



Progress photo by Michael Harrison

This stone house on Stadium Road, once occupied by UVa faculty and students, will be demolished to accommodate new UVa dormitories opening in 1992.

## New dormitories to ease old problem

**Editor's note:** Each week in Update, the Progress takes a look at a story that has been in the news in the past. If you have an idea for Update, call 978-7240.

By **LANE THOMASSON**  
of The Progress staff

Land clearing for the construction of five dormitories, a dining facility and a professor's residence is to begin at the University of Virginia next month, said Donald C. Riggan, senior project manager at UVa's Physical Plant.

On Stadium Road between Mimosa Drive and Piedmont, the dormitories are to house 526 upper-class and graduate students and three faculty members.

The complex is to be ready for occupancy by August, 1992.

Construction is to begin by March, 1991,

### Update

when a contract will be awarded, Riggan said.

A 670-seat dining hall, laundry facilities, reading rooms, a seminar room, computer laboratory, vending area, mail service, faculty offices and 225 parking spaces also are planned for the project. It is not named.

The 14.5-acre project will cost \$24.5 million and will be funded by revenue bonds and private contributions. Recent state budget cuts will not affect the complex, Riggan said.

"About 75 percent of the rooms are singles," Riggan said. "They are arranged 30 to a floor on three full floors and a half floor. Residents will share bathroom facilities, by

sex, and will have a lounge and kitchenette equipped with a microwave, stove top and refrigerator on each floor."

Designed on the residential college model, the dormitories are also to house two faculty members in two-bedroom apartments. A third faculty member, who will act as college principal, will have a private residence in the complex.

Faculty and residents will eat in the dining hall, as will residents of the Stadium Road dormitories, who eat in Observatory Hill Dining Hall.

For years, community residents have complained that the university did not provide sufficient student housing on-grounds. Several sites for additional dormitories were proposed, including land on Fontaine Avenue, Ivy Drive and even a tract near Birdwood Pavilion.

148  
190  
27  
19

Interview Date: 11/28/83

Age: 79

*Haynes*  
Alice Hall's Clark

*Haynes*  
Alice Hall's Clark is a descendent of the founder of the Piedmont Plantation, which is now the site of University housing. She shares recollections of life at Piedmont as well as remembrances of other parts of the neighborhood.

My father came from King William County, outside of Richmond and attended the University. I was born here in Charlottesville after my father had died in Texas. I was a post-humous child. I live at 2500 Stadium Road (which was part of the old Piedmont plantation), and have lived here for the past 30 years.

"Piedmont" was the name of the old white house in the middle of the plantation which at one time consisted of 2300 acres during the 1800's. This plantation was owned by the Maury family at that time. Today streets and University buildings are named for the Maury's, Fontaines, and Piedmonts???? *Piedmont (plantation) Mathew* Mathew Fontaine Maury was called "the old pathfinder", and he was my grandfather's first cousin. Maury Hall was named for him. *Reuben* ~~Reuben~~ Maury's great great grandfather founded Piedmont. He built the house and bought some of the land in the early 1800s, and over time the farm evolved. He also bought some land from James Monroe. The farm extended south and east toward Hickory Hill Church on 295 *Rt. 29* and surrounded Fry's Springs. At one time there was a slave graveyard where new dormitories now stand. About 93 graves were

found. They were Maury slaves.

I lived in the big house until I was six or seven years old. Mother built a stone house near the 2500 Stadium Road location, and then we moved there. That location is next to where I live presently. These two homes are now the only two houses on the north side of Stadium Road towards the observatory. I lived there until I was married, and then I left the city, only to return again in 1953.

I lived on Route 29 beyond Rio Road for approximately 10 years, and I was a housewife and mother of two children, a son and a daughter. I was an Episcopalian, and Charlottesville Civic League dues payer.

As a child, the neighborhoods around Jefferson Park Avenue were sparsely settled prior to World War I. I recall four houses in the Jefferson Park Avenue area. There was the "Piedmont", which I mentioned earlier which Uncle <sup>Reuben</sup> Rubin Maury owned. "Shamrock" was built and named by an Irishman named Mr. Buckle, who vowed he was going back to Ireland, but passed away before his return. The Harmon house was owned by a prominent Charlottesville lawyer, Dan Harmon. A widow owned the <sup>Rixey</sup> Rixy house and a large brick home across from the University's engineering school on Stadium Road. The rest of the homes have been built since where woods and fields once covered the land. The <sup>Walsh</sup> Walsh house was built when I was very young.

Fry's Springs was named for my cousin, Jesse Fry. He lived about five miles away. Neighbors were very scattered. I went to school on the Fry's Spring street car, and even rode the last ~~stone~~



that ran on the line. My husband and I got out and ceremoniously rode on the last streetcar. We had a lovely time.

There were a fair number of houses on Fry 's Spring, which is now JPA after crossing the railroad. Uncle <sup>Price</sup> Maury built "White Cross" on Stribling Avenue which is called <sup>Huntley</sup> Huntly Hall now. It was so named because in the chimney there is a cross of white stone. Around 1915, Valley Road was not yet developed. The Barringer house was there. For the most part, there was no residential area until JPA hit Main Street. I remember the Thorntons lived in a house that belongs to the University. Mr. William M. Thornton was head of the Engineering school. Their home stands directly across from the Engineering School.

Before attending city schools and using street cars I used to walk to school over near Fry's Spring south. I had a cousin who taught "unfortunate little children like Mable Talley and me". I spend 99% of my life in the corner. There were only five of us who went there. I attended school in Richmond, then at Miss <sup>Mead's</sup> Mead's on Park Street. Later, I went to high school in the city. I feel like I missed out on much of the growth of JPA because I moved away, leaving in 1924. I did visit my mother here often and noted that changes in the area didn't start until after <sup>II</sup> WWI.

I recall an Army camp which existed where the Engineering School now stands. The camp was there during WWI, putting soldiers through a two month training period. Its only connection to the University was that the University owned the land it was using.

My great grandfather was Jesse Lewis Maury. He was the son of <sup>Reuben</sup> Rubin Maury, the original owner. He farmed the land, and owned slaves. My grandfather had seven living children, each of which received a part of the farm when he died in 1904. This is when Uncle <sup>Reuben</sup> Rubin got the main house. None of the children continued to farm, so the land went back to bushes. My mother's mother got a farm, as both her grandparen~~s~~ were Maurys. Grandmother was from Charlottesville, grandfather was English, and was called "Liverpool Jim". Grandfather was sent for by Thomas Jefferson. Now Henderson Heywood owns much of the original property.

Prior to 1920, everyone knew each other in the JPA neighborhood. <sup>The Rixey House</sup> Rixy was owned by a widow. This is the large home next to <sup>the House McLain</sup> Beta (McClain Tilton's house). She had two sons, John and Barber, and two daughters, Mary and Edith.

262-20 Alice H. Clark (wid) → <sup>The</sup> Rector & Visitors of UVA \$37,500  
12/16/1964 1.87 acres on N side Stadium Rd, eastern lot on  
plat ACDB 234-313  
E.M. Coombs dec. 1957  
part of ACDB 250-144 for Eling M. Coombs

ACDB Eling Mawry Coombs (w) → Alice H. Clark, gift  
280-144  
8/23/1948 reserving life estate in 2nd & 3rd tracts

136-352 Lucy J. Mawry, for self and as Exec J. L. Mawry, dec,  
11/1/1907 & Reuben Mawry (s) → Eling Mawry Coombs,  
as directed in will of Jesse ~~Lester~~ Mawry (WB 31-162)  
Plat shows no bldgs or landmarks

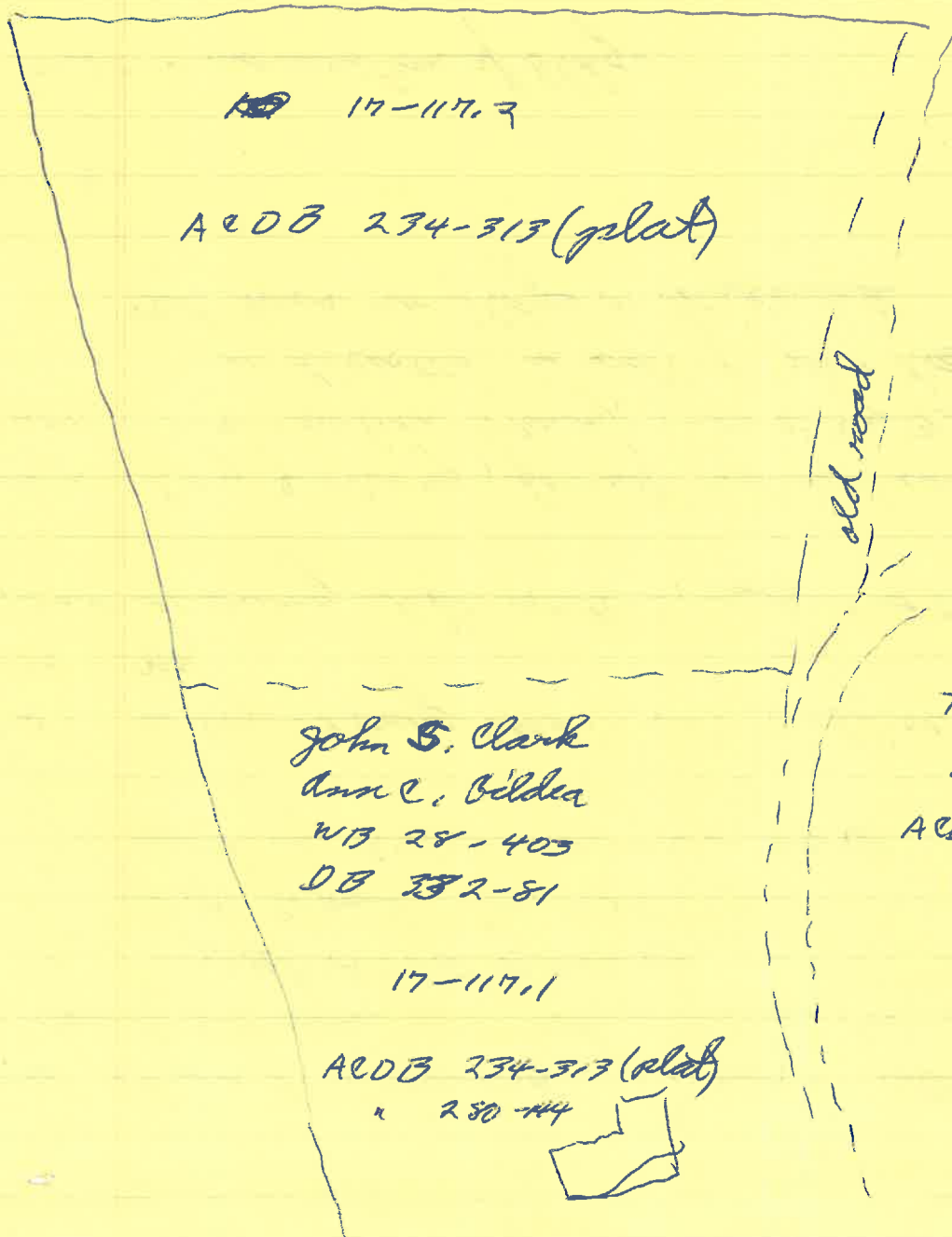
144-354 " " " " " "

ACWB 31-162 - no mention of bldgs

234-310 now Joe Weyman Mawry succeeded to Reuben Mawry's  
land & sold to Homer Rakey in 1927 (ACDB 199-46)  
Boundary question  
ad

486-684 estate of Olive H. Clark → UVa Real Estate Found  
1986 see plat ACDB 234-313, 144-354  
same as DB 280-144, 1948, from E. lig. Mawry Coombe  
& DB 332-81, 1941, " estate of Anne M. Hayner

(see house  
west of driveway)



ACDB  
234-313  
1937



Homer Richey

Homer Richey



Lucy J & Reuben Mearns  
to E. Sig. M. Coombs

ACDB 144-353 & 354 (plat)  
10/5/1909

2 acres

Lucy J & Reuben Mearns  
to E. Sig. Mearns

ACDB 156-352 & 353 (plat)  
11/1/1907

1.876 acres



Richey -> Coombs

Homer Richey

Homer Richey

Old Lynchburg or Wheeler Road



Mabel Talley - house badly damaged by fire in her childhood  
converted stone stable to house  
drive went to observatory  
1-5 stone playhouse on Clark side of drive  
(That's ruins we saw!)

Alice Clark  
(c 1980)

House behind stone house has been torn down.  
Both built c 1910, but stone house burned  
& was rebuilt. House behind was orig. stable.

W. J. D. B.

2490  
2400 (2300)  
2403  
2402

2490 near  
2403 near  
2404

2500

~~1950~~  
1951

~~vacant~~

1956  
1957  
1958

Ely M. Coombs  
vacant

vacant

1962

1963

rented

rented

alice H. Clark