

Parking Lot To Replace House Built In 1885

May 10-1955

The old Jennings home on the southeast corner of Graham and Washington streets which is being torn away to make room for an off-street parking lot was built 70 years ago—in the spring of 1885.

The activities between January and April of that year are described in several letters written by the late Dr. W. P. Andrews to his son, Sam Andrews, who was then a student at Moore Business College in Atlanta. Sam Andrews, who was then a youngster, later married and was the father of Bill "Baseball" Andrews of South DeKalb Street.

A letter of January 18, 1885, began:

"Dear Sam: After so long a time I have the opportunity of writing to you—could have written a few days ago but thought it not necessary as Quill was just then writing to you. Hardly know what to write as news is so scarce here. Well, Shelby is Shelby yet. Things going on as usual, as you will have heard from Edgar Fulenwider. . . "

Further along in the letter, Dr. Andrews wrote:

"Rev. Dr. Nelson is here filling the Baptist pulpit until the return of Rev. Bufsey. Is holding protracted meeting. Several joining the church. The excitement pervading the Female College. Several of the girls professing. I tell you old man Nelson can raise them. . . "

The letter went on to tell that two persons joined the church; that the Presbyterians were raising funds to pay for, or to help pay for, their parsonage and that contributions ranged "clear from \$10 to \$15 each night."

Then Dr. Andrews told of the house:

"E. B. Jennings at last delivering material to build a fine house. Says he is going to build one with 12 rooms in it. Mrs. Jennings moving on with him also. Well, I am glad to see our town improving and increasing in population."

A second letter, dated April 10 1885, refers to the house with these lines:

"Jennings is raising up a fine house, 2 stories high, 12 rooms, about as high as the college."

Little did the Jennings and Andrews know that just 70 short years later, the handsome structure would be torn away for parking the overflow of gas buggies—which did not even exist at that time!!

