

## THE WELLS DALTON HOUSE

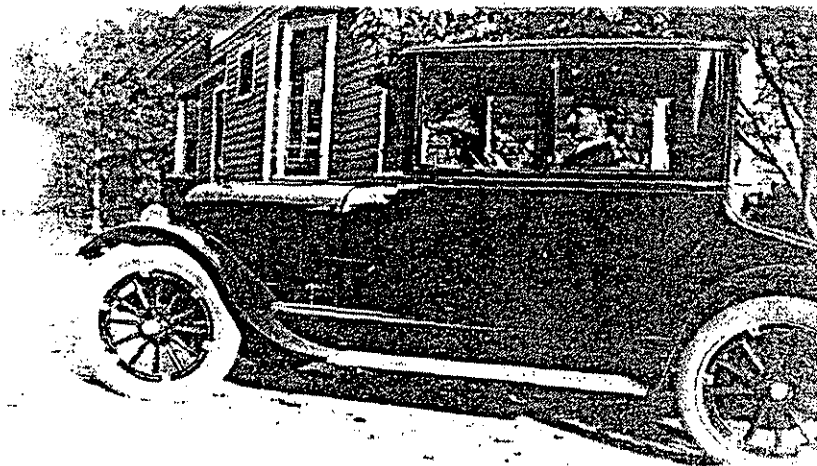
**A**S YOU ENTER THIS DISTINCTIVE HOUSE you immediately sense a detachment from the outside world and even Ridge Avenue that fronts the house. The large front door with its old crank doorbell opens into a quiet, cool atmosphere that is permeated with all of the past personalities and events that still share the house.

One of the opinions about the history of the house is that of present owner, Mr. Joe Dalton, who said the property was acquired by Andrew Johnson for his wife Caroline G. Johnson in early 1851. In 1863, George Riley Wells assumed the deed for the property, that contained most of lower Ridge Avenue to the Georgia Railroad right-of-way, and probably constructed the house in the early 1870's.

The home remained in the Wells family for almost a century; tending her beloved house, amidst her beautiful flower and vegetable gardens and arbors, Miss Mary Wells lived her eighty-nine years. After her death in 1961, and an interim ownership, the property was sold to Mr. Dalton.

The nine-room house is reportedly constructed of granite blocks and lime. The twelve-inch inside walls and fourteen-inch outside walls are built from the ground up and become thinner on the second story. Originally, the outside walls were covered with a mortar 'frosting' known as 'Savannah pink,' a color that resulted from the use of red creek sand in the mixture.

Two central chimneys service double fireplaces on both floors. Unusual and interesting features of the house include two concealed trap doors, which provide the only access underneath the house. You wonder what these doors may have been used for through the years. In one of the downstairs rooms, etched on a window is 'James R. Wells M.D. Stone Mountain, DeKalb County, Georgia, February, 6, 1898 1:05 P.M.' Perhaps the son of George Riley Wells, and long-time physician in Stone Mountain, decided to advertise in an original manner.



Dr. James R. Wells, long-time physician in Stone Mountain.

## Historic STONE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

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As with many old houses, strange events take place, such as old pieces of costume jewelry that the present owner reports finding about the house, on a bed or a dresser top. He says he always stores them away, and later finds they disappear. Also, there are noises in the attic, as if someone is walking about. These noises occur quite regularly and frequently, sometimes becoming downright boistrous.

It is quite pleasant to stand in the shade of the wide gallery and admire the fine old oaks in the now small yard. It is as if the delicate iron fence safeguards and nurtures a part of the past at 1036 Ridge Avenue.



The Wells Dalton House.