



Photo courtesy of the Branford Historical Society

THE BEAUTIFUL HOME of Arthur and Laura Tenney once stood on Main Street.

Pictures of the Past

Plantation-style house had graced town center

The Tenney Home

One of Branford's finest homes once stood at the corner of Laurel Street and Main Street and belonged to Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Tenney.

Arthur John Tenney was born in 1856 and graduated from Yale Medical School in 1883. He came to Branford in the fall of 1884 and began to practice medicine, one of several doctors in Branford at that time. In 1888 he married Laura Joanna Hammer, daughter of Thorvald F. and Delphiana (Lundsteen) Hammer of Branford. Mr. Hammer was one of the founders of the Malleable Iron Fittings Company.

The Tenneys lived in a small house near the library for several years. This house was moved to the rear of the property and is still standing at 19 Laurel St. A new home was built on the original site in 1904 in the style of a Southern plantation. The home was quite large with a massive pillared entrance and several interesting dormers and additions. Dr. Tenney was one of the first

people in Branford to own an automobile. A carport was built on the side of the house with an entrance into his office. The grounds of the estate were always immaculate.

Dr. Tenney died in 1928 but Laura Hammer Tenney continued to occupy the home until her death in 1962 at the age 98, outliving her husband by 34 years. She is fondly remembered as being devoted to animals and was always kind to the children that passed by.

The home was sold in 1965 and torn down to make way for the Union Trust Bank which continues today to do business at the site.

- Jane Peterson Bouley