

The History of Woodland Heights

Antebellum History of the Region

The lands south of the James River and west of the Town of Manchester were mostly wooded and undeveloped in the 18th century. A number of farms and industrial ventures were established in the area in the 19th century.

Holden Rhodes was one of the early residents of the area. Rhodes, a native of Canada, came to Manchester, Virginia around 1820 to tutor the sons of lawyer Samuel Taylor. After becoming a lawyer himself and a partner of Taylor, Rhodes purchased 700 acres of land between the Midlothian Turnpike and the James River. He built the "Stone House" which stands now in Forest Hill Park, around 1840, and his lands were known variously as "Dunston" or "Boscobel." Rhodes died in 1857, and his nephew Charles Rhodes acquired the land. Other nineteenth-century farms in the area were Spring Hill Farm, east of Canoe Run, within the town limits of Manchester; and Grove Farm.

The Richmond & Danville Railroad line ran along the south bank of the James River in 1853, in the approximate location of the current Southern Railway lines. A sawmill and factory were located on the south bank of the River, north of the railroad tracks and just east of the present northern terminus of 24th Street. A series of races and flumes was indicated on early maps. There is potential for archaeological evidence of these antebellum enterprises. Granite quarrying was undertaken in the riverbed. A combination of flooding, railroad development, surface looting, and landscaping of the James River Park has removed much of the evidence of these enterprises. Surviving evidence includes dressed granite blocks, races, a canal lock, quarrying beds, etc. The location of the water-powered saw is now marked by a sign in the park.

A property called "Mansion Square" was located in the block north of Second Street and between Locust and Spruce streets, the approximate location being in the northwest corner of the present Canoe Run Park. Smith's Map suggests that there were buildings in this block and in the block immediately east. Extensive ground disturbance and construction in this area, in the early twentieth century and in more recent years, suggests that any subsurface evidence may have been destroyed. None of the buildings survived to be recorded on Sanborn fire insurance maps, or on the Beers or Baist atlases of the later 19th century.

The Spring Hill farmlands were envisioned for suburban residential development prior to the Civil War. A gridiron pattern of primary streets and secondary alleys, similar to the pattern that defines most of present-day Woodland Heights, was surveyed as early as 1853, when a residential neighborhood called Spring Hill was projected (Smith's Map,

1853.) The streets were not paved or developed, and do not appear to have predated the locations of the present-day streets, although the pattern was similar and the orientation was the same. East-West streets were numbered consecutively from Front (First) Street at the northern edge. Third Street was north of, and parallel to, the present-day Semmes Avenue. Eighth Street was southernmost. Oblique streets on the riverfront were called Rhodes and Mayo streets. North-South streets were named for trees, with Oak Street approximating the present-day Cowardin Avenue approach to the Lee Bridge. Parallel streets, consecutively to the west, were called Walnut, Chestnut, Pine, Cedar, Market, Spruce, Locust, Maple, Cherry, Race, and Vine.

The antebellum blocks were to have been slightly smaller, measuring east-west, than are the present-day blocks. Vine Street was in the approximate location of present-day 28th Street. Locust was approximately 24th. This projected neighborhood included land both east and west of Canoe Run. The gridiron pattern was not parallel to either the gridiron of Manchester or to the Old River Road (Route 60, an extension of Bainbridge Street.) The Richmond & Petersburg Railroad ran through the southeast corner of the neighborhood. A burying ground was noted in this same corner of Spring Hill, in the vicinity of present-day Perry and 22nd streets. A system of north-south alleys subdivided most blocks.

East-west streets in Manchester at this time included McDonough, Perry, and Porter. These names were maintained when the streets were extended west into Woodland Heights. Semmes Avenue was shown as a borderline, unpaved right-of-way on the 1853 map. It was not named.

The Civil War Era

A plat surveyed in January 1862 shows the farm formerly belonging to Chas. H. Rhodes, Esq. The plat shows the Westham Road, approximating the present Forest Hill Drive. Between Westham Road and the Richmond & Danville Railroad, the Rhodes lands were divided into three tracts. Mrs. Clarke's land was east of the surveyed area. Easternmost of the Rhodes farmland was tract No.1, 90 acres. Next west was tract No.2, 101.25 acres; the Confederate Battery B was in the northern part of this tract. A creek formed the western boundary of tract no. 2. To the west of the creek was tract no. 3, 95.45 acres, with a house plainly marked. This appears to have been the Stone House. Other Rhodes lands were south of Westham Road, extending to the Buckingham Turnpike (the present Hull Street.) Further to the west was Mrs. Archer's land.

Michie's 1867 map of Richmond showed no streets west of the present Cowardin Street, and a Confederate earth-works called Battery No. 13 near the present intersection of Springhill and 20th streets. Hints of the projected Spring Hill street layout show on this map, between Cowardin Avenue and the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad. Land in the present-day Woodland Heights neighborhood was shown as wooded and undeveloped.

Late 19th-Century Development

A Chesterfield County plat dated 22 December 1876 shows the two eastern tracts of the Rhodes lands, which were called Grove Farm. The lands were owned by William Giddings and the estate of Calvin Giddings. A house and a number of outbuildings were marked on the eastern tract, owned by the Estate of Calvin Giddings; a spring bisects the land, and perhaps this is Canoe Run. The western tract was owned by William Giddings, and a dwelling house was plainly marked on this land. A quarry was marked in the southwest corner of this tract. To the east of these plats was W. G. Taylor's land, called Spring Hill.

Beers's 1876 atlas of Richmond identified the area west of Cowardin and north of Bainbridge as "Spring Hill," and showed the gridiron pattern of streets. Alleys were not shown. Semmes Avenue was so named, but the parallel streets to the north were called Brooke and Maffit streets. Numbered streets through 24th Street had their present-day names, but 25th was called Clopton Street. Other streets were shown in their present-day locations, but without their names. Irregular streets, including Hillcrest and Riverside, were not shown. The Beers atlas indicated all buildings in the city, and no buildings were shown in the Spring Hill section, except for "Holland," who lived north of Bainbridge between 23rd and 24th streets; "Thos. Carroll," who lived south of Bainbridge, near 24th Street; and several other residences south of Bainbridge. Beers's atlas also showed a cemetery south of the intersection of Bainbridge and 24th streets.

Chesterfield County tax records for 1880 describe three tracts of land that would eventually be combined to form the modern subdivision of Woodland Heights: Grove Farm, Spring Hill, and Fonticello.

A plat surveyed in July 1886 shows the Spring Hill tracts of land and property to the west. Spring Hill is shown as 26 acres east of Canoe Run. An 84-acre tract west of Spring Hill was the property of John E. Taylor. Grove Farm was to the west. The granite quarry, just west of Reedy Creek in the southwest corner of Grove Farm is clearly labeled. Reedy Creek forms most of the western boundary of Grove Farm. To the south of the John Taylor land, southeast of Grove Farm, is a tract owned by W.G. Taylor; this appears to be the Fonticello land.

G. William Baist's 1889 *Atlas of the City of Richmond* showed the "Spring Hill Tract," restricting its depictions to the area east of Canoe Run. No buildings were shown in the area. Maffit Street had become Stonewall Street, and Brooke Street had become Springhill Street. A street paralleling the riverbank was called Bellevue. North-south streets east of Canoe Run were called (consecutively west from Cowardin) Belle Isle Street, Lee Street, Virginia Street, and Chesterfield Street. Stonewall and Springhill streets were shown extending westward past Canoe Run, and 23rd, 24th, and 25th streets were shown.

Creation of the Suburb

The community of Woodland Heights traces its immediate origins to the organization of the Southside Land and Improvement Company in 1889. John C. Robertson, an Amelia County native then living in Baltimore and Joseph Bryan of Richmond were partners in the Company. In 1889 the Rhodes lands were acquired by the Southside Land and Improvement Company. That same year a large parcel of land west of Manchester and south of the Richmond and Danville Railroad was purchased by financier T.C. Williams, later the developer of Windsor Farms. The 187-acre tract, formerly known in the Chesterfield County land tax books as the W.F. Giddings property called Grove Farm, encompassed most of what is Woodland Heights today. An 1890 Chamber of Commerce map gives the earliest picture of what would become the characteristic grid and square plan of the Woodland Heights subdivision. The map also shows that the first name given to Forest Hill Park was "Woodland Park." The Chesterfield County tax books identified this same tract as "Woodland Heights" as early as 1893, with a plat showing its subdivision into the neighborhood's present grid plan of 80 blocks. In 1893 the company's assets included a second parcel of land valued at \$15,000 and located west of Woodland Heights on Reedy Creek. Known today as Forest Hill Park, the property formerly belonged to Holden Rhodes. The land company deeded the Forest Hill Park portion of its holdings by 1894 to the Richmond and Manchester Railway Company. The railway company laid trolley car tracks along Semmes Avenue with a terminus at 41st Street behind the Old Stone House and built an amusement park that incorporated the granite structure within it. The 1919 Sanborn Insurance Company maps of the park show a merry-go-round, a figure-eight-shaped ride called the Dip the Dip, an enchanted house, dancing pavilion, bowling alley, bandstand, numerous booths and drink stands and a penny arcade that wrapped around the antebellum stone house.

The electric trolley system, by opening access for development to less expensive land outside the downtown area, combined with other influences - such as lower labor costs and mass produced building supplies - to increase housing opportunities for a wider segment of the city's growing population. Public utilities tended to follow the trolley lines. Investors in street car companies not only developed amusement parks such as Forest Hill Park but also speculated in real estate.

The Southside Land and Improvement Company sold many lots in the early 1890s but the neighborhood saw little construction activity. Only seven houses stood in the neighborhood by 1894, four of them along the streetcar tracks on Semmes Avenue, while the other three stood within a block of Semmes on 32nd Street.

The Bradley map of 1893-1898 identifies 85 numbered squares or blocks, with each block generally measuring 310' by 310' with lots 148' deep and 14' alleys. The map indicates the location of a Pump House at the north end of 22nd Street and a water tower standing in the block between Stonewall and Spring Hill and 19th and 20th Street. On the south side of Semmes between 19th and 20th streets were located a Power House and Car Sheds.

The gridiron pattern of streets in the eastern half of present-day Woodland Heights was shown on an 1896 map of Richmond and Manchester, published in the 1898 city directory. Semmes Avenue, Brooke (the present-day Spring Hill), Maffit (later called Bellevue, and then Stonewall), and Clopton (25th) streets were shown. Numbered streets through 24th Street had their present-day names. Most other streets were shown in their present-day locations, but without their names. Irregular streets, including Hillcrest and Riverside, were not shown.

The 1896 map showed a streetcar line down Semmes Avenue running to 34th Street. Jas. H. Godsey, car inspector, lived at an unnumbered residence on Semmes Avenue in 1898, and at 2501 Semmes in 1902. Forest Hill Park was established by 1896, and several residential-scale blocks to the west of the park had been laid out. "Woodland Heights" and "Forest Hill" were used to describe these residential quarters in the 1898 directory.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of Manchester in 1895, 1905 and 1910 showed the gridiron street pattern, with most of the present names (McDonough, Semmes, Springhill and the numbered streets as far west as 30th Street.) Street locations appear to correspond to present locations. The first Sanborn maps to depict buildings in the neighborhood are dated 1919. Sanborn maps typically did not show details of areas without dense concentrations of buildings.

A second set of Sanborn maps of the neighborhood is included with the State Library's 1924 package, but the precise date of the Woodland Heights depictions is not clear. The base maps have the date 1919, but later buildings (including the 1921 Patrick Henry School) are shown. Addenda and "paste-ons" dated 1942, 1947 and 1950 are included. The Sanborn company would regularly update their maps with "paste-ons," and these alterations are difficult to detect.

Woodland Heights in the First Decade of the 20th Century

The name Woodland Heights was used for this community as early as 1898. The 1898 Richmond/Manchester city directory lists several families as residing in Woodland Heights, including the Gibboney family; Berthial Pillow, engineer, and Charles Pillow, machinist; Linden A. Bowen, clerk; Joseph E. Herndon, puddler; and Thomas J. Mose, ironworker. John R. Holstead (or Halstead), Lizzie Holstead, and Bryan McCullen lived in the 2600 block of Semmes. Walter Reuss, contractor, and Hallas W. Clark, artist, boarded at the Holstead residence, 2614 Semmes. The 1902 directory lists the Ahern family (Jas. A., laborer; Mary, widow of William; and William J., machinist) living at 33rd Street, Woodland Heights, Manchester. Other people were living on Semmes Avenue and 27th Street at this time. Chesterfield County land tax books indicate that thirteen households lived within the budding suburban community on the outskirts of Manchester and Richmond in 1900.

The new suburb was promoted in a brochure called "Woodland Heights, Virginia." The brochure extolled the bucolic park setting of the neighborhood, the absence of swamp land, the proximity to downtown Richmond and to Forest Hill Park, and the ease of access via electric streetcars operated by the Richmond and Southside Electric Railway Line on a fifteen-minute schedule. (In 1909, cars ran at ten minute intervals.) Two Queen Anne style residences in Woodland Heights were illustrated: the home of T.D. Mann at 519 W. 32nd Street, and the home of Richard A. Bowen at 601 W. 32nd Street. Wooden fences enclosed the yards of both houses. Large carriage houses and other outbuildings were shown in the rear yards of each house. The Mann house, with its oblique tower and fine carpenter's ornamentation, stands largely intact. The Bowen house also stands, but it has undergone several alterations.

The purpose of the brochure was plainly stated: "We desire to make you a resident, and can only do so by selling you a lot." Development of the new suburb was to be controlled, evidently. The brochure stated that . . . We have drawn such restrictions in the conveyances as are needful to protect the resident. The character of the improvements is made a condition, and no nuisance of any character is permitted, the intent being to secure a class of residents and style of architecture, which will make the community desirable, alike for its tone as for its elegance in improvements.

A map of the neighborhood printed in the brochure shows Forest Hill Avenue identified as Westham Street. The neighborhood's eastern boundary was plainly fixed at Canoe Run, where a "corporation line" (the Manchester corporate limits) was shown. The southern boundary was at Westham and Perry streets. Bellevue, Davis, and Granite streets were shown, while Riverside, Hillcrest, Chesterfield, and Ferncliff were not. The Taylor family residence and property, called Fonticello, an irregular twelve block area between 27th, 31st, Westham (Forest Hill), Bainbridge and Semmes streets, was excluded from the rest of Woodland Heights. The property included a large two-story brick residence called Fonticello; several outbuildings; and the buildings of the Fonticello Lithia Springs company, bottlers of the fine mineral water which still emanates from a spring in Fonticello Park. The surveyed streets, however, were shown extending through this area. The present Fonticello Playground now takes up most of this area. The Fonticello residence was shown on the 1919 Sanborn map, but it is no longer standing.

The Woodland Heights trolley, or street car, was originally pulled by horses. By 1909, however, the street cars running along Semmes had become electrified and a new developer, the Southside Company, successor to the Southside Land and Improvement Company, had taken over the job of promoting the subdivision through an aggressive marketing campaign. Almost every Sunday the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* contained a full-page ad touting the advantages of living in Woodland Heights. These ads informed potential buyers of such amenities as Chesterfield water, granolithic sidewalks, and double-track trolley service. Uncontaminated by the "smoke, gases and dirt of the city," Woodland Heights was described as the perfect place to raise a family.

Other residential neighborhoods in Chesterfield County were also developing in these years. The 1902 Richmond/Manchester directory lists several households in Forest Hill, to the west of Woodland Heights; several households in Barton Heights; and many families in the Hull Street and Swansboro area, to the south of Woodland Heights.

Woodland Heights in 1910

A 1909 Newspaper ad described the neighborhood's growth, noting that "a small army of men has been working for months under direction of competent engineers to fully develop this great suburb." By 1910 most of the lots in Woodland Heights had been sold and no less than 64 houses stood within the subdivision. The federal census records give a detailed, if somewhat incomplete, picture of the 25 households which resided on Semmes Avenue at the beginning of the second decade of the 20th century. Occupations of the heads of households included grocery and hardware store merchants, motormen, conductors, machinists, drivers, teachers, bricklayers, carpenters, clerks, ticket agents, dressmakers and engineers. With an average of five people in a household, married women generally worked in the home, while daughters employed outside the family worked as milliners, teachers, clerks, book makers and stenographers. Sons might be employed as factory workers, clerks, grocers, electricians, and machinists. While restrictive covenants legally barred black families from owning property in Woodland Heights in this period, the census records indicate that five black women lived in Semmes Avenue households in 1910, employed in the home as servants or cooks.

A realtor named A.M. Gover stated in a 1910 ad. that on 1 January 1909, there were about 44 residences in Woodland Heights, built over a period of twenty years; but that, as of 2 January 1910, there were seventy residences, one new store, and one new church. The average value of a residence in the suburb was said to have trebled in that period. The area's amenities cited were granolithic sidewalks, famous Chesterfield water, free sewer service to home builders, and electric light and telephone service. Gover noted that Woodland Heights property was restricted, "thus insuring its permanent desirability as a place of residence."

Another realtor, M.C. Mann, office at 911 Hull Street, also promoted Woodland Heights in the early 20th century. His ad (circa 1910) said that the neighborhood was his home, and that he had all of the lots then on the market, at owners' prices.

Advertisements in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* in September 1910 described Woodland Heights as follows:

Woodland Heights - The True Suburb Beautiful - is steadily growing in every way, and as a field for the investor or homeseeker it is unequalled. It is the ideal residential part of Richmond. A community of gentlemen's homes.

The year 1910 saw the annexation of Manchester by the City of Richmond, leaving Woodland Heights, together with all of present day South Richmond, still part of Chesterfield County. A granite pillar engraved "C.L. 1910" stands in James River Park, north of Canoe Run Park; this appears to be the northwest corner of the annexed territory. The line dividing the City of Richmond and the Woodland Heights neighborhood then as earlier coincided with Canoe Run, which itself marked old Manchester's western corporation line.

Woodland Heights
"The Perfect Suburb"

Only twenty minutes from Seventh and Broad Streets. Water, sewerage, sidewalks, shade trees, school—everything modern and up-to-date. Adjoins the most beautiful natural park in the South. We have several desirable houses now ready that we will sell right, or we will build to suit you and sell to you for a small cash payment and the balance like rent. Note the following properties, which will be shown you without obligation if you are interested:

House of seven rooms, bath and pantry; large lot in the very best section. Price \$3,600.	Large house of nine rooms, one square of lot, beautiful lot, well elevated. Price only \$4,000. Each worth \$4,500.
House of eight rooms, full cellar, bath, pantry. Latrobe heat and electric light. Large corner lot. Price \$4,000; only \$500 cash, balance like rent.	Brick house, containing eight large rooms, two baths, hot water heat; hardwood floors first story; sun parlor; wide porch. Cheap at \$6,750. \$2,200 cash, balance straight mortgage.
Beautiful little bungalow of six rooms and bath, one square of car line. Price \$3,350.	

The Central Realty Co., Inc.
GREEN, HUGHES & GREEN, Managers,
918 HULL STREET, SOUTH RICHMOND, VA. PHONE RANDOLPH 11

A map of the neighborhood, showing the properties sold between 1889 and 1911, was published by the Southside Co. Inc. in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on 23 April 1911. The map showed that Riverside Drive had not been completed; the street extended only from Manchester to 26th Street. No lots were shown on the east side of 24th Street north of Semmes Avenue. The Fonticello area was still separate from Woodland Heights. Street names included Westham St., Bellevue St., and Davis St. Hillcrest Road was shown in its current configuration. Most of the unsold lots were located on W. 29th, W. 30th, W. 31st, and W. 32nd Street, in the north and northwestern areas of the neighborhood. Other large blocks of unsold lots were on W. 24th, W. 25th, and W. 26th streets, north of Semmes; on W. 25th St., south of Semmes; and on W. 28th St., between Semmes and Stonewall.

The 1914 Annexation

Woodland Heights was formally annexed by the City of Richmond in 1914. Around 1915, the old Taylor family property, Fonticello, was incorporated into the subdivision as the site for new housing and a city park. In the 1911 and 1915 Richmond directories, Woodland Heights was listed as a suburb, reached by the Forest Hill streetcar. Forest Hill was also listed as a suburb.

With annexation came improved city services and a dramatic increase in building activity from the end of World War I to beginning of the Great Depression. Between 1915 and 1920 two hundred new houses in Woodland Heights were added to the city tax records. Amenities of the district included (temporary) free sewerage service for home builders, "pure" Chesterfield water, "granolithic" (i.e. concrete) sidewalks, electric lights, and telephone service. The proximity to the James River and to Forest Hill Park were noted. It was still noted that properties in the suburb were "wisely restricted against nuisances and disagreeable features."

The Central Realty Company, Inc., with offices at 915 Hull Street, promoted development of Woodland Heights circa 1912-1920. They built and marketed houses in several Richmond suburbs, with emphasis on Woodland Heights and other southside neighborhoods. A.A. Adkins was president of the firm; Richard H. Singrey, who organized the firm in 1912, was vice-president; P.A. Green was manager of the real estate department; Sidney A. Hughes was manager of the insurance department; and William S. Green was manager of the contracting department. One [undated] newspaper account noted that several Central Realty Company buildings in Woodland Heights were sold before construction was completed, and that in some cases W.S. Green had "changed the architecture of the structures to suit the buyers." The company's advertisement in 1914 offered an eightroom building in Woodland Heights for \$4000. An eight-room house on Semmes Avenue was offered that same year for \$3750. Other houses ranged in price from a "beautiful little bungalow" at \$3350 to an eight-room brick house, "cheap at \$6750." (from the Richmond News Leader, June 13, 1914)



SPECIAL.
Woodland Heights
New House containing eight (8) rooms, cellar, bath and pantry. Latrobe heat and electric light. Large corner lot. A beautiful home.
Price \$4,000
Only \$500 Cash and Balance Payable \$35 Per Month.
The Central Realty Co., Inc.
915 Hull Street, City.
Phone Randolph 10.

Woodland Heights homes were built by the company (R.H. Singrey given credit) for S. L. Cole, J.B. Doub, and Charles Paul in 1914. W.S. Green was living on Bellevue, corner of 31st Street, in 1915, and A.A. Adkins was living at 301 W. 31st Street in that year.

A 1914 newspaper article noted that 300 substantial homes had been built in Woodland Heights within the past five years, and that some fifty more buildings were under construction.

The 1919 Sanborn survey indicated over 330 dwellings in the neighborhood as well as a firehouse, public school and three churches - the Woodland Heights Baptist Church, the Primitive Baptist Church, and the Berryman Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Woodland Heights in the 1920s

During the 1920s another 330 new dwellings were added to the neighborhood's housing stock. A photograph in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 2 September 1927, titled "New Homes in Woodland Heights, " shows several buildings on the 800 block of W. 33rd Street. The photo caption notes that "paving has been ordered by Colonel R. Keith Compton, Director of Public Works." The photo shows mud streets. A paved sidewalk and telephone poles are also evident.

Seventy-five percent of the houses in Woodland Heights were built prior to 1933. Because the houses in the neighborhood were constructed by many different builders over a long period of development that saw at least four major building campaigns between 1890 and 1940, Woodland Heights features a remarkably wide range of architectural types and styles. It is not uncommon to find examples of Queen Anne, Colonial revival style houses, bungalows, and American Foursquares on the same block.

Sally R. Ribeiro recalls how a Mr. Godfrey, a former resident of Woodland Heights, described how he moved into his house on New Kent Avenue in 1931. He said it rained that day, making the moving difficult, because the unpaved streets turned to knee-deep mud.

Janet Ramsey relates how Cecelia Ditmars remembered springs in the neighborhood, near Spring Hill, 27th, and 28th streets. These were capped by the city, and culverts were built to drain them down to the river. The culverts ran down the alley behind the church (Primitive Baptist, 28th Street?), then between 27th and 28th, then across 27th Street where it intersects with Hillcrest, then to the river.

Anne Reams Bailey (Mrs. Robert L.) lived on Hillcrest Road for many years, and she recalls many aspects of the neighborhood and the people who lived there. Her recollections are included in this account by street and address where possible. She attended Patrick Henry Elementary School on Semmes Avenue. She recalls that her family always got water at Fonticello Spring. She recalls the amusement park in Forest Hill Park; the gardens, especially her grandfather's (Emmett H. Reams') garden and the Weisigers' garden, which had a fish pond; the tennis courts and the Bainbridge Street Baptist Church baseball team playing at Fonticello; and more.

Ruth & Rudy Steinruck, who have lived on W. 26th Street for many years, recall that their sons were raised in Woodland Heights, attending Patrick Henry School (where Malcolm Pitt was principal) and playing at Fonticello Park, which catered to children's entertainment. The Steinrucks recall also that favorite "hangouts" in the neighborhood were Anthony's and the Semmes Avenue Drugstore.

The Patrick Henry School at 3411 Semmes Avenue opened in 1922, with enrollment of 314. Clyde Busby was the first principal; Mary A. Goodwin became principal in 1923, and held the position through 1956. Additions to the school were made in 1928. Later principals were Malcolm U. Pitt (1956-1958); Charles E. Sherman (1958-1965); Leonard F. Sutton (1965-1973); and Mrs. Patricia C. Davis (1973- 1979).