

# Tenney home was centerpiece of Southern style



Photo courtesy Branford Historical Society

*The Tenney home stood at the corner of Main and Laurel streets and was built in 1901. It was torn down in 1963 to make way for Union Trust Bank.*



## PICTURES OF THE PAST

**Jane Peterson Bouley**

### BRANFORD - Dr.

Arthur John Tenney was born in 1856 and after graduating from Yale Medical School in 1883 settled in Branford and started his practice.

In 1888, he married Laura Joanna Hammer whose father Thorvald F. was associated with the Malleable Iron Fittings Co. Thorvald Hammer purchased property in 1901, including a house on the corner of Main and

Laurel streets from John Eades.

At the time, the local newspaper the *Branford Opinion* reported that "Mover Bradley of New Haven" relocated the house to the rear of the lot facing Laurel Street, now No. 19, to make way for a new home, a wedding gift from Thorvald to his daughter.

The new Tenney home was designed by a Mr. Allen of New Haven and built by Ray and William Company of the same city. The home, patterned after a Southern mansion, was considered one of the finest in the areas. Dr. Tenney maintained his office in the house and was one of the first people in Branford to own an automobile and to build a garage to accommodate the vehicle. He continued to practice medicine until his death in 1929.

Laura Hammer Tenney was noted for the lovely gardens on the estate and her care of animals. She was a favorite among the children who were always offered a cookie when they passed by. Mrs. Tenney died in 1962 at the age of 98 and is buried at Center Cemetery.

The Tenney mansion was sold in 1963 for \$90,000 to private investors. Despite public opposition, the home was torn down and a bank was built on the site, which remains today.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane Peterson Bouley is town historian for Branford.*