

Durhams' Black Community A Mixed Bag

By Milton Jordan
Durham's black community spreads all over town.

According to information from the Durham Planning and Community Development Department, there are 25 neighborhoods in Durham with 50% or more black population. These neighborhoods range from the old to the relatively new, from those that began black to others that tipped.

Some of the names are familiar. There's Lyon Park, West End, Fisher Heights, Hillside Park and Emory Woods. Others may not be quite so familiar. They include Hayestown, North Albright, Birchwood Heights and Oakridge.

The black people who live in these neighborhoods range from the very rich to the very poor, from the young to the very old, and they live in homes that range from the ultra modern to the ramshackled. Almost 1800 blacks live in subsidized housing.

Durham's black community is a mixed bag in more ways than one. Most blacks live in three general areas in Durham: the Central, South Central and Southeast districts, according to the City's Economic Development Strategy. In this report,

the three areas are described thusly:

Central — encompasses the downtown loop, as well as the surrounding area extending west toward Duke University's East Campus, north past Durham Athletic Park and Little Five Points, east past the Edgemont area and south just past the East-West Expressway.

According to the report, this area is 58% black, has an average annual household income of \$10,742, a 9.4% unemployment rate, 30% high school graduates and a 64% dependency rate.

The dependency rate refers to the percentage of people in the area who are either children or senior citizens.

South Central — a primarily residential area extending from the Central Area, south and southeast to North Carolina Central University and the beginning of suburban development and the city limits in that direction.

According to this report about 99% of the people here are black, 25% are unemployed, though 29% have high school diplomas. The average annual household income is \$10,876, and the area has a 98% dependency rate.

Southeast — Here is the old money, with an

average annual household income of \$15,295. This population that is 95% black has a 4.7% unemployment rate, and 48% of them are high school graduates. The area has a 71% dependency rate.

While these three areas have the city's highest concentrations of blacks, another three areas have less than 30%. They are: East, 6%, Southwest, 5%, and North 10%. There are also three areas that have 30% of more black population. They are: East Central, 33%, Northwest, 30%, and West, 30%.

In almost all of these areas where one finds black people, one also tends to find vastly different groups of blacks. For example, one can find a few wealthy blacks living in the Central area, where the average income is just over \$10,000. But by the same token, one can find some poor blacks living in the Southeast area where the median income is more than \$15,000.

These areas are all broken down into those 29 neighborhoods where 50% or more of their residents are black. Housing conditions in these neighborhoods range from extremely well housed to barely livable.

For example, in neighborhoods such as Fisher Heights, Emory Woods and Riddle Road, more than 80% of

the residences are in excellent condition. By contrast, in Edgemont, East End, St. Theresa and West End, 30% or more of the houses need substantial rehabilitation.

Edgemont has by far the worst housing conditions overall, with about 63% of the structures either needing substantial rehabilitation, or delapidated.

But the vast majority of Durham's black neighborhoods have housing that is basically sound. This is even true in neighborhoods that are perceived to be basically poorer neighborhoods.

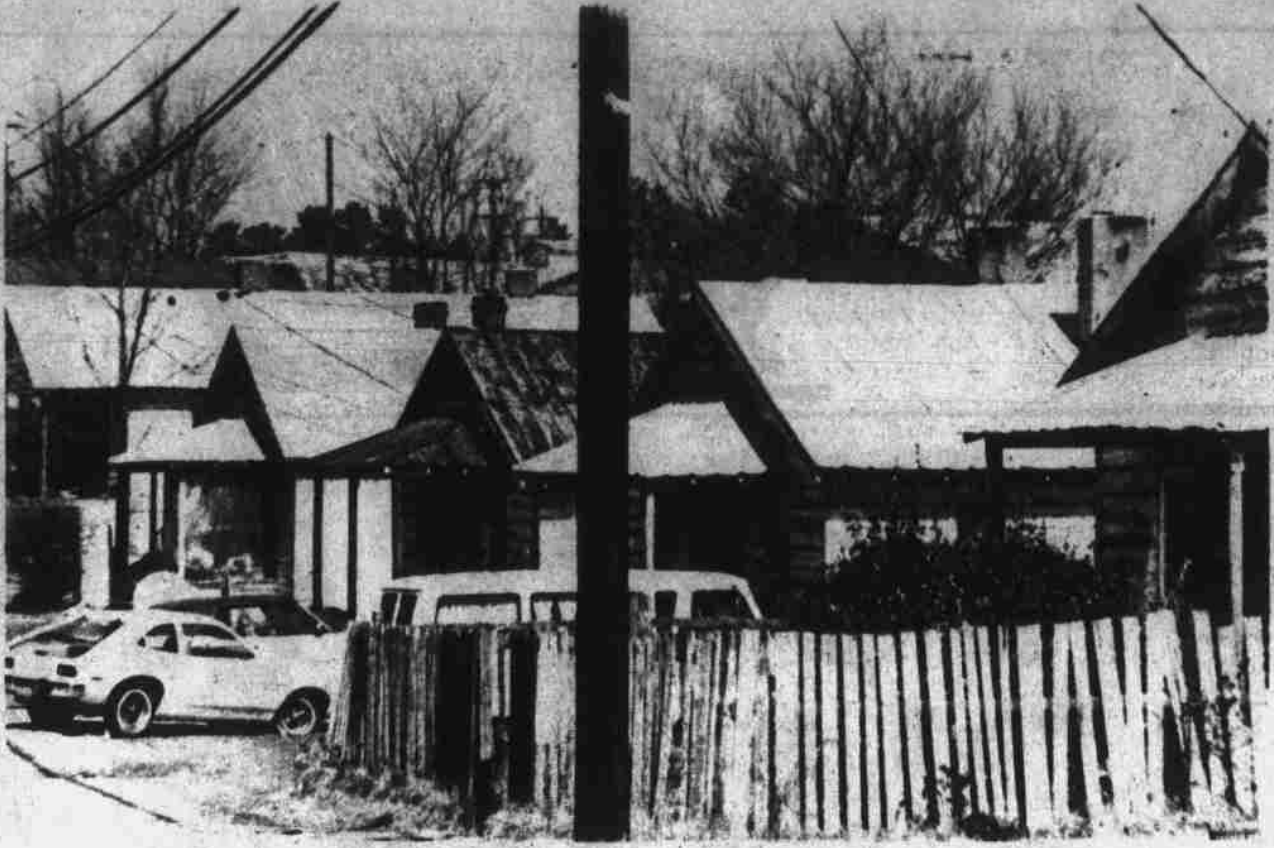
There are a lot of children living in those houses. According to 1980 census material, and a 1981 report on Durham's black children, done by the Black Child Development Institute, about 25% and just a little over 17,400 blacks in Durham are children, from infancy to 17 years old. This works out to about two children per household.

Contrary to the national figures, about 54% of Durham's black children live with both parents. Nationally, according to census figures, about 45% of the nation's black kids live in single parent homes.

And so it appears that Durham's black families are tighter knit, better housed and are not nearly as poor as they are often represented to be.

But the total picture is still not as pretty as it could be. As a matter of fact, it is paradoxically wrong.

Most of Durham's black children live in two-parent homes, but by the same token, Durham has a teenage pregnancy rate that is three times the national rate for blacks. For example, in 1979, there were 237 babies born in Durham to young black girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years old. In this same age group,



SOME OF DURHAM'S BLACK CITIZENS are very poorly housed, while others live in lovely homes, but the vast majority of the black community is adequately housed, according to city planning department reports.

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there were 195 abortions. About 50% of the infants born that year were born to unmarried girls.

And in another type of paradox, the Orange-Durham YMCA Coalition Against Battered Women reports that nearly half of the victims they see are black women. In almost every instance, according to the Coalition, the perpetrator is a black man, either a husband or a boyfriend. In addition to that, according to the Coalition, 80% of these women are married; 80% have children, and on the average the women come from lower middle class homes.

Connie Renz, the Coalition's director, adds: "Our statistics certainly indicate that domestic violence is a problem in Durham, but they do not reflect the true incidence. An added statistic would be that the Durham County Courthouse hears 9 to 18 assault cases per day, many of which are

domestic related."

But all these are symptoms. What is the real problem? "I think that the biggest problem," said Dr. Valora Washington-Smith, an education specialist, "is that we do not take a systematic approach to either studying or solving our problems."

Dr. Washington-Smith says that blacks in Durham tend to "fire from the hip too much." They don't go after the hard data that will clearly identify the problem and lead to the development of a sensible and workable strategy for solving it.

"I think that we get so caught up in the emotionalism of it all," she said, "that we overlook the need for hardcore research, and the necessity of planning and being able to sustain a protracted struggle."

And so it seems that while the black community, its leaders especially, plan to spend

a lot of time playing what one man called the "numbers game of local politics," many, many other problems do not get the attention they need to move toward a solution.

When that situation will change boils down to one emphatic statement Dr. Washington-Smith made, her own personal solution: "Durham needs some new black leadership."

Help Wanted

Durham County and City Youth

The Durham Employment and Training Office, located at 212 N. Mangum St., is now accepting applications for a Youth Program that will provide part-time employment and educational opportunities. To be eligible, you must be a high school drop-out between the ages of 16-21 and economically disadvantaged. If interested, applications can be picked up Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00 p.m. DEADLINE DATE - November 1, 1982.

The Durham Employment and Training Office is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Organization and does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in the admission of any programs or activities.

Mechanical Drafter

Prepare detail, layout, assembly and outline drawings. Must have excellent inking skills. Associate Degree in Mechanical Drafting or equivalent required plus related drafting experience. Permanent or temporary positions available.

For prompt consideration, send resume to Personnel Manager, SPERRY CORP., P. O. Box 2211, Durham, NC 27702.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Dental Assistant

Completion of an approved dental assistant course or completion of high school course work and one year of on-the-job training as a dental assistant, and required X-ray training when needed. Salary range: 9,264-13,644.

For an application please contact the Employment Division, 111 Pettigrew Hall, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. (919) 962-2991. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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A leading consumer products manufacturer is seeking a limited number of skilled trades people to fill permanent positions for the start-up of a new manufacturing plant located in the central Piedmont region of North Carolina. Positions involve multi-craft responsibilities.

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HOW TO APPLY

Individuals who can meet the requirements should fill in this form and mail to:
DEPT. #9482-A, c/o Durham Carolina Times P.O. Box 3826, Durham, North Carolina 27702

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PHONE # () _____

I am applying for the position of _____
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Only applicants who can meet the requirements will be contacted for interviews.

Hiring company is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H

Your City Council TWO-WEEK CALENDAR



October 4-15, 1982

The Durham City Council will hold a regular meeting Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall. The meeting is open to the public.

City Government meetings scheduled during the next three weeks include:

- 7:30 p.m. MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1982
CITY COUNCIL MEETING (Council Chambers/1st Floor)
GROUNDS & WATER CONTROL COMMITTEE OF THE FRIENDS OF WEST POINT (Personnel Briefing Room/1st Floor)
- 7:30 p.m. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1982
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION (Council Chambers/1st Floor)
CETA ADVISORY COUNCIL (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (Council Chambers/1st Floor)
- 7:30 p.m. FACILITIES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE FRIENDS OF WEST POINT (Personnel Briefing Room/1st Floor)
- 9:30 a.m. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1982
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CABLEVISION FRANCHISE (Council Committee Room/1st Floor)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS (Attorney's Conference Room/2nd Floor)
- 2:30 p.m. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1982
FINANCE COMMITTEE (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Personnel Briefing Room/1st Floor)
- 8:30 a.m. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1982
SUBDIVISION REVIEW BOARD (Inspections Conference Room/3rd Floor)
- 1:00 p.m. MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1982
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON SELECTION OF WARD 6 SEAT (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
- 2:15 p.m. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
- 7:30 p.m. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
- 10:00 a.m. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1982
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1982
NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1982
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (Council Committee Room/2nd Floor)
- 8:30 a.m. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1982
SUBDIVISIONS REVIEW BOARD (Inspections Conference Room/3rd Floor)

NOTE: All meetings are held in the City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, unless otherwise indicated. Additional meetings may be scheduled after this list is submitted for publication. Free parking is available during the Council Meeting in the Chapel Hill Street Parking Garage, located across Mangum Street from City Hall. The City Council meeting will be carried live on CABLEVISION CHANNEL 8. Any Citizen wishing to be heard on agenda matters, please call 683-4166, City Clerk's Office, to place your name on the speaker's list.

Legal Notices

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY CREDITOR'S NOTICE
HAVING QUALIFIED as the administrator of the Estate of Johnnie Preston Johnson of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned or her attorney Albert I. Willis, c/o MALONE BROWN and MATTHEWSON P.A. Post Office Box 867, 705 Kent Street, Durham, North Carolina 27702 on or before the 30th day of March 1983 or this notice will be pleaded bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the address of the Administrator given below.

This the 23rd day of September 1982.

Cassie Lee Johnson
Administrator
P. O. Box 867
Durham, North Carolina 27702

PUBLICATION DATES
The Carolina Times
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 1982

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Frederick D. Sull, Deceased late of Durham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at 300 Wachovia Bank Building, Durham, North Carolina 27701 on or before the 2nd day of April 1983 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the address of the Administrator given below.

This the 2nd day of October 1982.

HATHI SULL
Executor of the Estate of Frederick D. Sull
Eugene C. Brooks, III
Attorney at Law
300 Wachovia Bank Building
Durham, North Carolina 27701

MINORITY BUSINESS/WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS SOLICITATION
D.R. Allen and Son, Inc., general contractor, solicits your material quotation and subbids on (1) Rockfish Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant bid on October 13, 1982 at 2:30 p.m. and (2) Rockfish Creek Interceptor bid on October 14, 1982 at 2:30 p.m. for the City of Fayetteville Public Works Commission. Areas of work included in these projects are site work, seeding, pipe laying, manholes, concrete work, plastering, reinforcing steel placement, glass and glazing, life work and masonry. Please submit your bids prior to noon on the day of the bid if by telephone (919/868-3151) or written bids may be addressed to P.O. Drawer 1867, Fayetteville, NC 28302. If you are interested you may obtain more information by contacting our Estimating Department. Equal Opportunity Employer.

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY CREDITORS NOTICE
HAVING QUALIFIED as the administrator of the Estate of Mary Lee Johnson Markham of Durham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned or her attorney Glenn M. Maltheus, III, c/o MALONE BROWN & MATTHEWSON P.A. Post Office Box 867, 705 Kent Street, Durham, North Carolina on or before the 11th day of March 1983 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the address of the Administrator given below.

This the 10th day of September 1982.

High L. Fisher, III
Administrator
Estate of Mary Lee Johnson
M. L. Fisher, III
Decedent
3137 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707

PUBLICATION DATES
The Carolina Times
September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 1982

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