

FROM TINY TOWN TO BOOMING BURG: POWDER SPRINGS GROWS UP

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NARRATOR: When the town of Springville was renamed Powder Springs in 1859, it supported a community of farmers. In order to provide for the first residents of Powder Springs, the town boasted two cotton gins, seed and fertilizer stores, general and grocery stores, two railways, and a lumber yard.

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ABERNATHY: It was a very small community; it wasn't really like a town.

NORRIS: Everybody knew everybody back then. In fact, when we first moved to Powder Springs, the telephone was, still you had to go through the operator.

D. BODIFORD: When Bob and I were dating, he invited me to come out to a seafood place that was on Marietta Street, and we were seated near the window, looking out onto Marietta Street. The little country store across the street was closed at the time, because it was late evening, but I felt like I was on the movie set of 'Gunsmoke.' It was just the prettiest little town I had ever seen.

K. BEAVERS: Gently rolling hills, a lot of woods, some pasture, cattle, very friendly people, quite a few churches for the area.

L. COCHRAN: Quiet, quaint, a very country type home place. It felt, it just felt simple.

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NARRATOR: Over the decades, Powder Springs has developed into a mostly residential community filled with commuting workers. As it's population grew, more and more homes had to be built to accommodate the influx of newcomers.

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R. BODIFORD: When I was on the council, I brought zoning into Powder Springs and worked on that, and while I was on the council we also brought sewage disposal to Powder Springs, but the reason I came out here is because I thought it would change slowly and it has. Even more slowly than I thought!

NORRIS: Powder Springs has not developed as much as some of the other places. Well, you go on up toward Hiram and I'm telling you, it's awful up that way. You can't hardly travel up that way, there's so much new businesses in. But Powder Springs has not developed as much in that line as other areas. They don't have as many shopping centers.

ABERNATHY: Just an awful lot of people are moving out here and just developments are coming out this way, but not much commercial business.

D. BEAVERS: The biggest change was growth. West Cobb was rural when we moved out here, heavily wooded with a lot of pastureland; you'd wake up in the morning hearing the cows moo and the chickens crow.

NORRIS: But over the years I've see all that farmland turned into residential areas, and it's not recognizable anymore. Anybody that hasn't been here in a few years and came back, they wouldn't hardly know where they are, everything has changed so much.

HILL: I guess it's affecting the community in a not so good way, because I think it's just overdone. We hear that our water's getting scarce and we have to be careful with that, and then we see more homes being built and more people coming and I really think it's time to stop.

K. BEAVERS: It was a beautiful place to live, it was hard to watch the changes. I mean I know they say you can't stop progress and development; it would have been nice if it had been a little more controlled I think.

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NARRATOR: As the town developed, many residents committed themselves to preserving the homes, buildings, and history of Powder Springs.

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R. BODIFORD: We had several houses that were over 100 years old and we wanted to preserve those because we wanted to live in them. And so we formed this society, and it's purpose was just to maintain the residential areas...and then as people well, died off, moved away, then people lost interest in that, and Sarah Frances Miller accomplished this historical society we have right now, Seven Springs Historical Society, Sarah Frances Miller.

DUPREE: She was the one that I can remember that she tried to get a lot of the old homes here in Powder Springs on the National Registry, and there were so many people that had moved in here, they were knocking that, thinking it was going to be something negative for the town instead of a positive thing for the future.

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NARRATOR: With continued growth and development certain for the small town of Powder Springs, lifelong residents hope to pass on their love of the town to future generations.

D. BODIFORD: I think it's very important, and it's important to have these younger people care and want to preserve what we have here, the history of Powder Springs.

R. BODIFORD: But that's why I think the museum is so important. Like, these children see what went on before them, and they'd never see that anywhere other than a museum.

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