

# THE GRANDIN COURT AREA

by: Walter Melvin Bryant

The first development of the Grandin Court area was the Weaver Heights section. This section was bounded by Tillett Road, Barham Road, Livingston Road and Weaver Road. Lots were facing both sides of these roads. Access was by way of Gillespie Road from Grandin Road to the intersection of Weaver and Tillett Roads. The west end of Livingston Road led to a narrow country road, now called Spring Road. This country road was the access to what is now Corbieshaw by way of the 2700 block of now Sweetbrier Avenue. The firm of Weaver and Tillett were the developers.

The next development by Weaver and Tillett was the Grandin Court section. This was a 40 acre farm owned by Mr. J.B. Thompson. This section started at Grandin Road and along Guilford Avenue to Livingston Road. It joined Weaver Heights on the west. Mr. Thompson's home faced Grandin Road. The barn and other buildings were in the rear of the home about where Montvale Road intersects Guilford Avenue. His water supply was a windmill operated well on the north west corner of Tillett Road and Guilford Avenue. He later built a brick home on Guilford Avenue between Lofton and Livingston. His frame home still stands and was turned 90 degrees to face Guilford Avenue.

The next development also by Weaver and Tillett was the Grandin Court Annex. This was a 120 acre farm and was an extension of the south boundary of Weaver Heights and the Grandin Court sections. The west side was along the country road, now known as Spring Road to and including Creston Avenue and the farm home located in Fishburn Park. Wright Road was another country road for access to the Bent Mountain Road. Fishburn Park was originally Weaver Park. The barn was located on the parking lot. Water for the home was from a large spring located down the hill from the house where for some time a drinking fountain was located. It was pumped to a spring house near the east end of the house by a ram (no electricity) giving a continuous flow for the cooling of milk and other foods. Later Mr. Fishburn donated land on the east end and the name was changed to Fishburn Park.

Other sections developed was the Corbieshaw area, owned by Randolph Henry. His home was the house behind Brambleton Clinic. It went to the top of the hill from the 2700 block of Sweetbrier, to the county line on the west and along Oak Crest on the north.

The next area was Col. Jim Wood's property. This was the Spring Valley area and was from Oak Crest including property that the Grandin Court School is located on, joining the Weaver Heights section with the roads being extended.



The log home on the corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Montgomery Avenue was built by Mr. Weaver, one of the developers for his home. It is unique in that the logs are vertical rather than horizontal. Some may know that the wooded land facing Montgomery Avenue and extending to the Shenandoah Life property and going back to the lots facing Oregon Avenue is shown on the original map of the subdivision as a park. If this is the case there might be something that could be done for future use of the property.

One of the unique remembrances of the early days of this area was a shuttle bus that met every other street car at Brandon Road and Grandin Road. The round trip was from the end of the street car line to the corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Spring Road.

My Father's property joined Grandin Court Annex on the East, Jim Wood on north and Randolph Henry on South and West. Later named Grand View. He purchased land from the center of Woodlawn Ave. from Spessard to Brambleton and gave 1/2 of Road right of way in order to continue Woodlawn to what is now Brambleton Ave.

Incidentally, I helped grade that extension of Woodlawn with a mule team and a drag scoop, this gave a road into the Corbieshaw development, up Fleetwood, left on Ashby to a right on Sweetbriar, thru the Yost and D.B. Ferguson properties to what is now Cave Spring Corners. Sometime later Brambleton was built from Rosewood to it's intersection with Spring Road.