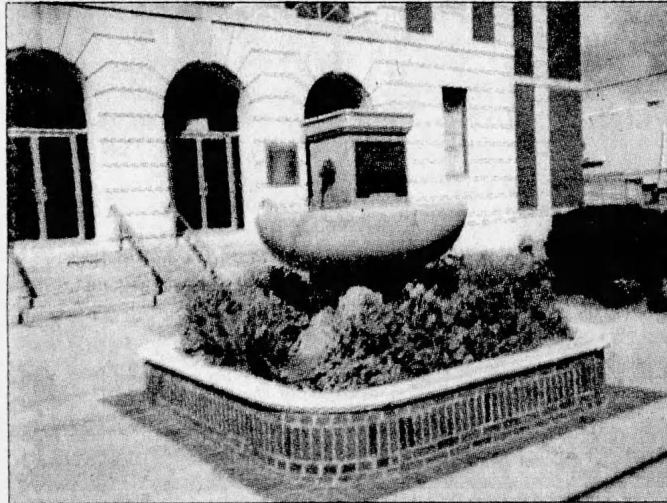


THAT WAS THEN



THE FOUNTAIN in front of The Township on Taylor Street hasn't always been there, and it once served a more utilitarian purpose than simply looking pretty.

Sandra G. Hilton of Camden recently wrote of her appreciation of that fountain decades ago, when it stood on Assembly Street as a mainstay of the old farmers' market. The fountain was constructed in 1907 by the Columbia Civic Improvement League with funding provided by the National Humane Alliance to provide water for farm animals, according to Historic Columbia.

"I can remember my grandfather taking me along with him to sell his chickens," Hilton

recalled. "The chickens would squawk, and feathers would fly. Mules would pull wooden wagons loaded with melons. Farmers would stand and chew and spit tobacco juice. Large tents and lean-tos shaded the farmers' produce from the hot summer sun. But it was the old water fountain that I remember so fondly for it was a place of refreshment for weary animals."

The fountain, actually one of two at the old farmers' market, was moved to Earlewood Park as cars replaced horses on Assembly. Later, it was moved to The Township. It could be on the move again because the Township's planned renovation will expand the lobby closer to Taylor Street.

— *Joey Holleman*

Columbia, SC 2009



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