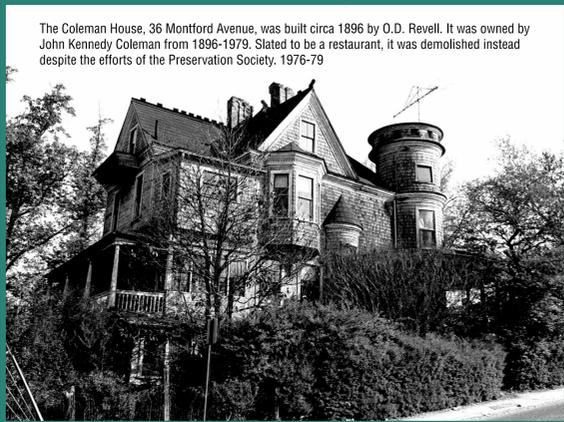


MONTFORD LOST

“Montford Demolition Causes Concern” was the title of an article that appeared in the January 11, 1979 *Asheville Citizen-Times*. Piles of rubble and cleared lots were appearing all over Montford. Most of the missing structures had been vacant and abandoned by their owners. Thieves had stripped them of everything from mantels to paneling. Jim Samsel, an architect and member of the Preservation Society, declared: “The neighborhood is not attractive enough right now for someone to build a new house in.” This panel shows some of the properties that were lost to demolition or fire.



The Coleman House, 36 Montford Avenue, was built circa 1896 by O.D. Revell. It was owned by John Kennedy Coleman from 1896-1979. Stated to be a restaurant, it was demolished instead despite the efforts of the Preservation Society, 1976-79



84 Starnes is now demolished. Starnes Avenue was created around 1889. The street was named after Miss Gorano Starnes (1865-1945), a nurse, n.d.



Hilltop Cottage, the M.V. (Matthew VanLear) Moore house, and tennis court were located at 227 Cumberland Avenue, now the site of the Holy Trinity Greek Church. Moore operated a well-known clothing store, M.V. Moore & Company, in downtown Asheville. He was also a leader in civic affairs and in the movement to establish the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 1910s



Michalove House at 45 Montford Avenue, was probably built for F.M. Carrington before 1893. Its best-known occupants were Solomon H. and Ester Michalove, who lived there from about 1904 to 1931. Michalove established the IXL (“I excel”) Department store which flourished for many years at various locations in Asheville, and he was also one of the founders of what was to become Asheville’s Beth Israel congregation. Photograph by Mary Jo Brezny.



The Harmon Miller House at 171 Montford Avenue was built in 1896. It was later destroyed by arson, 1958



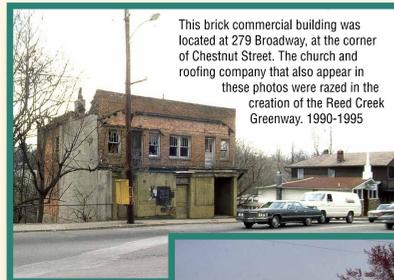
The Dukes-Zurburg House was located at 30 Cumberland Avenue. The house was built for Thomas C.H. Dukes in 1896. His earlier home on the same lot faced Short Street. The house was sold to William H. Zurburg from Germany in 1909. It was found to be still standing, 1915



51 Montford Avenue is now demolished. Montford Avenue was originally named Academy Street after the Asheville Male Academy, which stood where the current Randolph School is located. This house would have been across from the school, 1990-1995



The DuBose-Witz House, circa 1896-1902, was located at 115 Montford Avenue. It was “almost totally burned out” and so it was demolished, 1990



This brick commercial building was located at 279 Broadway, at the corner of Chestnut Street. The church and roofing company that also appear in these photos were razed in the creation of the Reed Creek Greenway, 1990-1995



Many Gables, the home of Theodore Summey Morrison (1852-1926), was located at 287 Pearson Drive. It burned around 1971. Morrison had a business on Lexington Avenue named T.S. Morrison’s.



Torrence Hospital, 95 Hill Street, was Asheville’s first African American clinic. Its second location was the home of Dr. William G. Torrence (d. 1915) and his family. The family lived downstairs and the hospital was upstairs. Torrence Hospital Heritage of Black Highlanders Collection, D. H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC Asheville 28804.

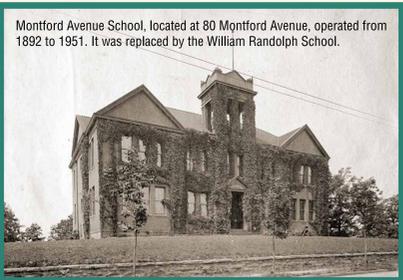


The Central Building of Highland Hospital.

Fire at the Central Building of Highland Hospital the night of March 11, 1948. Nine female patients died (Zelda Fitzgerald, wife of author F. Scott Fitzgerald, among them). Twenty survived, including two who were seriously injured, 1948



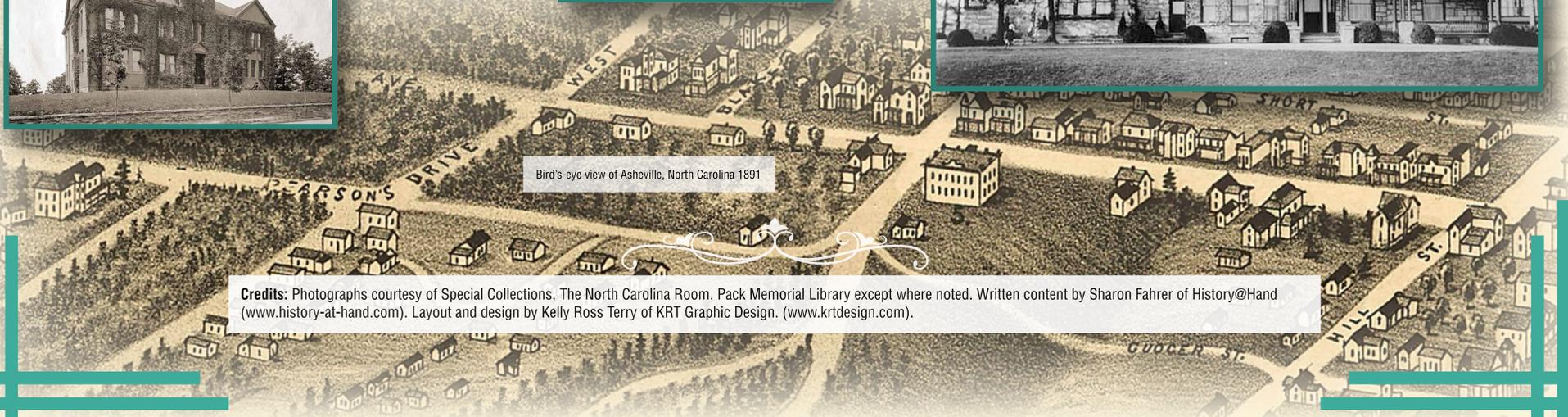
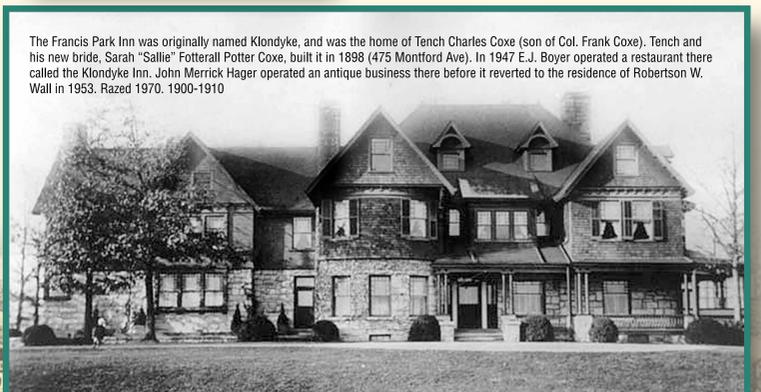
The Montford General Store was located at 65 Starnes Avenue. A residence now occupies that location, 1990



Montford Avenue School, located at 80 Montford Avenue, operated from 1892 to 1951. It was replaced by the William Randolph School.



The Francis Park Inn was originally named Klondyke, and was the home of Tench Charles Coxe (son of Col. Frank Coxe). Tench and his new bride, Sarah “Sallie” Fotherall Potter Coxe, built it in 1898 (475 Montford Ave). In 1947 E.J. Boyer operated a restaurant there called the Klondyke Inn. John Merrick Hager operated an antique business there before it reverted to the residence of Robertson W. Wall in 1953. Razed 1970. 1900-1910



Bird's-eye view of Asheville, North Carolina 1891

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.krtedesign.com).