

BUILDING

A

NEW SMYRNA

The old frontier community known as Ruff's Station grew into a town.



First Bank of Smyrna, March 20, 1911.



Teens pose in front of the dam next to the covered bridge in the early 1900s.

The Western and Atlantic Railroad was rebuilt and improved after the war. Ruff's Station was incorporated as the City of Smyrna on August 23, 1872. Smyrna developed as a commerce and mercantile center- farmers could get their crops to market and buy the latest goods. The 1890 census recorded 280 residences, and Smyrna grew past 1,000 by the 1930s. In the first decade of the 20th century, the

telephone, electricity, automobile, and other technological marvels were introduced. The Atlanta Northern Railway established trolley service between Atlanta and Marietta in 1905, the largest interurban electric railway in the South. Atlanta Road was first paved in 1926, and the passenger car became prevalent. As Atlanta grew, Smyrna became a bedroom community as many workers commuted to the city.

The depot in Smyrna along Atlanta Road for the Atlanta Northern Railway.



BRAWNER HALL

Dr. James Brawner, a medical visionary in mental health, established a sanitarium in Smyrna on the old Taylor estate in 1910. The Brawner Hospital was a 35-room private psychiatric facility for individuals with mental illness or alcohol/drug addictions. Dr. Brawner set standards for increasing expectations

of patient care and helped change public perceptions of mental illness. Dr. Brawner operated the hospital until 1955, when his son assumed control. The family owned the sanitarium until 1978, and it remained open as the Brawner Psychiatric Facility until 1999.

Brawner Hall.



Atlanta Streetcars permanently changed places like Smyrna.

