important that they know what's going on in case there's a pattern of activity.

4. Inform WPN Security Liaison Wendy Amundson at wendyamundson@att.net or 770-865-2347.



Atkins Park enjoys a colorful history as Atlanta's oldest continuously licensed tavern. Whether you're looking for a great place to eat with the kids, weekend brunch, or a late night drink:

Atkins Park has something to offer everybody. We offer the best family dining in Smyrna on the Atkins Park patio.

Across the street at Market Village.

2840 Atlanta Road
770-435-1887
www.atkinspark.com

Meet your neighbor, Madge Jackson — by Joan Friedman

If you would like a living history of our neighborhood and Smyrna, you need look no further than our sweet neighbor who lives at 1449 Spring Street, Madge Dobbs Jackson. Madge, who has just passed along the WPN Treasurer's baton after serving faithfully for nine years, provided me a pleasant afternoon listening to her stories from the past. These will forever transform the way I see some of our familiar places.

Madge, born on December first, 1937, at Georgia Baptist Hospital, has lived her entire life in just three houses—all within a 0.8 mile walk. She moved from her first home on Concord Road at the age of six, arriving at 1486 Spring Street, where Matt and Warren Bennett now live. In 1977 Madge bought the home she still lives in, personally renovating it with the help of her parents and brother. In 1993 she was joined there by her late husband, Lamar—they very much enjoyed life there after her early retirement from the Cobb County courthouse. These days, Madge keeps herself busy with reading, shopping, crocheting, ceramic work, and serving at First United Methodist Church of Smyrna.

With a memory as sharp as Madge's I would think it'd be amazing to look down your own street and picture it the way it was 60 or 70 years ago. Back then, Concord wasn't a busy road, but our own Spring Street was, as Spring Road didn't exist yet. People who wanted to drive from downtown Smyrna or Atlanta Road over to Hwy. 41, had to cross the RR tracks and travel down Spring Street—there was no Windy Hill Road as an alternate route. Traffic on Spring Street was much heavier than now, confining little Madge's world to within earshot of her mother's holler out the back door. She helped her mother cook, collected eggs from the chickens (everyone had them), ignored the dairy cow in the back yard (grandmother made butter), sampled the paper shell pecans (best eating kind)

from the orchard across the street and played kickball next door at the (still standing) Baptist church, where she also attended vacation Bible School. Smyrna Methodist was another important source of activity as there were always Sunday School outings to Atlanta and other spots. Madge walked across the tracks (no school crossing guard and no RR crossing arms) with her sister and brother to attend City of Smyrna Elementary School. At the time, Cobb County schools ended after the 10th grade. Then, due to changes made during Madge's tenure, she graduated in 1955, among a class of 93 students from the new Orme Campbell High School, with a full 12 year education.

Madge recalls the demolition of the "beautiful" railroad depot and the later redevelopment of downtown Smyrna as the biggest changes she's seen to her beloved home town, and perhaps the saddest. We could have ended up with a Swiss village downtown, when the folks who redid Helen, Georgia next approached business owners along Atlanta Road offering to give us our own "authentic" Alpine feel. Thankfully, that idea wasn't well received. Smyrna's old turn-of-the-century buildings that later became dilapidated, had once housed thriving businesses which played a big role in Madge's childhood. Her family walked countless times to shops like the small Colonial Grocery with sawdust floors and hand cut meats where she was introduced to the marvel of sliced bread. Our own WPN namesake, Mr. Williams, in order to raise funds for his future (and still operating) G.B.'s lake and stables, started his successful career with G.B.'s Place, a small brick shack directly alongside the tracks and facing Spring Street. It served tempting grilled hot dogs and hamburgers complete with

sauerkraut and onions. Madge remembers "it smelled so good in there" and, although her own mother's southern cooking was excellent, G.B.'s held the allure of "something different." Alas, the smallish hamburgers (which



weren't all beef because of war rationing) were an expensive 25 cents, so G.B.'s catered mainly to the train crews. Many times, when she was allowed to buy ice cream, Madge stood in line with other locals who agreeably stepped aside when a train pulled in and the engineers were served

first "because the train had to get on its way." Sometimes the accompanying hobos even made their way into G.B.'s

In high school Madge had a little spending money from occasional babysitting jobs, though with few women working, her services weren't needed very often. She was paid 25 cents an hour, much of which was spent at the fountain of Lander's Drug Store (ten counter seats and three or four booths) where she and friends managed to crowd in a good many kids per booth. It was a regular stop at the end of the school day, when soda jerks (who were her boy classmates) would serve newfangled drinks like cherry coke. It was there that she learned to put peanuts into a bottle of coke, shake it and watch it fizz, something she still enjoys drinking. Dr. Landers would blend medicines from his collection of medicinal syrups as almost all medicines were in liquid form at the time.

Madge recalls very little crime back in the old days, managed with only volunteer police and fire departments. With few civil servants in town, though, her father and uncle often pitched in to help clean up after the accidents which occurred between trains and unfortunate cars or pedestrians before the crossing arms were installed. Madge, who very much appreciates the police, firefighters, and City Council of today, considers herself a hometown girl who has always felt safe in her beloved Smyrna.

MILESTONES

births

Congratulations to Angela and Chris Kuhn (Walker Street). Their son Kellan Baker Kuhn arrived October weighing 9 pounds 12 ounces and measuring 21.75 inches—the biggest baby in the nursery.



Jeremy and Cara Fort (Bernard Lane) now have three. Hoyt James Fort, arrived on October 25 weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 19 inches. Kosh is over the moon. Celia is sizing him up.



Congratulations to Lauren and Greg Welsh (Highland Ave). Their daughter Charlotte Harper Welch was born November 3, 2013 weighing 8 pounds and 4 ounces. She's doing great



Smyrna housing market — Jill Huitron

We've had quite an interesting year in Smyrna's real estate market. It started slowly turning in November of 2012 and by January of 2013 you could really tell it had become a seller's market. Let's look at some statistics from 2012 and 2013.

The number of listings in all price points, single family and attached homes, in Smyrna in 2012 were 1076. The average list price was \$255,921, the average sold price was \$223,798. There were 707 properties sold in 2012 with an average of 128 days on the market.

Now look at 2013. The number of listings in all price points, single family and attached homes, in Smyrna were 1133. The average list price was \$288,338, the average sold price was \$256,745. There were 836 properties sold in 2013 with an average of 100 days on the market.

On December 31, 2013, there were 73 properties on the market in Smyrna—two in the price range of \$500K-\$749K, eleven in the range of \$400K-\$499K, 20 in the range of \$300K-\$399K, 14 in the range of \$200K-\$299K, 26 up to \$199K. As you can see, most of the inventory is below \$399,000.

Smyrna home sales, single family and attached, in 2012 and 2013 looked like this:

price range	2012	2013
\$1-1.5 million	fewer than 5	fewer than 5
\$750K-\$999K	fewer than 5	fewer than 5
\$500K-749K	fewer than 10	approximately 35
\$400K-\$499K	approximately 35	approximately 80
\$300K-\$399K	approximately 180	approximately 210
\$200K-\$299K	approximately 190	approximately 225
\$0-\$199K	approximately 335	approximately 345

What about Williams Park? 2012 saw 23 single family properties sold at prices ranging from \$445K to \$90K. The average list price was \$326,253 and the average sold price was \$307,572. The average days on the market was 108. There were 13 attached properties sold in 2012 at prices ranging from \$177K to \$40K. The average list price was \$116,317 and the average sold price was \$114,250. The average days on the market was 61.

Now let's look at how our neighborhood fared in 2013. On December 31, 2013, there were ten properties on the market and three under contract/pending. In 2013, 37 single family and 23 attached properties sold in WP. The single family homes here sold at prices from \$446K to \$53K. The average list price was \$320,730 and the average sold price was \$312,894. The average number of days on market was 92. The attached properties sold at prices ranging from \$445K to \$90K. The average list price was \$326,253 and the average sold price was \$307,572. The average days on market was 108.

So, what's going to happen in 2014? If the current trend continues, it will remain a seller's market with prices steadily and slowly rising some more...but we'll see as the months go by. Smyrna appears to be gaining "hot market" creds and, with WP within walking distance to Market Village and soon less than three miles from the new Braves stadium, it will be exciting to see what happens over the next few years.

MILESTONES

deaths

Our neighbor Cindy Vinion (Ivy Springs Drive) passed away on December 23, 2013, after a two year long battle with a rare sinus cancer. A native of Radford, Virginia, Cindy received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and her graduate degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She worked as an Interface Analyst and Data Architect for public health IT systems and networks, spending the last twelve years with Northrop Grumman. In her spare time, Cindy was a runner, skier and bicyclist. She attended WP social functions as well as participating in our book club and trivia group. She was very active in the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church where she was memorialized. Cindy was cremated and her ashes scattered in her parents garden. She was 46 years old.

WPN BOARD 'D

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Robyn Phillips

at large member
Jeremy Fort

Williams Park Reads (a bunch)

The WPN Book Club, meets the last Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm at a host home. We always welcome new participants. To learn which books we'll be reading in the up coming months, see the calendar on pages 2 and 3. To learn more, call Leanne at 770-863-9580. Here are our latest books.

— Leanne Fey

Where'd You Go Bernadette

by Maria Semple ★★★★★
Set in the Microsoft culture of Seattle and utilizing unconventional narratives, this funny and touching book tells the story of a brilliant 15 year old named Bee who must try to figure out why her equally brilliant and eccentric mother goes missing just as they are about to embark on a trip to Antarctica.

Ordinary Grace

by William Kent Krueger ★★★★★
Set in the summer of 1961 in Bremen, Minnesota, this novel is a coming of age story told from the perspective of a 40 year old man looking back on the summer of his 13th year when the world around him fell apart and he was forced to deal with the adult issues of death, secrets and betrayal.

The Good House

by Ann Leary ★★★★★
Hildy is a lifelong resident of an up and coming New England coastal town where she sells multimillion dollar real estate to newly rich outsiders and tries to hold her life together while getting involved in her clients' lives and struggling with whether she is really an alcoholic as her meddling daughters seem to believe.

Our rating system:

- ★ No one liked the book
- ★★ We thought it was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Fabulous -- don't miss it.

Our neighborhood reading group has been meeting since November of 2005, covering a wide variety of titles and authors. Here's the list to date, in the order the books were read and discussed.

Goodnight Nobody by Jennifer Weiner
The Red Tent by Anita Diamant
A Prayer for Owen Meaney by John Irving
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon
Possession by A.S. Byatt
Three Weeks in Paris, by Barbara Taylor Bradford
The Mermaid Chair, By Sue Monk Kidd
To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee
1776, by David McCullough
Fair and Tender Ladies, by Lee Smith
Founding Mothers, by Cokie Roberts
Digging to America, by Anne Tyler
She's Come Undone, by Wally Lamb
The Lemon Tree, by Sandy Tolan
The Whisper of the River, by Ferrol Sams
The Thirteenth Tale, by Diane Setterfield
Marley and Me, by John Grogan
The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini
The Year of Pleasures, by Elizabeth Berg
Plum Wine, by Angela Davis-Gardner
The Time Traveler's Wife, by Audra Niffenegger
Motoring with Mohammed, by Eric Hansen
The Same Sweet Girls, by Cassandra King
The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint, by Brady Udall
Cold Sassy Tree, by Olive Ann Burns
Crashing Through, by Robert Kurson – 3 stars
The Yearling, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings – 4 stars
Silent in the Grave, by Deanna Raybourn – 3 stars
Live From Cape Canaveral, by Jay Barbree – 3 stars
Hearts of Horses, by Molly Gloss – 3 stars
Still Waters, by Jennifer Lauck – 2.75 stars
Empire Falls, by Richard Russo – 3 stars
Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortensen – 4 stars
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, by Barbara Kingsolver – 4 stars
Persuasion, by Jane Austen – 3 stars
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith – 4 stars
Moloka'i, by Alan Brennert – 4.5 stars
Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott – 4 stars
North River, by Pete Hamill – 4 stars
The Faith Club, by Idliby, Oliver & Warner – 3.5 sts
A Man Called Peter, by Catherine Marshall – 3 stars
Still Alice, by Lisa Genova – 4.5 stars
Complications, by Atul Gawande – 4 stars
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Anne Schafer and Annie Barrows – 5 stars
Wicked, by Gregory Maguire – 3 stars
Rich In Love, by Josephine Humphries – 3.5 stars

continued on next page...

Kudos

Congratulations to Lauren Stewart (Roswell St.) for her team's recent statewide victory. Smyrna Soccer Club's U-12 D.C. United, the local team for 12-year-old girls, played a tense championship game in November, beating their Fayetteville opponents in overtime.



Way to go Lauren!

Thanks to recent Happy Hour hosts...

Wendy Amundson and Tony Graves



Myrna & Larry Evans



Williams Park Reads — cont'd

- The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett – 4 stars
- The Forgotten Garden*, by Kate Morton – 3.5 stars
- Escape From The Deep*, by Alex Kershaw – 4 stars
- Siddhartha*, by Herman Hesse – 3 stars
- The Nine*, by Jeffery Toobin – 4 stars
- The Lost City of Z*, by David Grann – 3.5 stars
- Cataloochee*, by Wayne Caldwell – 4 stars
- Talk Gertie To Me*, by Lois Winston – 3.5 stars
- An Irish Country Doctor*, by Patrick Taylor – 4 stars
- Franklin and Lucy*, by Joseph Persico – 4 stars
- Tomorrow River*, by Leslie Kagan - 3.5 stars
- West With The Night*, by Beryl Markham – 4 stars
- The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane*, by Katherine Howe – 4 stars
- Sarah's Key*, by Tatiana De Rosnay – 4 stars
- My Heart's in the Lowlands*, by Liz Curtis Higgs – 3 stars
- Wish You Well*, by David Baldacci – 4 stars
- Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, by Helen Simonson – 4 stars
- House At Riverton*, by Kate Morton – 3.5 stars
- Crooked Letter Crooked Letter*, by Tom Franklin – 4 stars
- Garden of Angels*, by Lurlene McDaniel – 3.5 stars
- Remarkable Creatures*, by Tracy Chevalier - 4 stars
- Then Came You*, by Jennifer Weiner - 3.5 stars
- The River of Doubt*, by Candace Millard - 3.5 stars
- The Lucky One*, by Nicholas Sparks - 3.5 stars
- Steel Magnolias*, the movie
- The Snow Child*, by Eowyn Ivey - 4 stars
- The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins - 4 stars
- Winter Garden*, by Kristen Hannah - 4.5 stars
- Language of Flowers*, by Vanessa Diffenbaugh - 4 stars
- The Night Circus*, by Erin Morganstern - 4.5 stars
- Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford - 4 stars
- Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, by Susan Vreeland - 3.5 stars
- The Iguana Tree*, by Michel Stone - 4 stars
- How I Became a Famous Novelist*, by Steve Hely - 3.5 stars
- The Next Step in the Dance*, by Tim Gautreaux - 3 stars
- My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult - 3.5 stars
- A Land More Kind Than Home*, by Wiley Cash - 3 stars
- Run*, by Ann Patchett - 3.5 stars
- Is Paris Burning*, by Dominique Lapierrre - 3.5 stars
- Little White Lies*, by Gemma Townley - 3.5 stars
- Short Night of the Shadow Catcher*, by Tim Egan - 4 stars
- Where'd You Go Bernadette*, by Maria Semple - 4 stars
- Ordinary Grace*, by William Kent Krueger - 4.5 stars
- The Good House*, by Ann Leary - 3.5 stars



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Historic homes within the Williams Park neighborhood

The greatest concentration of surviving older buildings in Smyrna lies in Williams Park. When WPN members Casey Clavin and Vic Koch began researching them for a 2012 presentation to the Smyrna Historical Society and Williams Park Neighbors, twenty houses still stood which were built before the First World War. Sadly, that number has been reduced to nineteen. Here, as PART THREE in a series of articles covering Williams Park's oldest houses, we're including the Lyle-Bowles House in the chronological spot it occupied as the third oldest house still standing in the neighborhood just prior to its demolition on December 7, 2013.

circa 1889 Lyle-Bowles House

1505 Spring Street LINKED PARALLEL RIDGE COTTAGE

This is (was) the Lyle house, likely built in 1889 despite rumors of it dating to before the Civil War. The idea that it may have been the oldest standing house in Smyrna was based on the following scenario. Susan Fredonia Stephens was 18 years old when she married J.M. Lyle and joined him in his house on Spring Street. Since she died at 98 in 1939, her marriage at age 18 occurred in 1859—hence the Lyle house already stood prior to the Civil War. While it's true this is the house Susan Lyle occupied during the last decades of her life, it cannot

be the house where she was carried across the threshold—a deed search shows this property was not owned by the Lyle family until purchased by Susan Lyle in 1889. Given the nature of the structure's historic fabric, it appears Ms. Lyle built this house shortly after acquiring the property in 1889.

In researching our neighborhood's old houses, we generally relied on a document called "House Types in Georgia" (published by the Historic Preservation Division of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources) to aid in categorizing each house by its type—the overall "envelope" of the original structure, plus the general



layout of the interior rooms. While that document identifies 28 types, it also acknowledges that those do not account for all the houses built in Georgia.

As we evaluated Williams Park's oldest houses, we found four with strong similarities to each other that failed to fit any listed types. Seeing a distinctive roof layout inextricably linked with a floor plan, we created a new type which we named a Linked Parallel Ridge Cottage. As seen in the illustration at left, this type of house has three roof ridges—a parallel pair running fore and aft, linked at the front by a third ridge perpendicular to the pair. (These may be gabled or hipped we have examples of both in W.P.) A central hallway, with flanking rooms aligned under the paired roof sections, imposes a strong bi-lateral symmetry on the interior.



On the Lyle-Bowles house the front roof section was side gabled. In the picture at the lower left, you can see one of the paired ridges running back from the front ridge. The parallel pair terminated in rear facing gables. The foot print was as originally built, about 2,000 square feet—the house had no exterior additions. It was balloon framed, built of true dimensional lumber, joined with cut nails. There were two chimneys, serving four fireplaces. The foundation, later covered, was brick piers infilled with concrete block around the perimeter and stacked stone piers under the house.

Some time in the 1950s or '60s, the house got a face lift. The body of the house was over-clad with composite shingles obscuring the original clapboard siding



circa

1889

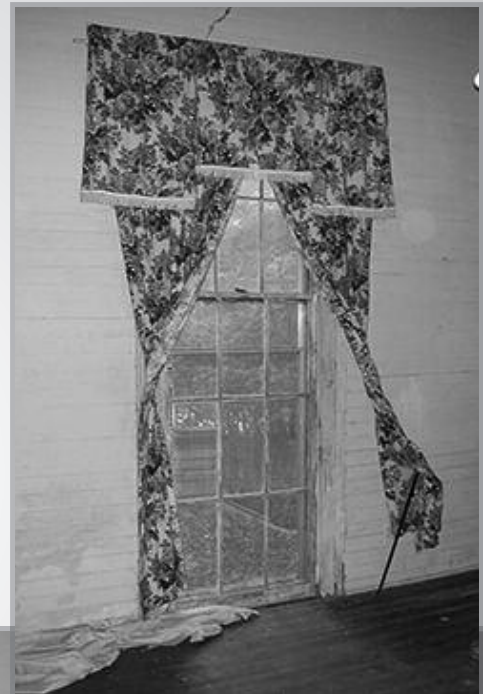
Lyle-Bowles House

and exterior trim. The underpinning was over-clad with a faux stone, rising to a level higher than the actual juncture between foundation and house, and covering the lower courses of clapboard. The front porch canopy and the soffits were covered in vinyl.

Inside, this house remained largely unaltered. It was originally configured with an 8' wide central hall running 40+' from the front porch to the back porch with three rooms along each side. All the walls and ceilings were wood (4" wide ship-lap applied horizontally). The floors were heart pine—5" wide. The ceilings were 11' 6" high. There were four fireplaces with mantles. Those and the door and window casings were the only interior trim work—this is a very simple interior. The front windows, were 6 over 9, reaching all the way to the floor as per the Whitfield-Nelson and Taylor-Brawner houses. Windows on the sides and back were 6 over 6. All the interior doors used rim lock hardware with porcelain knobs. Rim locks are surface mounted latch and lock units fully visible on one side of the door. In the picture below left, you can see the units on each of the two doors along with corresponding latches mounted on the door frames. On the opposite side of a door, one sees only the knob and a very small circular escutcheon trimming the hole where the shaft runs through the door.

Of its few alterations, the most significant was additional walls installed to subdivide the center hall into a bathroom and a large storage closet. It was done rather provisionally and

could have been easily reversed. The interior walls were repainted in the later half of the 20th century with non-historic colors.



circa 1889

Lyle-Bowles House



Chain of ownership for parcel 17059300260

year	purchaser	date	book/page
1887	Z T Terrell	6-30-87	J/438
1889	Susan F. Lyle	2-18-89	U/534
1943	Beulah S. Gault	9-28-43	150-362
1943	P H Mell	9-30-43	158/548
1944	Earl G Medford	2-21-44	161/538
1946	W.B. & Frances Bowles	1-10-46	170/457
1996	Ruby Lois Bowles	3-5-96	9451/208
2009	R.L.B. & Linda Gibson	4-15-09	14683/2748
2012	Gulf South Inc.	11-8-12	15000/1989
2013	Lost to demolition	12-7-13	

In 1887 Z. T. Terrell bought a parcel, most of which lay within the southwest corner of land lot 593—all the shaded areas near lower left in the graphic—and sold it to Susan Stephens Lyle. She built the house and lived there for the next half century. Upon her death in 1939, the property passed to Beulah Stephens Gault (the same maiden name) who hired a surveyor in 1943 to plot a subdivision of the whole into several lots. P.H. Mell bought the whole package, then sold two lots (the darker two shaded areas in the graphic), one of which held the house, to Earl Medford who then sold them to Fannie Kate and William Brown Bowles who moved into the house. Their later sale of the other lot left the Lyle-Bowles house on the darkest parcel only 70 feet in width.

The Bowles had three children, William Jr., Frances Lee, and Ruby Lois. While Bill Jr. married and moved away, Frances and Ruby remained single, living together in the house. Ruby, the longest lived, moved from the house near the end of 2009 and died near the end of 2010, ending 64 years of family ownership. These pictures are believed to be of William Bowles on the horse and Ruby in front of the house.

Madge Dobbs Jackson, who grew up a few doors down, recalls a peculiarity about the Bowles—when they walked as a fami-

ly, they did so in order of seniority—Mr Bowles in front followed by his wife and children in descending order by age. William Bowles worked operating the Atlanta-Marietta bridge on Highway 41.

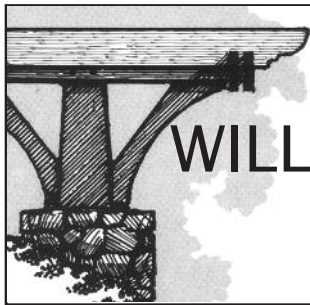
The property transferred to Bowles family friend, Linda Gibson (aka Washington or Conn) in 2009. After Ms. Bowes death, a FOR SALE sign went up and, after two years on the market, the property was bought by Gulf South Inc. in November of 2012.

After 124 years, the Lyle-Bowles house was demolished on December 7, 2013.



JARED SWAFORD





WILLIAMS PARK

MEMO

december 2013 — january 2014

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