

2012.3.12

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO PRESENTATION BY  
BRAD CLEMENTS  
TENTH-GRADE STUDENT FROM TUCKER HIGH SCHOOL  
OCTOBER 23, 1985

INTRODUCTION BY UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: We're glad to have everyone here this afternoon. I just got a call from Mr. Mackay asking me to give you his regrets. He said Mrs. Mackay is in some kind of a medical crisis, and he was waiting on the doctor. So we just thought—hope that will work out all right. This afternoon Brad Clements, a sophomore at Tucker High School, will tell us about early architecture in the county and show us some slides. [Speaker is positioned off-camera; slide show commences.]

SLIDE NO. 1: Rustic cabin with open front porch

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: The Indians signed a treaty in 1802, giving up their land in Georgia. Settlers had moved in by the 1820s. These settlers were of Irish, Scotch, English, and Welsh descent. Most of these were farmers coming from Virginia, the Carolinas, and Savannah and Darien on the Georgia coast. This is the Barber cabin, the first home to George [sic] and Martha [sic; name actually Margaret] Thomas, who came from Greenville, South Carolina, in 1826. Mr. Thomas is believed to have cleared the land and built the cabin. The twelve-foot hand-hewn logs are still in good condition. Some of the old chinking is still [inaudible], under a thin layer of cement added more recently. Chinking is where they would stuff [inaudible] paper in between the logs to better insulate the cabin. It was the custom to take the chinking out in the summer to let the breeze run through the logs. This cabin measures twenty feet by thirty feet, has a fieldstone fireplace and a shingled roof. There is a rifle hole in the wall near the fireplace that they could look out of and see who approached their home. Helen Barber donated this cabin to the DeKalb Historical Society. It was moved from Old McDonough Road to Adair Park.

SLIDE NO. 2: Dilapidated building at top of photograph; grassy foreground with debris or cinderblocks piled in a depression in the ground.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the Biffle cabin; it was built by John Biffle. He lived to be 106 years old. [NOTE: This information conflicts with documented Biffle family history; see <http://biffle.org/fgs-johnsallybiffle.html>.] It was built on fieldstone piers laid on top of the ground. The hand-hewn timbers are joined at the corners by V-notching, and the corners are flushed [sic]. Vertical boards were pegged into the exterior of the horizontal timbers for the purpose of weatherboarding. The cabin is divided into two rooms by a notched partition. It had a fieldstone fireplace and pine bark chinking. There is evidence of remodeling between 1860 and 1870 and again in the 1890s, when more rooms were added. Three layers of siding were uncovered: a layer of asbestos, tarpaper, and red-brick tarpaper. This cabin is characteristic of cabins built by early German settlers in east Pennsylvania.

SLIDE NO. 3: Interior cabin wall, showing rough-hewn plank construction

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the Medicine House. This cabin was owned by Dr.—

SLIDE NO. 4: Interior cabin wall, rough-hewn planking; cluster of dried corn in foreground. Later identified as interior of Biffle cabin

SLIDE NO. 5: Cabin interior, showing primitive piece of furniture (possibly a table or dry sink), a window, doorway onto railed walkway, and portion of yard. Later identified as interior of Biffle cabin

[INAUDIBLE VOICES OFF-CAMERA; apparently slides and narrative text are out of order with each other.]

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: [Referring to Slides 4 and 5] Oh, these are more slides of the Biffle cabin.

SLIDE NO. 6: Exterior of a the “Medicine Cabin”; features include high-pitched roof and open front porch with roof extension supported by wooden beam.

FEMALE VOICE, OFF-CAMERA: This is the Biffle Cabin also?

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: No, this is the Medicine House. This cabin was built by Dr. Chapman Powell, who moved to Decatur in 1818. He treated

settlers and Indians inside of the cabin. The cabin was built in 1822. It was hand-hewn and [has] X-notched logs with a chink and groove.

SLIDE NO. 7: Small, one-room wooden building with one door and no windows on front and chimney on right side.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This cabin was built—the cabin is located on Browns Mill Road. You can see the fieldstone chimney and shingled roof. The timbers are connected by [inaudible] notching. It is recently being restored.

SLIDE NO. 8: Identified as Spivey Cabin: weathered, one-story cabin with open front porch and fieldstone foundation; large tree in foreground.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This cabin was built by Bennett Sanders Spivey in the 1840s. Six generations lived on the property in Clarkston. Hugh Bennett Spivey moved the cabin across the lake on the property next to his home and restored it in 1970. The cabin had six rooms added on its [inaudible: size? sides?]. It is built on a fieldstone foundation [inaudible].

SLIDE NO. 9: Drawing of a cabin, surrounded by an assortment of woodworking tools, which are labeled according to function

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: These are tools used to make structures such as a log cabin. You can see the various functions of each tool in the picture

SLIDE NO. 10: Drawing of another assortment of woodworking tools, which are labeled according to function

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: Here are some more tools. There are a broad ax, a maul, and a set of tongue-and-groove planes on display. A book [unidentified] on tools is also on display. You can see these same tools and read more on the styles of notching, such as [inaudible; sounds like “chomper”?]-notching and V-notching, if you don’t know what that is.

SLIDE NO. 11: Two-story white frame house viewed from an angle, showing most of front and small section of the right side (obscured by trees); front of house

shows three upstairs windows, one window visible on the first floor, and a front-door gable. House is situated on a landscaped yard (lawn, shrubs, and trees).

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the Lyon house. Joseph Emanuel Lyon was a British foot-soldier who joined the American army and built a cabin on the South River. He died in 1820. Later descendants added to the cabin, which is now the Lyon house that you see in the picture. It has nineteen sets of rafters arching over eight rooms. The walls inside are tongue-and-groove heart pine. The doors are handmade. It has a stone foundation. [Inaudible—sounds like “sills”?] were hewn with a broad ax.

SLIDE NO. 12: Front view of L-shaped one-story cabin with a chimney rising through the cross-gabled corrugated tin roof of the righthand “L” and an open front porch on the front of both wings of the house. The porch is sheltered by a corrugated tin overhang (attached to house, not extended from roof). Wood-plank exterior appears to be weathered or unpainted. In the left foreground is a large boxy fixture, possibly an air-conditioning unit?

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This frame house is the home of Ernest Johns. His grandfather, John B. Johns, Sr., came to the site of the house, now on Lawrenceville Highway, in 1829. In 1829 it was just one room; now there are six rooms, the original being the livingroom. This house is cross-gabled with a rusted metal roof. John B. Johns, Sr., made the chimney from mud bricks.

SLIDE NO. 13: Williams-Evans house (“High House”); two-story frame house with a second wing extending from the right front of the main structure, situated on wooded lot.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: After the moving in of the settlers, many small towns were established. Decatur was the first town to be incorporated in DeKalb County. This is the Williams-Evans house or the “High House,” named so because it was at one time the only two-story building in Decatur. It was built in the 1830s for an early Georgia Congressman, Charles Murphy. Later it was occupied by Hiram Williams, the Decatur postmaster during the Civil War. The house had double porches, one on each level; heart-pine floors; and hand-hewn beams. There were four remodelings. At first it was a four-room, two-story structure.

SLIDE NO. 14: Gazebo-like structure identified as well house of the Williams-Evans home (“High House”)

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the well house at the Williams-Evans house.

SLIDE NO. 15: Front view of two-story house with four large white columns in front and porches on both levels.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the white-columned, two-story Calhoun house built by Dr. Ezekiel N. Calhoun from North Carolina in the 1830s. It was torn down in 1805 [sic; probably misreading of 1905].

SLIDE NO. 16: Front and side view of large, white-frame farmhouse with two-tiered front roof and railed front porch; large evergreen shrub/tree in foreground at left

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the Solomon Goodwin house, believed to be the oldest house in DeKalb County. The house had seven rooms—three upstairs and four on the ground floor, with a wide veranda. The stoop, with wisteria across the entire front, is built of heart-of-pine logs, which were virgin pine logs. In about 1850 the dwelling was weather-boarded over the logs and finished inside with wide boards, making the walls a foot thick of solid heart pine.

SLIDE NO. 17: Swanton House as it appeared at its previous location, before the house was moved to West Trinity Street; street view facing right side and part of the front of the house; front porch woodwork and second-story room directly above are still intact.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: Swanton House is a one-and-a-half story, four-room, central-hall plantation plain-style house. Part of the house was constructed in 1825, but the present appearance is due to major additions of Benjamin Swanton in 1852. The older portion of the house was supported by a stone foundation; the newer portion was supported on brick foundations. On the second floor the chimney penetrates the center of the room, and a fireplace is located in a freestanding position. This photograph was taken before the house was moved.

SLIDE NO. 18: Swanton House after its relocation to West Trinity Street and subsequent restoration.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is a picture of the Swanton House after it was moved. The restoration of the house was made after it was moved in 1968. It was moved in the same year.

SLIDE NO. 19: Mary Gay House at its previous location on Marshall Street, before being relocated to West Trinity Street and subsequently restored. This photograph shows white columns and at least two dormers projecting from the roof.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: The Mary Gay House, built around 1850, was originally a simple classic-style frame structure and is one of the few pre-Civil War homes left. It was the home of Miss [sic] Mary Gay, a noted local historian and author. This picture was taken before the house was moved from Marshall Street to West Trinity.

SLIDE NO. 20: Identified as "a cotton-gin mill": two weathered, wood-frame buildings (perhaps joined; unclear from photograph). Building at left has steep-pitched roof, two wide-set windows on the second floor at the front, and two openings (doorways?) on the ground floor at the front. Building at right is shown from the left side with only a partial view of the front. The two-story building has two twelve-paned windows toward the front, one on the second floor and one on the ground floor directly beneath. The building is supported by what appears to be a stacked-stone or stacked-block foundation with an open crawlspace.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is a cotton-gin mill in 1892. It's in Edgewood. [See Clements's commentary on Slide 21, in which he corrects this location.] Next slide.

SLIDE NO. 21: Two- or three-story wood-frame building on a stream, surrounded by trees; spillway to the right of building

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is another picture of a mill. This is the picture of the mill on Edgewood. The other one [previous slide] is a cotton mill—cotton-gin mill.

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SLIDE NO. 22: Front view of mill featured in Slide No. 2; wood-frame building appears to have three stories and has a smaller structure (similar to a covered bridge) projecting from the back right side. Thickly wooded area in background

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is another picture of the mill on Edgewood.

SLIDE NO. 23: Small one-story, one-room wood-frame building with open doorway on the front, a window opening on the left side, and a window opening on either side of the front door. Appears to be set on a wood-frame foundation.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the trolley station at Emory.

SLIDE NO. 24: Weathered-wood privy with door hanging open to reveal wooden seat inside

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is a privy. [Inaudible] restroom. Gas, water, and electricity was [sic] not provided to DeKalb homes before the 1940s.

SLIDE NO. 25: Cloudy photograph of two (?) horses (or mules?) standing in front of a wood-frame barn with open front doorway and hayloft opening directly above the door.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This barn was owned by Dan W. Johnson and was built in 1912. You can see the thatched roof there. [Looks like shingled roof in photo]

SLIDE NO. 26: Decatur Depot at the corner of South Candler and East Trinity Streets; large tree on the left, railroad tracks to the right.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the Georgia Railroad station. This is the only [inaudible—sounds like “unlined” or “online”] station of its type and condition and age in Georgia. The roof is bell-cast hip with overhang. It has four brick chimneys. The windows are double-hung. Wainscoting is typical of the nineteenth century. Railroads of this type helped bring about the establishments of small towns.

SLIDE NO. 27: The Marble House; dark photograph, difficult to make out details other than projecting structures on roof (second story)

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is Marble House, built around 1880. It was then used as a showplace. It has triple brick walls, eighteen [sic; inches?] to two feet thick. It has a coating of stucco rectangular scoring, which give [sic] it a marble-like look. It is a classic Second Empire-style house.

SLIDE NO. 28: Brighter, more recognizable photograph of Marble House; identified as side view

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is another picture—it's a side view of the Marble House.

SLIDE NO. 29: Large two-story house with one-story front porch; front steps lead down to sidewalk; two people dressed in white sitting on front steps

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the house of Judge and Mrs. Charles Woodford Smith, built in 1888 on Whitefoord Avenue in [inaudible—possibly Edgewood?], Georgia. It is a Queen Anne Victorian home designed by Kildare.

SLIDE NO. 30: Front of large white frame house with two pointed gables and a veranda across the entire front of the house; people are seated all along the veranda.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the home of James Monroe White on White Mills [sic] Road [means White's Mill Road]. It was built in the early 1890s. It is unusual because of the parallel gables over the porch. The house was built on a foundation of bricks.

SLIDE NO. 31: Photograph of third DeKalb County Courthouse, built ca. 1847

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is a picture of the third courthouse of Decatur—in Decatur. The first courthouse in DeKalb County was a small log building and was built near the side of this courthouse. In 1829 the larger brick courthouse replaced the log one but burned down in 1842. The third courthouse was built here in the center of the Court Square in 1847. It was similar to the courthouses of today's rural counties. It is made of brick with twenty-one—made of brick—hold on—it is made of brick with twenty-one—with two stories, twenty-one large columns, and a cupola on top.

SLIDE NO. 32: Photograph of fourth DeKalb County Courthouse, built ca. 1898



VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: In 1898 the third courthouse was replaced by the fourth courthouse. This slide shows the fourth courthouse, made of granite, with four columns built on each side. Notice the large cupola on top with clocks facing in four directions. This building was also located on Court Square. It caught on fire on September 14, 1916, and the cupola on top burned down.

SLIDE NO. 33: Photograph of several people of various ages standing in front of white-frame house with a triple-gabled porch across the front and surrounded by a white picket fence

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the home of John W. McCurdy on Mountain Street in Stone Mountain, Georgia. This house shows three parallel gables with a [inaudible] of box [boxed?] cornices. It was built in 1907.

SLIDE NO. 34: Photograph of two-story stone building with bell tower/cupola on top

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is a Stone Mountain public school building on Mimosa Street built in 1908. It was made of granite. It burned down during World War II.

SLIDE NO. 35: Photograph of DeKalb County Courthouse built in 1917 (taken from North McDonough side)

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: In 1917 the fifth [DeKalb County] courthouse was built. You happen to be seated in it right now. It is a model of the Beaux-Arts Neoclassicism designed by Walker & Chase [sic; means Chase & Walker?]. It is much like the fourth courthouse, except that it has east and west wings and does not have a cupola. This is made of granite; and the interior, as you can see, is decorated with Alabama marble. The roof is made of terra-cotta tile. The column capitals, [inaudible—maybe *archway?*], frieze, and cornice are pure Corinthian in design. In 1967 the sixth courthouse was completed, and it is the first seat of DeKalb County's government not to be in the Courthouse Square for 144 years.

SLIDE NO. 36: Front façade on Pythagoras Masonic Lodge on East Ponce de Leon Avenue, featuring two pairs of columns extending from the roof in front of the second and third stories, just above and on either side of the street-level doorway;

three narrow, stonework-grille windows are interspersed between and on either side of the columns; an ornamental figure is centered above the front door, between the columns

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: Pythagoras Lodge is a three-story Beaux-Arts-style brick building with a basement. It was built as a Masonic meeting hall, with the first and second floors designed for commercial use. The architect was William Jenness [spelling?] Sayward; he was a lodge member. The third floor is used by the Masons and other groups for meetings. The exterior is made of stone and brick and contains a one-story stone base. There's a two-story recessed porch with columns, a classical detail. You can see the third-story windows are covered with stone tracing screens.

SLIDE NO. 37: Photograph of entrance to Pythagoras Lodge building, featuring Masonic emblem centered above door

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: The central entrance, with its swan's-neck pediment, supports the Masonic emblem. This building was dedicated in 1925.

SLIDE NO. 38: Photograph showing side view (East Ponce approaching corner of Church Street) of Candler Hotel

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: The Candler Hotel is a four-story building that in the front features columns of Corinthian [inaudible] topped by a wooden balustrade. The hotel's dining facilities were popular sites for civic meetings and parties. In 1927 final touches were made. In 1947 a west wing was added to accommodate post-war growth in the county. In 1957 a Candler built the penthouse on the hotel and lived there himself.

SLIDE NO. 39: Photograph of wood-frame house with steeply pitched, terraced roof and two stacked-stone chimneys on the left side of the building; outbuilding or shed to the left of the house.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the William Shepherd home. It's a plantation plain farmhouse with two rooms over two rooms. It has a shed porch and a shed kitchen with another small porch. It has fieldstone chimneys.

SLIDE NO. 40: Close-up, partial view photograph of two-story frame house with upper- and lower-level white-railed porches running across the front of the house. Two white columns are visible as supports for the upper porch. Unclear, but appears that children are sitting on the front steps.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the McCurdy family home on East Mountain Street. It was built before the Civil War. Dr. McCurdy had the house torn down after the death of his wife. The steps were moved to the home of Mary and Myrtice [spelling?]. You can see the double veranda, the door, and you can see the transom and the sidelights.

SLIDE NO. 41: Brad Clements notes that the picture was taken after an ice storm. Partial front and side view of two-story house showing chimney flanked by windows on either side on both first and second floors. Open veranda runs across the front of the house. A black-clad figure (male?) stands to the right of the chimney beside the house.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is one of the homes that is still in use, located at 1226 Rock Chapel Road [Lithonia]. Lithonia is—it was built at the turn of the century. This is showing an ice storm in one of the [inaudible] days. It has a brick chimney and a box cornice. It's kind of hard to see the box cornice.

SLIDE NO. 42: Large group of children and adults standing in front of weathered frame building. (Poor-quality photograph; difficult to ascertain approximate number or ages of people.)

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is a school in the Lithonia area. You can see boxed cornice on it at the top.

SLIDE NO. 43: White frame house with gables in front, chimneys at left side and back, and ground-floor veranda with gingerbread trim. Early model black car parked in front (Model T?), not identified in presentation.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the [inaudible—sounds like “Johnsons Lafayette Chap”] home. It is east of Lithonia. You can see the gingerbread trim on the porch.

SLIDE NO. 44: Side and partial front view of two-story frame building with wraparound veranda on ground floor and second-story veranda on front. Five adults and one child are positioned at the corner of the first-floor veranda.

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is the Johnson Hotel. It was built in 1914, and it was on the southwest corner of Church Street and Sycamore Street, Decatur.

SLIDE NO. 45: Street view of storefronts on right with a steepled church in the background; hotel sign on the left; mule-drawn wagon at lower right. Caption reads, "A view of the street, Lithonia, Ga., showing First Baptist Church in distance."

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: This is a main street in Lithonia. Lithonia was incorporated in, I believe, 1856. [Aside] That's it. [Audience applause] I'd like to thank Hugh [inaudible—sounds like "Van"] Spivey for donating the tools and the book that are on display.

[CAMERA PANS OVER TOOLS AND BACK TO FACES OF THE SPEAKERS]

OFF-CAMERA VOICE OF UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER WHO INTRODUCED PROGRAM: Brad that was just a delightful presentation. I wonder if anyone would like to ask him any questions about any of [inaudible].

OFF-CAMERA VOICE OF ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: How many of those houses are still standing? Did you mention all of them that are [inaudible]?

VOICE OF BRAD CLEMENTS, OFF-CAMERA: Many—a lot of them are still standing. Some of them are torn down. I believe that most of them are still standing. Most of them are moved from the present [sic] site. [CAMERA SHOWS CLEMENTS'S FACE.]

RUBY ZUMBROOK: And the gingerbread. What was the era when most of the gingerbread—there are such pretty ones in Decatur.

BRAD CLEMENTS: That was—it was mostly in the early 1900s when they did the gingerbread.

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RUBY ZUMBROOK: That would still be in the first hundred years of Decatur. And the county.

BRAD CLEMENTS: Yes, ma'am.

[Inaudible, brief conversation between Mrs. Zumbrook and unidentified lady who introduced Clements]

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: Well, this is really just a sampling of the slides that we have, isn't it, Brad?

BRAD CLEMENTS: Yes, we have hundreds more. [audience laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: But I think that was such a good sampling.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: How many cabins did you see, yourself? Mr. Spivey's?

BRAD CLEMENTS: I was [inaudible] the Biffle cabin and the Spivey cabin. And I saw—I went in the Barber cabin. I didn't get to go to the Chapman Powell cabin.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Which one was it had the sideboard [or side porch?] [inaudible]? Was that the Biffle?

BRAD CLEMENTS: The side porch?

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes, that was the Biffle cabin.

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Now, the Chapman Powell cabin that you showed is the one that's out at Stone Mountain Plantation now, isn't it?

BRAD CLEMENTS: Yes.

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: Mrs. Zumbrook here can tell you a story about the sideboard [side porch?], which is in the Biffle cabin.

RUBY ZUMBROOK: Yes. Many years ago, when Decatur was just a very, very young town, the gold strike happened at Dahlonega. That was in 1828. They argue

that date one way or the other. But a man from Bath, Maine, came down and used his heavy earth-moving equipment, the heaviest they had in those days, in order to clear out the gold fields for people. And he wanted to—he liked the South, and he wanted to come here and live; so he looked about and found that Decatur was the place that he wanted to have his family, and he built a home. And [inaudible] missing some of the things from back home. So when he was on a visit to Maine, he brought some seeds from his sugar maples—rolled them up in his handkerchief, put them in his pocket, planted them, and two trees grew in front of the house there, and they formed one canopy above.

And when the lot was sold—the house was moved, and the lot was sold—first sold to the C&S Bank. And several of us went down and talked to Mr. Mills B. Lane, and he said, “Of course, we can save those maples. We’ll just make a courtyard and enclose them and tuck our building around it.” But the C&S Bank didn’t build there. They bought the glass building—they built the glass building across from the courthouse, and someone else was going to take over the land. And they didn’t have any dedication to Decatur or history or anything. So they said they’d have to take down one maple, but they saved the other one. They parked their heavy tractors any time they could under the one they were saving, and they let the engine run and run and run. You can kill any tree you want to kill; you can shake its roots by just doing that. So it died. But the one that they took down—again, a group of us asked that they have something made of that, of the wood. So they had it dried and made into the pieces that you see over there. So those are the Swanton maples.

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: In the detached kitchen of the Swanton house.

RUBY ZUMBROOK : Well, that was [inaudible] the story, but that was the first—that was the second, really, involvement I had in trying to save parts of Decatur.

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: I think Ruby did everything but lay [sic] down in front of the [inaudible] bulldozers. [audience laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED YOUNG MAN: Did you chain yourself?

RUBY ZUMBROOK: Well, I just stood there and told them, “You’re talking to a farm gal. I know what happens when you put machinery and shake it. You can kill any tree you want dead.” They wanted the tree dead, but they didn’t have the permission to take it down alive. So they deliberately killed it.

MALE SPEAKER LATER IDENTIFIED AS MR. CUMMINGS: Then you had a dry sink made for the Swanton House out at the furniture shop out of the tree—

RUBY ZUMBROOK: Right, out of that first tree.

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: Well, those were outstanding maples. They were just beautiful in the fall, and they were the most spectacular trees that Decatur had. And somebody said that they just looked like—of course, all the Swantons were seafarers and built ships—and then, and they said that those maples just looked like red sails in the sunset.

MR. CUMMINGS: How about these pear trees over here [that] they’re going to [inaudible]?

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: Well, I noticed, when I drove out that way last night on the way home, they are cutting the first trees. They’re just cutting huge trees. [Expressions of dismay from audience]

MR. CUMMINGS: Saw it coming in, they’re going—those pear trees—

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Well, they’ve all got “CUT” written on them. Great, big trees—just huge trees there. [Gestures as if writing the letters] “C-U-T,” “C-U-T,” all the way out until you get to [inaudible]. I’d rather have something old, part left [inaudible].

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Are there any of these homes that are still standing that are in danger that we know of? Having retrieved a couple of cabins and having—I know we helped in the relocation of the house out there on—

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: Northern Avenue.

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Northern Avenue and Rockbridge.

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: I can't think of any.

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: You know, if there are any of these really great examples that we need to know about to launch a preservation project, we need to know about it.

BRAD CLEMENTS: The Johns home. I'm not sure--has the Johns home been restored? [Several simultaneous, inaudible responses] Because I read about it, in a newspaper article, where someone wanted the Johns home to be restored, that it was in real bad shape.

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Where is it?

BRAD CLEMENTS: It's on Lawrenceville Highway.

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: There's someone living in it.

BRAD CLEMENTS: Mm-hmm.

MR. CUMMINGS: Well, what is the condition of the Marble House? Is it vacant, or--?

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: It's being restored. Did you want to tell about that?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: That's another thing that hurt, when they cut down those magnolia trees, too. That really—

MR. CUMMINGS: It was suggested that they have them on the Candlelight Tour [Christmas tour of homes]. Is it available, or is it where you can?

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: I'm not sure it will be ready. Mr. Cummings just mentioned something, which you may not know about. The Historical Society will be sponsoring the Decatur Tour of Homes in December. [To MR. CUMMINGS] What's the date? Nineteenth and twentieth, I believe. [MR. CUMMINGS nods in agreement.] So probably the High House, which you saw, probably it will be on tour.



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MR. CUMMINGS: Eight houses, including Agnes Scott. They want to be in it, too.

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: They [Agnes Scott College] newly restored Main Hall [inaudible]. They want that to be on the tour.

MR. CUMMINGS: The merchants down here want to get in on it, too.

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: Who does?

MR. CUMMINGS: The merchants down here.

RUBY ZUMBROOK: In another year or so I wish we could have something at Easter time. We could very easily have a sunrise service around here, and we could have our early-morning coffee, such as they have at Winston-Salem? It would be just an ideal setting for it. Lot of folks go to Stone Mountain. We used to go to Grant Park and over on Jackson's field. But this would be an ideal spot. And then from there they could go on to Sunday School, go home and go to breakfast, whatever.

MR. CUMMINGS: This Baptist Church over on Glenwood [Glennwood?] Avenue has one every Easter.

RUBY ZUMBROOK: They do?

MR. CUMMINGS: Maybe we could get them to come out.

RUBY ZUMBROOK: Since we don't have a square anymore, we have lots of concrete we would walk on even in their high-heeled shoes, if they want to dress up like an Easter parade. But I think the sunrise service would be just beautiful, having band music—

OFF-CAMERA UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Let the choir sing on the steps [of the old courthouse].

RUBY ZUMBROOK: Uh-huh, various choirs. Choirs of all ages and from all churches and even have a massed choir.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I would think you'd get quite a crowd, because a lot of people—I don't care to go to Stone Mountain. It's too far away.

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[INAUDIBLE CONVERSATION AMONG AUDIENCE MEMBERS CONTINUES.]

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: [to someone at the back of the room who apparently just walked in] You missed a good program, Linda.

OFF-CAMERA FEMALE SPEAKER, PRESUMABLY LINDA: I'm sorry I did. I [inaudible] church meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: Well, I know Brad did a lot of work on this because he told me a lot about some of them that I didn't know and that we don't have on file down there, so I'm looking forward to adding his information to the archives. [inaudible] some of the things that he's discovered about these houses.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER, OFF-CAMERA: Brad, will your notes be available for others to use? The reason I ask, we're considering now going to the schools, taking the projector into the schools, rather than having the children come here. It's simpler [inaudible], and this would be a good program for the fourth-graders. It's particularly [inaudible].

BRAD CLEMENTS: It's fine with me.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER, OFF-CAMERA: Well, you're going to leave your notes, then?

BRAD CLEMENTS: Mm-hmm.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER, OFF-CAMERA: Have his mother type them up?  
[laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED LADY WHO INTRODUCED CLEMENTS: I think everyone knows Brad is Joyce's son. Well, if there isn't anything else, then, we'll stand adjourned. Did you have something--?

END OF RECORDING