

The Rozzelle Home Place

1032 Patton St. | Hendersonville, North Carolina

Hendersonville in the early 1920's was a small but rapidly growing town. Everyone knew everyone and of course everyone knew Charles Rozzelle "The Furniture Man"! Rozzelle's store had recently relocated in 1919 to a larger store on N. Main Street across from Justice Pharmacy from its original location opposite the courthouse on S. Main. His store was the second in Hendersonville to install a telephone and he could be reached by telephoning "2". Mr. Rozzelle at 48 years old was a successful man. He was involved with his church, First Methodist, sat on the board of the Hendersonville Building and Loan, was active in the Kiwanis Club and the Odd Fellows and even had a chauffeur, Eugene Brown to drive him around. He lived in the apartments above his new store with his 48 year old wife Willie and their three children Alma, 15, Ruth, 13 and Frank, 11. In 1921 he began purchasing lots in Hyman Heights where he would build their new home that they would affectionately dub the *Rozzelle Home Place*.

The genesis of Hyman Heights began in 1905 when Miss Annie Patton sold land around her home "Killarney" to Mr. W.A. Garland for development. According to a 1906 newspaper advertisement in the Hendersonville News (on display) the new Hyman Heights neighborhood boasted "beautiful graded streets, Granolithic sidewalks (still visible in front of house), shade trees and grass." Lots could be had for a mere \$12 down and \$6 per month! By the mid teen and twenties many lots were purchased on speculation as real estate was booming in Hendersonville. Some people may have even overextended themselves.

On Friday, February 28, 1919 at noon on the steps of the Henderson County Courthouse, eight lots in Hyman Heights originally sold to Mr. T.C. Williams in 1916 and foreclosed when he defaulted on his loan, were auctioned to the highest bidder for a mere \$600. The winning bidder was Adolphus E. Hudgins, the Henderson county treasurer and tax collector. In 1921 three of those lots, 10, 11 and 12 on Patton Avenue, were purchased by Charles Rozzelle. One year later in February 1922 three adjoining lots were purchased by Mr. Rozzelle from his employee Carl Shipman. Mr. Rozzelle kept lots 12, 13 and 14 to build his home and sold the remaining two lots, 10 and 11 three weeks later to E.H. Davis, an assistant cashier at the Citizen's National Bank.

The Rozzelles built their home here sometime between 1922 and 1924. They first appear living here in the 1924 City Directory (no 1923 directory could be located). Sadly, Mr. Rozzelle passed away on July 26, 1928 at the young age of 54. His widow transferred the home to their children in 1931 who rented the property through the mid 1950's. In 1951, the year prior to her death, Willie Rozzelle is listed in the City Directory as living in an apartment at this location. It is uncertain if this apartment was in the house or over the garage structure which no longer exists. On June 12, 1952, Willie Rozzelle passed away and in 1955 the *Rozzelle Home Place* was sold after 23 years in the family. Charles, Willie and their three children are interred in the Rozzelle family plot at Oakdale Cemetery.

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The home place was sold by the Rozzelle children in April 1955 to Landon and Harriet Goodson of Dallas, Texas. In February of 1957 they sold it to Thomas and Ann Harrison of Henderson County who in turn sold it in March of 1959 to Ernest and Mary Anders of Henderson County. Kate Anders who had divorced Ernest sold the property on April 10, 1969 to John and Donnie Jo Albea. Just two years later John Albea died at the Veterans Hospital in Oteen and was buried at Oakdale Cemetery here. Donnie Jo, who later married "Dit" Williams (owner of World of Clothing in Hendersonville), sold the home in December 1983 to Malcolm and Sandra Morgan. The Morgans sold the home to Jeffrey and Rhonda Hudson in 1994 who in turn sold it to Kathryn Uptain in 1998. Kathryn Uptain Strickland and her husband Gregory sold the property in September 2005 to Kenneth Lee and Dana Broach. They began restorations to the property and in April 2008 sold the property to Bruce and Carolyn Evans.

Bruce Evans who is a builder completed the extensive renovations to the home that you see today. The kitchen was renovated and new wood floors were laid to replace the original floors which were beyond repair. A laundry room and pantry and half-bath in the hallway were created from the the original kitchen space. A hall closet was added and the door to the master bedroom was relocated creating an en-suite. In the master bedroom the fireplace which had previously been covered was rebuilt and the beautiful mantle installed. In the back of the house the original sleeping porch was insulated and a beautiful bathroom created. Windows wrap both corners of this additional living space and the original claw foot tub from the master bathroom was installed here.

In August of 2012 the Evans' sold the old *Rozzelle Home Place* to Bob Graham who is the current caretaker of this beautiful home. Bob's background includes having owned a landscaping company and he is using his knowledge in developing the English cottage garden in front of the house. Since moving in the wood blinds have been added to the windows, a new state of the art furnace and new roof installed and work has begun on restoring the exterior of the home by stripping it down to the wood, repairing and repainting.