

Times of DeKalb

"Paradiso" Lost

By Jennifer Blomqvist, *Archivist*

The Phoenix Flies program through the Atlanta Preservation Center seeks to highlight historic “buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods” throughout Atlanta. We were lucky to be part of that program again this year, albeit virtually! Buildings may be thriving and surviving (even during a pandemic!) or are in danger of being lost to time. Worst of all, some historic buildings and homes are gone altogether. Support for historic societies and preservation is important. I recently came across information about the lost house formerly known as “Paradiso.”



Paradiso was a home located at the corner of Ponce de Leon Avenue and Clifton Road, near the Druid Hills Golf Club. The house was built by Fenn O. Stone around 1924 in the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The stately home had ten rooms filled with tapestries and marble from Italy, and a winding staircase. It was the scene of elegant parties in its heyday. Beginning in 1958, the house was left empty, after the woman who bought it from Stone passed away. Over the next 20 years, the house was at times rented out and other times left completely empty.

In 1976, efforts by neighbors and preservationists were under way to save the home from falling into irreversible disrepair or from being demolished in favor of apartments. According to an Atlanta Journal article from 1976, “The Ponce de Leon corridor...has been placed on the [National Register of Historic Places], which makes demolition... more difficult, although not impossible.” In fact, the concept of Ponce de Leon Avenue was that of a “mansion street.” Then, in 1979, the home was destroyed by fire, believed to have been set by vagrants. In 1987, a developer sought to build a new 21-unit cluster housing development. In 2020, The Paradiso townhomes are now in the spot where the famed house used to be.

The passage of time, as well as human interactions, can change (sometimes drastically) the look and character of a place. It is our mission at the DeKalb History Center to collect, preserve, and share DeKalb’s history, keeping those “lost” things accessible, even if in a small way.

Be sure to check out the [“Research and Archives”](#) section of our website to see what we have to offer in the [Subject Files/Architecture](#) and elsewhere. [Contact the](#)

[Archives](#) to make an appointment!

Check out the Atlanta Preservation Center's [website](#) for a list of metro Atlanta properties that have been lost, as well current properties that are endangered and a list of properties that have been saved.

From the DHC Blog



Buford Highway, Signs of Diversity

By Mike Lehman, Guest Author

The six-mile stretch of Buford Highway that is sometimes referred to as the "International Corridor," or the "International Village District," falls mainly in DeKalb County, in the cities of Brookhaven, Chamblee, and Doraville. While hardly a village in the traditional sense, it does showcase the vibrant diversity of many of DeKalb County's immigrant communities. This was not always the case...

[Read more](#)





The Monument That Sparked A Movement - DeKalb History Center

by Rebecca Selem, Exhibits and Communications Coordinator

"A monument is not history itself; a monument commemorates an aspect of history, representing a moment in the past when a public or private decision defined who would be honored in a community's public spaces." – American Historical Association, August 2017.

[Read More](#)



The Case for a Historic Marker; Commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr., in Decatur - DeKalb History Center

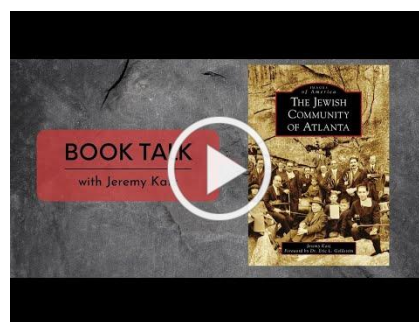
McDonough Street and West Trinity Place in Decatur, Georgia, is the former site of DeKalb County's Civil and Criminal Court and Jail, where in 1960, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was sentenced, jailed and driven off in chains to serve a sentence.

[Read More](#)

Recent Videos

Treasure Island, Home Depot, and the Squiggly Roof

Blog Post coming soon!



New Online Exhibits



DHC Collections

Get to know the artifacts our generous members adopted as part of our annual fundraiser last year.

[View the exhibit](#)



Silk & Stitch

Originally on exhibit last year, these pieces are so beautiful we created a digital version for you in case you missed them.

[View the exhibit](#)

Upcoming Programs

HAPPY HOUR

Virtually
↓



Unveiling the Seeliger Collection



Happy Hour – Virtual Unveiling of the Seeliger Collection

MAY 11

6:00 PM

Members Only

In-Person Walking Tour Coming Soon!

In Memoriam

Dr. Charles B. Bell

**Donation in memory of Judge George Carley, from
Linda and David Chesnut**

**Donations in memory of Albert Lynn Martin, Jr., from
Nancy & Robert Leitch
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**Donation in memory of Dot Mullins, from
Jane and Joe Stoner**

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR SUPPORT

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