



Stumptown, bordered by Pearson Drive, Birch Street, Riverside Cemetery and Courtland Avenue, was named for the tree stumps that remained after the land was originally cleared. It encompassed approximately 30 acres and was home to as many as 250 families from the 1880s to the 1970s. Its leaning houses, dirt yards, and narrow streets provided shelter to a vibrant community with a strong and nurturing social structure. The map shows Stumptown and other important buildings along Hill Street that were part of the African American community in this section of Montford in the 1950s. Illustrated map information courtesy of www.stateofblackasheville.org

Mrs. Vivian Cooper (in picture) and Mrs. J. Dusenbury shared a classroom in the Hill Street School. Photograph courtesy of Heritage of Black Highlanders Collection, D. H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC Asheville 28804 n.d.

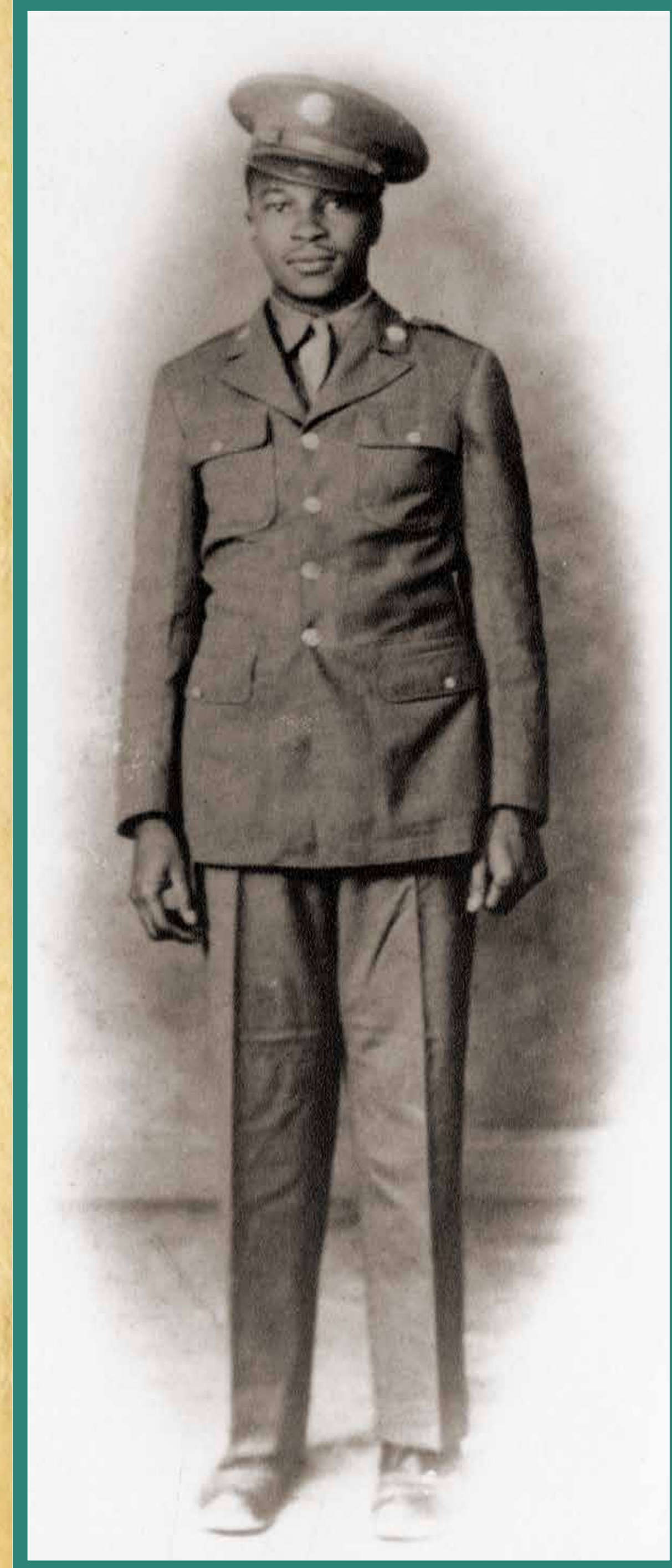


The Hill Street elementary school for "colored" children was walking distance from Stumptown (77 Hill Street). Nearby at 95 Hill Street was the Torrence Hospital, the first for African Americans in Asheville. Photograph courtesy of Heritage of Black Highlanders Collection, D. H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC Asheville 28804. 1917-1953

Bandanna Kitchen & Tea Room, decorated with bandanna handkerchiefs obtained from New Orleans, was located at 92 Haywood Street (across from St. Lawrence Basilica). It was operated by Miss Cora Lee Drummond from 1918-1921. Cora lived at 71 Magnolia Street.



Seated man on right is either "Uncle Bob" Rice or Norman Wingate. Man standing on left is Cullen Martin, retired and living at 32 Melbourne Place (1971), as identified by Hugh Johnson, Montford resident, n.d.



Winfred W. Young (1919-2003) served his country during WWII. He and his family lived on Tacoma Circle. Photo date 1941-1943

Credits: Photographs courtesy of Special Collections, The North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library except where noted. Written content by Sharon Fahrer of History@Hand (www.history-at-hand.com). Layout and design by Kelly Ross Terry of KRT Graphic Design. (www.krtdesign.com).



Ruth Jackson Cannon and sister Helon grew up living at 26 Magnolia Ave. After Ruth married, she lived on Madison Ave. 1914-1915?



Tempe Avery (1823-1917), was a well-loved midwife and nurse who delivered many of Asheville's babies, both black and white. Before the Civil War, she was owned by Nicholas Woodfin, a state senator and the largest slave owner in Buncombe County. In return for her loyalty and service to his family, Woodfin gave Tempe several lots around Stumptown in Montford, which she passed on to her descendants when she died in 1917.

First grade class of Miss Vivian Cline (Cooper) at Hill Street School 1923. Photograph courtesy of Heritage of Black Highlanders Collection, D. H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC Asheville 28804



MONTFORD'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

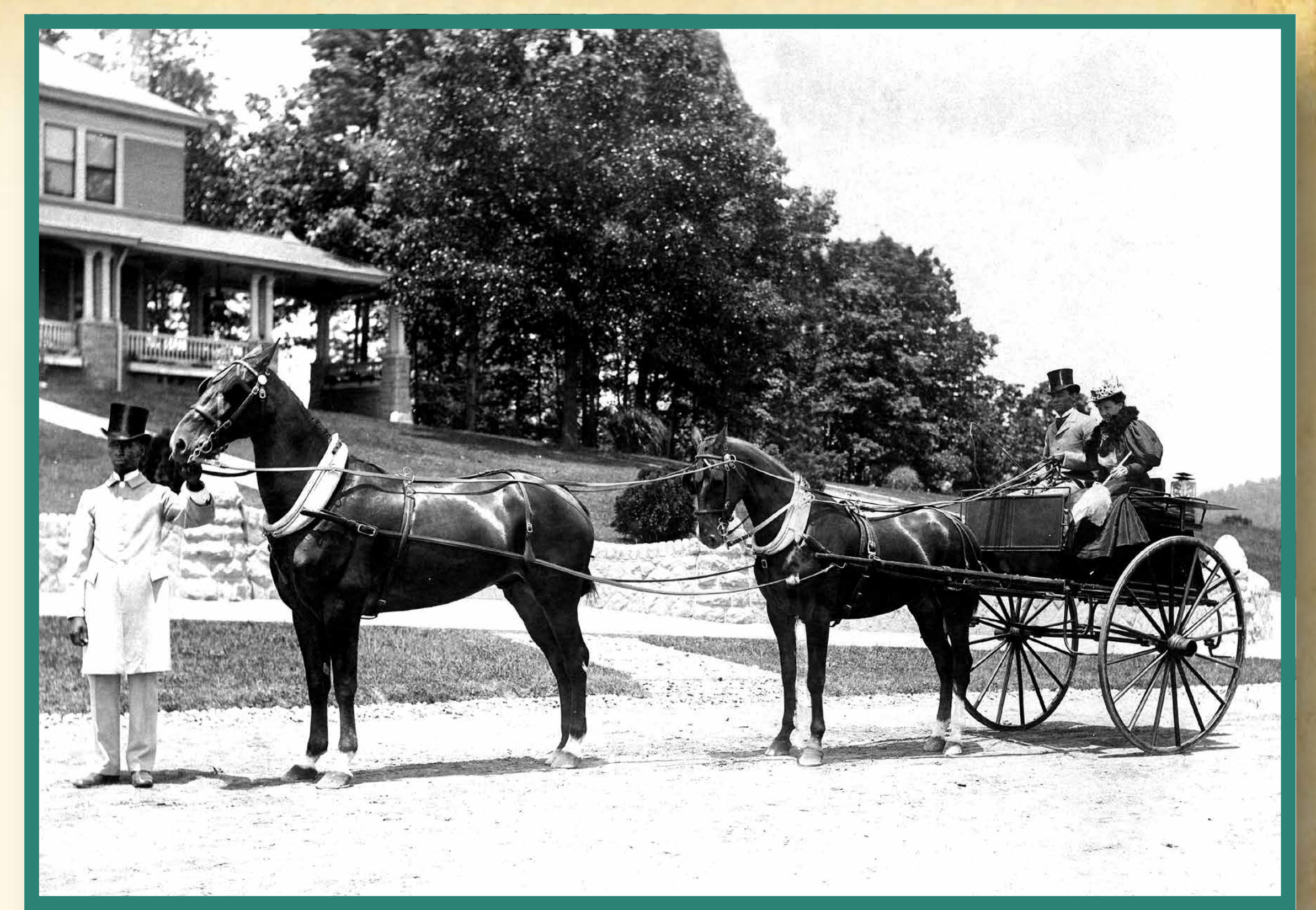
African Americans were always part of the Montford neighborhood. Starting in the 1880s they lived on small side streets like Short, Harrison, Ocala and Young and in Stumptown. Some of these residents owned their own homes and were ministers, teachers, nurses, midwives and business owners. Others worked in the fields of domestic and personal service for Asheville's wealthy, mostly white families, and for businesses such as hotels, restaurants and saloons.

The 1960s saw the beginning of an influx of African Americans to Montford as urban renewal eliminated the Southside and East Riverside neighborhoods. The moves coincided with an economic renaissance of higher wage jobs in government and the railroad for some families and the construction of Klondyke and Hillcrest city housing for others.

Friends and neighbors threw a block party on Elizabeth Street to honor Mrs. Frances Brown on her 100th birthday. Pictured are Joanne Coates (standing) and Frances Brown. 2004



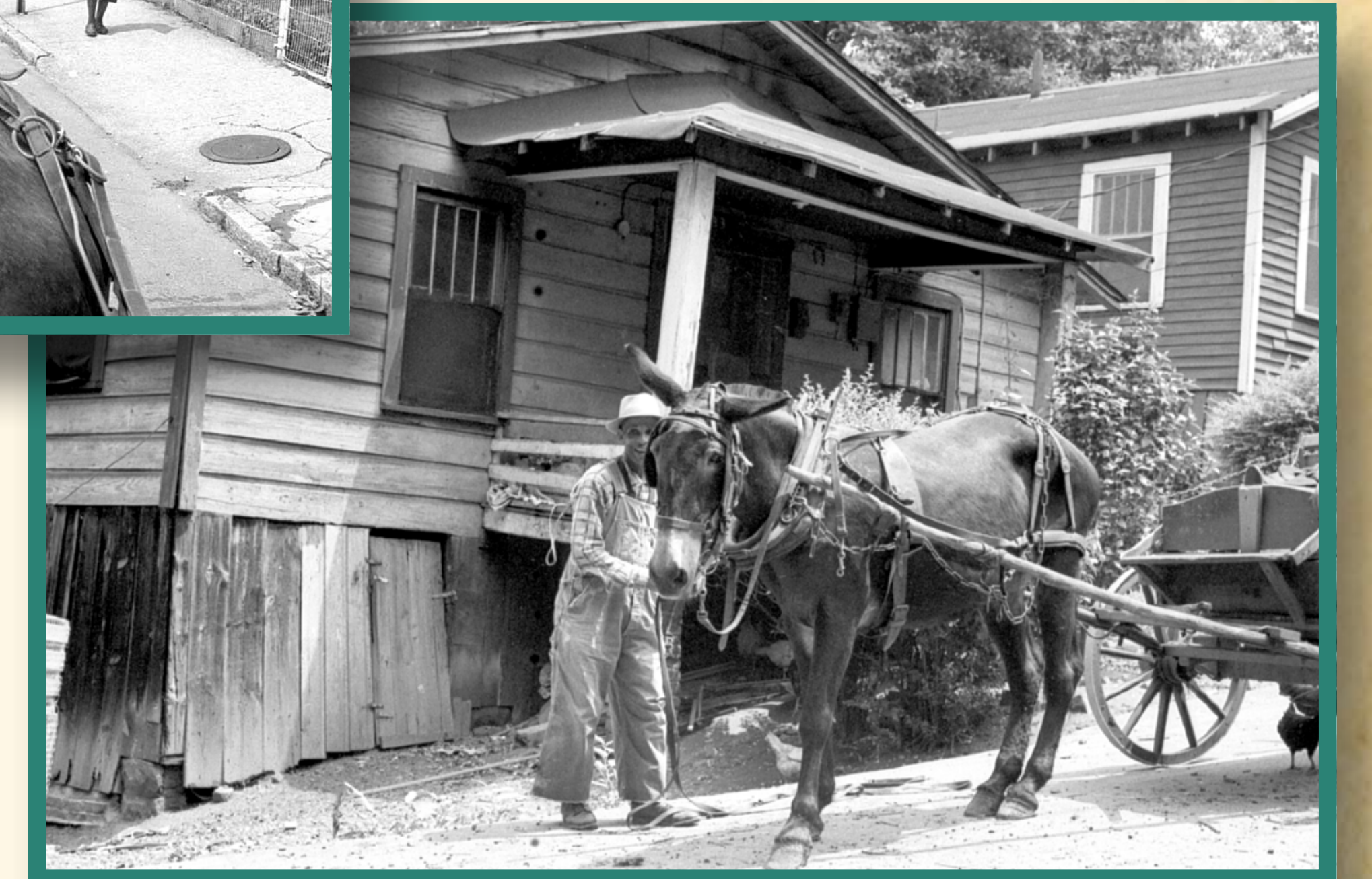
Bennie Mae Scott (1911-2003) lived at 332 Montford Avenue. When she became ill her daughter Dorothy Black moved in to take care of her. 1962



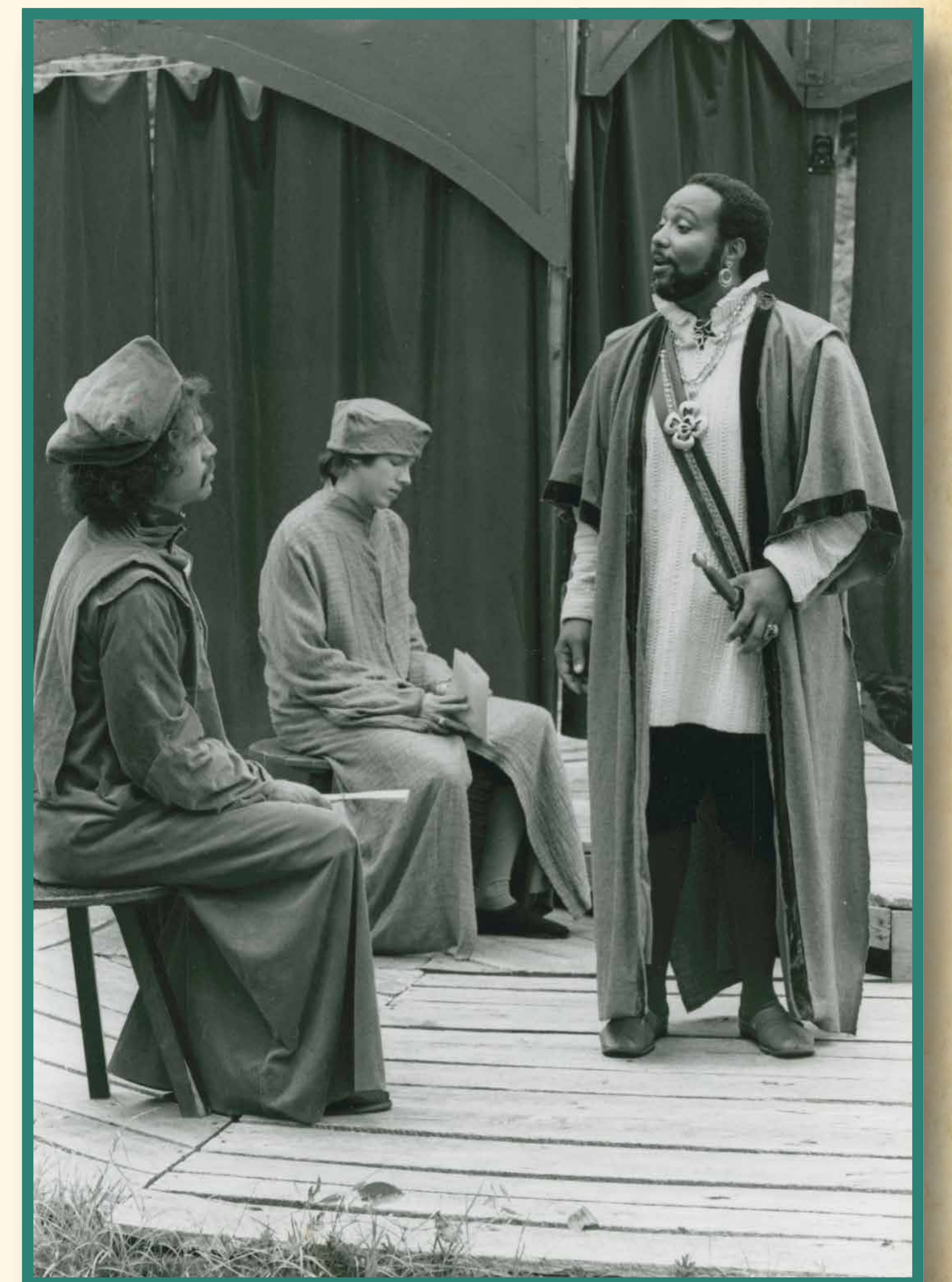
James Edwin Rumbough and his wife Martha Elizabeth Baker Rumbough, in front of their home Hoewell Hall (the Rumbough House built in 1892) on Zillicoa Street with their coachman. Estimated date 1892-1900.



George Holmes's mule coming up Cherry Street. Unidentified person waving and a sign can be seen for Pappas Grocery at 101 Cherry Street. Photograph by Andrea Clark. 1968



George Holmes and his mule would pick up produce at the Lexington Avenue market and deliver it to customers in Montford. George lived at 45 Jersey Street. Photograph by Andrea Clark. 1968



Montford Park Players production of Othello in Montford Park. Othello (Rocky Fulp) is addressing the Venetian Senate in Act I, scene 3 of Shakespeare's dramatic tragedy. Pictured left to right is Stephen or Peter Whelihan, Marshall Gates, and Rocky Fulp. The Montford Recreation Center and the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre, now home to the Montford Park Players, are located on land that was formerly part of Stumptown. Photograph by Mary Jo Brezny, 1981

Hill Street Baptist Church (pictured) is one of seven churches located in or near Stumptown. The area also included businesses, such as Jack Pack Book Store, Morrow Street Corner Store, Mr. Howard's store, and Shigley's bookstore as well as several beauty parlors. 1980



Dr. Polly Shuford (lady standing) greeting neighborhood youngsters at the Stumptown Community Center (the Shuford Colored Clinic purchased in 1940). She provided much needed medical care to the community. Photograph by Bert Shipman/Asheville Citizen-Times. 1967