

A History Of

Crossgates

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Historical and
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Brandon has a long and colorful history that dates back to 1829, but did you know that over half of Brandon only dates back to 1966? This date marks the year that visionary entrepreneur, J. W. Underwood of Jackson and William King Self of Marks, MS, bought 1000 acres for \$225,000. This development later became known as Crossgates - a well planned community. This series of articles will tell you the colorful history of the land, the people, and how it all evolved into what we enjoy today.

Early records indicate that 345 acres of "Crossgates to be" land was bought from the United States government by Robert E. Lee and nine other people between 1828 and 1836 for \$1.25 per acre. In 1835 Thomas Skinner purchased about 3000 acres in the same area from several land owners.

In 1836 A. P. Miller, affectionally called Colonel, who had moved south from Richmond, Virginia and was living near Brandon, bought all of this land for \$13,750. He also bought land from John McDonald and Robert E. Lee to enlarge his plantation to 10,000 acres. Robert E. Lee personally surveyed the land before finally making the property transfer in 1840. No records indicate that this is the Robert E. Lee of Civil war fame. The land and manor house Miller built became known as Pleasant Grove Plantation, one of the largest in Mississippi. The ante-bellum mansion stood until 1966 and was located on the high hill that once stood behind the current Crossgates River Oaks hospital.

Alexander Prince Miller, known as A. P. Miller, was born circa 1810 in Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia. It is thought that he settled near Brandon in 1834. His first wife, Cynthia Ann of Michigan died in 1838 at age



25 and was buried in the Old Brandon Cemetery. In 1844 he married Mary Elizabeth Todd, an orphan, of Virginia, who later changed the spelling of her maiden name to Todd.

Mary was "unusually kind and of generous nature...beloved by all who knew her." They raised three sons, three daughters, and three orphaned nieces at Pleasant Grove Plantation. The nieces, Bette, Effie, and Alice were brought to Pleasant Grove along with a governess in 1852 after the death of John B. Todd at age 37, brother of Mary Elizabeth. One niece, Bette Susan Elizabeth, married Austin Neely, a young wealthy plantation owner in Rankin County, at the plantation home in 1858.

Miller was a prominent, wealthy, and influential citizen soon after he settled in Mississippi. As early as 1844 he had been appointed by the governor as one of the five directors of the Jackson and Brandon Railroad Company chartered in 1836. This 13 mile railroad from Brandon to Jackson was not completed until 1850.





A Total Community
J. W. Underwood & Company
PLANNERS AND DEVELOPERS



NATURE AREA

NATURE AREA

NATURE AREA

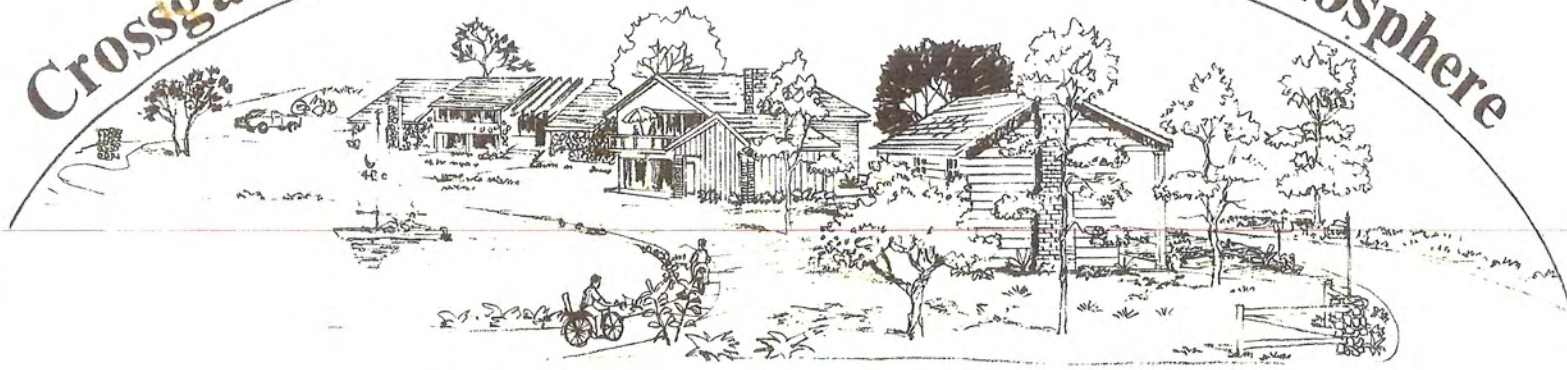
NATURE AREA



LEGEND
 Office
 Bank
 Retail
 Medical Clinic



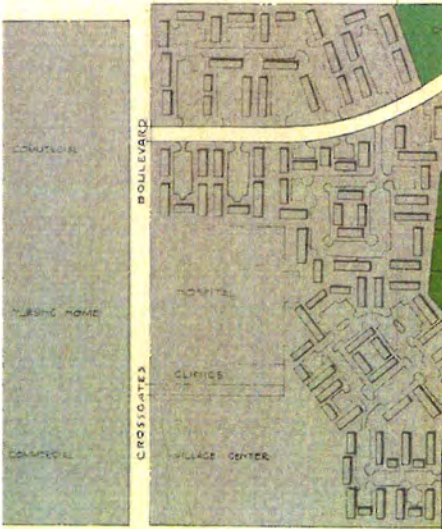
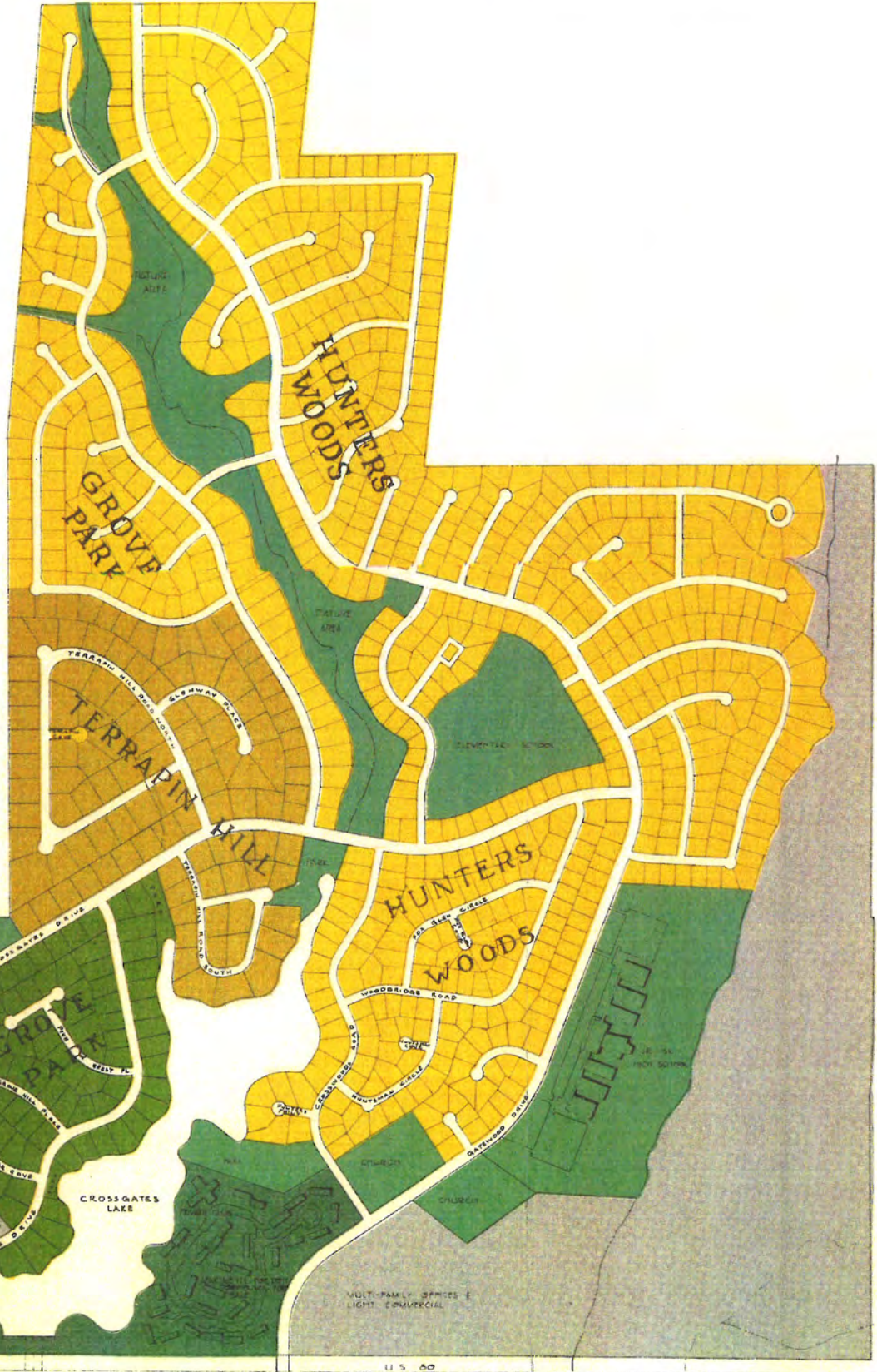
CROSSGATES BUSINESS PARK
 RANKIN COUNTY
 PROPERTY



This map represents the master plan for Crossgates. There may be modifications and refinements to the plan.

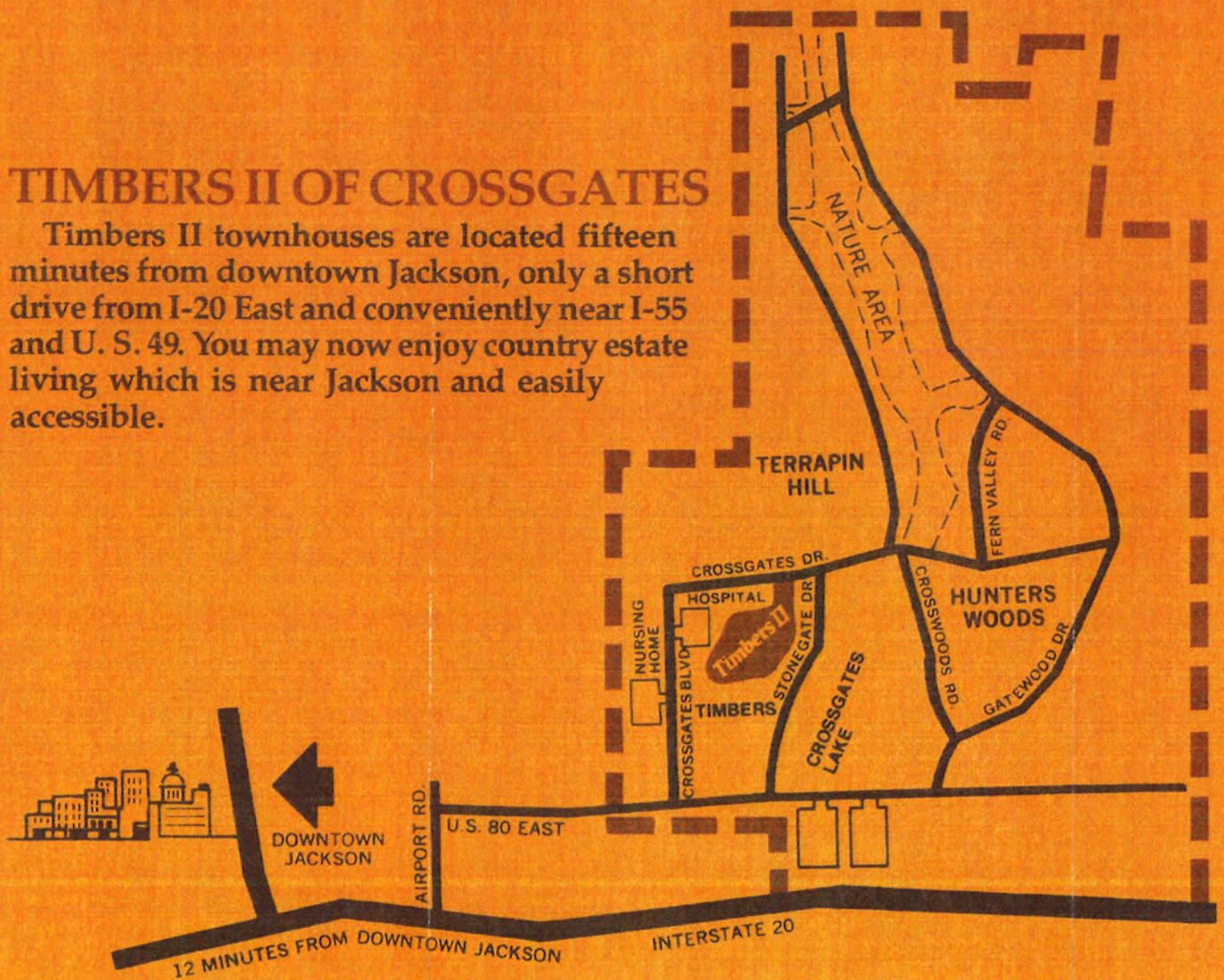


J W UNDERWOOD & COMPANY
 PLANNERS & DEVELOPERS
 CONTINENTAL CONSULTANTS CITY & LAND PLANNERS
 GODFREY BASSETT, FITTS & TUMPELLO ARCHITECTS
 GRIFIN MULL ASSOCIATES LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
 LESTER ENGINEERING CO ENGINEERS



TIMBERS II OF CROSSGATES

Timbers II townhouses are located fifteen minutes from downtown Jackson, only a short drive from I-20 East and conveniently near I-55 and U. S. 49. You may now enjoy country estate living which is near Jackson and easily accessible.



developed by



J.W. Underwood & Company
Jackson's foremost townhouse developer.

J.W. Underwood & Company

Planners & Developers

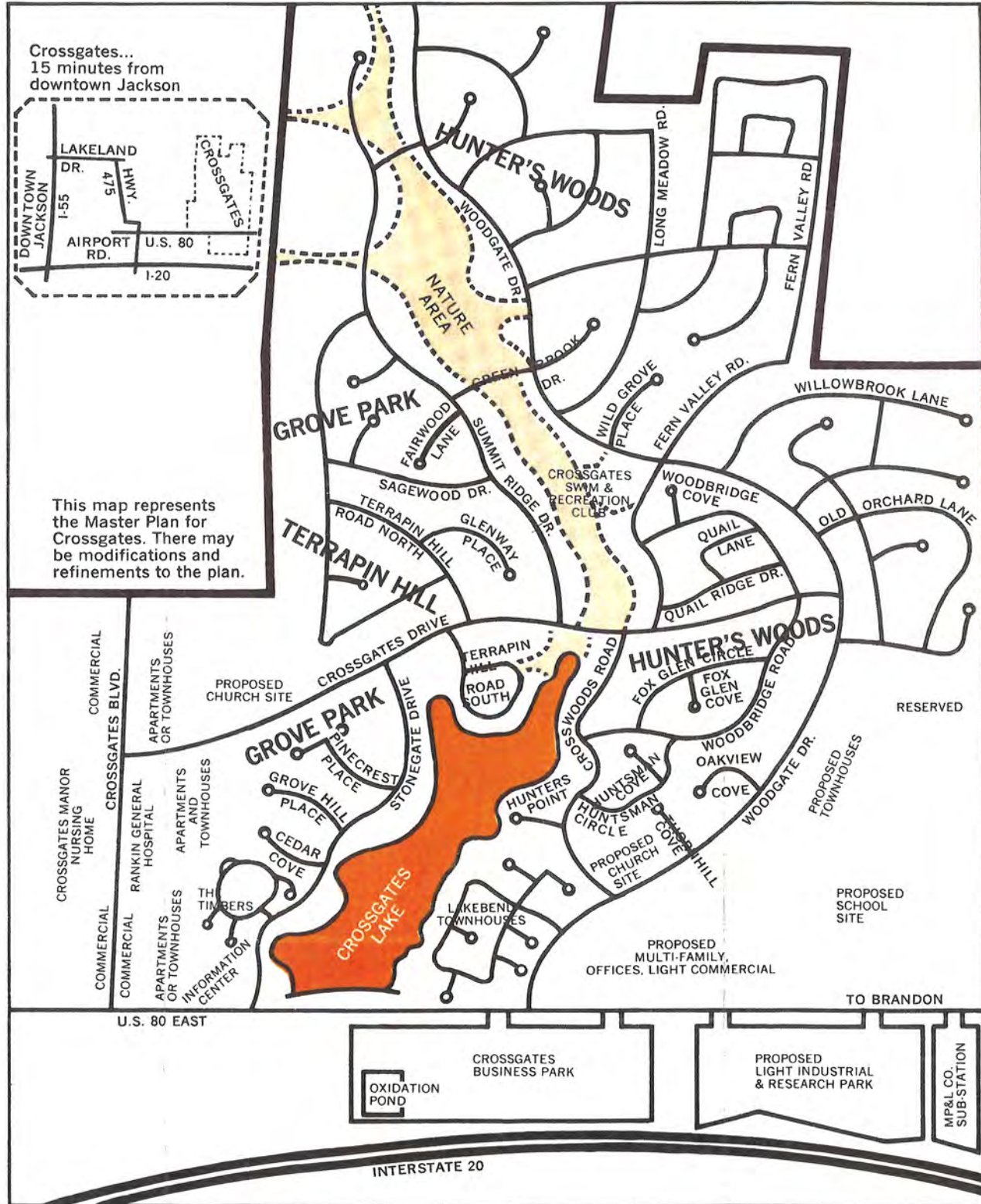


Crossgates Information Center

Located on Stonegate Drive at the west entrance to Crossgates is the Information Center which contains exhibit material about the area. Hostess Doris Robbins welcomes the opportunity to be of assistance to new and prospective residents. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1-6 p.m. Sunday.



Doris Robbins
Hostess



Residential Areas

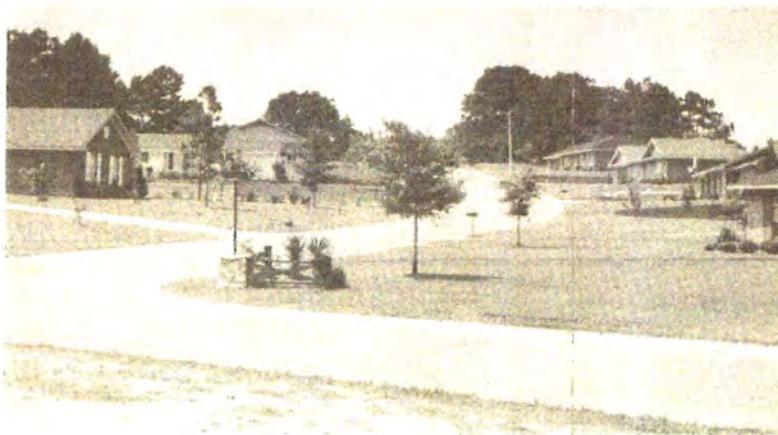
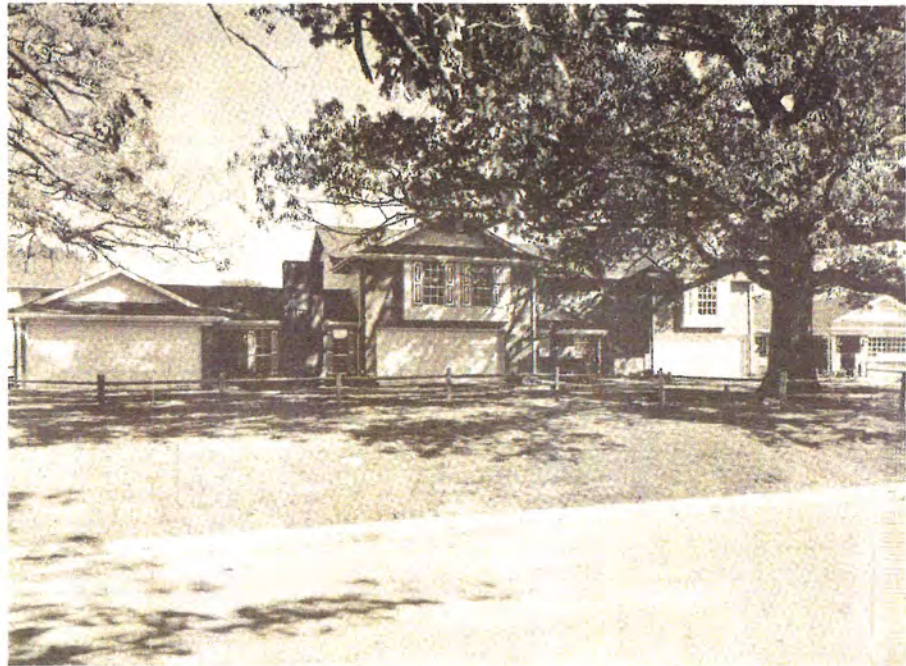
The creators of Crossgates, the folks at J. W. Underwood & Company, realize that just as no two individuals are alike, a community of homes must be equally unique. In planning Crossgates, variety became the keynote for different and distinctive neighborhoods created to suit personal taste as well as present and future needs. Crossgates is a planned community of neighborhoods that cater to individual differences.

TERRAPIN HILL—Tree-lined streets with custom homes for families requiring the very best. Terrapin Hill, the ultimate in prestige living... where nature's unspoiled beauty enhances every homesite.

GROVE PARK—A special kind of place... careful layout of large lots takes full advantage of trees and rolling hills... a perfect blend of comfortable suburban living.

HUNTER'S WOODS—The so-right setting for your family. In this popular area, tree-covered home sites are on neighborhood loop roads or cul-de-sacs and away from through streets.

TIMBERS II OF CROSSGATES—Timber II is a luxury townhouse neighborhood where each home owner can enjoy the pleasures of country living. Each home gives you privacy through sound control construction, your own private courtyard, double enclosed garage, fully equipped kitchen, quality carpeting and decorator



in just 21 months . . .

Isn't it amazing . . .
how time flies when exciting things are happening?

It's hard to believe that it has been only twenty-one months ago that the first family moved into the Crossgates community. And at this summer season just two short years ago Crossgates was simply 1,000 acres of budding woods and green pasture.

As I write this, there are sixty-nine families who have moved into Crossgates. In addition, there are thirty-seven homes now in various stages of construction, most of them with families waiting for completion to move in.

I would be something less than truthful if I did not admit to a strong feeling of pride at the reception Crossgates has received and its general acceptance as an exceptional place to have a home. My firm has been engaged in land development in many areas of Mississippi for almost a quarter of a century and has produced some fine residential communities, but there has been nothing in our experience to compare with Crossgates.

Of course, much credit must go to those professionals who helped guide us through the three years of advanced planning that was done before the first shovel full of dirt was ever moved . . . landscape architects, land planners, engineers and architectural designers who joined our own staff members in traveling about the nation viewing the most environmentally pleasing communities in many states and gleaning the very best ideas for each.

Next came the men and machines to create Crossgates Lake out of a former pasture, the gatehouse, gazebos, unusual street markers, walkways, winding streets and, of course, beautiful lots. We communicated to those workmen the absolute necessity of preserving the natural beauty, and their enthusiasm grew to match our own as work progressed.

With every idea and suggestion considered carefully, we arrived at the general concept of the overall plan for Crossgates to include eventually every facet of complete community life . . . homes, townhouses, apartments, recreational areas, churches, schools, hospital and other medical facilities, retail shopping and other business centers.

Arriving at this total plan and transferring its beginning stages properly from paper to actual construction on the ground might be referred to as Phase I of our efforts. In this phase, we have been primarily concerned with the matter of getting Crossgates "off the ground" so to speak. Success here has been most gratifying. While Crossgates Lake was being built, the Rankin County General Hospital was under construction and opened its doors for service in March, 1969. Soon thereafter, Crossgates Nursing Home began operation and joined the hospital as important citizens of Crossgates. Within the past few weeks, the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce has opened its new offices in Crossgates Business Park.

With an acceleration of sales by Underwood Homes as well as by the other outstanding builders, we will be creating another 114 single-family lots during the summer and fall months of this year. Rankin General Hospital is proceeding to add service to what is already a most modern and up-to-date facility.

Crossgates is now entering into what we call Phase II of our planning and development. During the coming summer months, our staff, along with land planners, landscape architects and engineers, will become rather heavily involved in developing more detailed plans for townhouses, apartments, shopping and other business and professional services. We will be visiting Crossgates-type communities in other states that are farther along and analyzing the total facilities which they are utilizing.

In closing, I want to stress that our goal is to continue the development of Crossgates as a complete community, beautifully laid out, with stores, shops, restaurant, offices, medical facilities and everything else a "city" should have. We sincerely appreciate your interest and pride in Crossgates, and I want you to know that I am equally as proud of the wonderful people who now call Crossgates "home".

Sincerely,



J. W. Underwood, President
J. W. Underwood & Company

Chamber of Commerce builds for the future



As the first structure to be completed in Crossgates, Rankin General Hospital in only two years has become a vital community asset matched by few similar institutions anywhere in the nation, and those usually much larger. Responsive to community needs since opening its doors in March of 1969 on a 10-acre Crossgates site, the \$1,200,000 hospital serves not only Rankin County but much of suburban Jackson. It boasts a medical staff of some 70 physicians and dentists, most of whom are just a short drive away in Jackson.

The hospital's success in serving its area is evidenced by the step up from the original 30 beds planned to the present 60 beds far ahead of schedule. Today, only two years after its birth, the hospital's Board of Trustees is already laying plans for eventual expansion, not only in number of beds, but also in the scope of services offered.

The Administrator of Rankin General Hospital is Robert D. O'Connor, Jr., a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a BS Degree in Psychology and Sociology and an MS Degree in Administrative Personnel and Psychology. He formerly served as Assistant Administrator at Hinds General Hospital, Jackson, Mississippi.



Robert D. O'Connor, Jr.

*Rankin County
General Hospital*



This spring marks the official opening of the new \$50,000 home for the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce located on Highway 80 across from Crossgates Lake. This splendid new building is located in the newly established Crossgates Business Park and will serve as a center of activity for the Rankin County business community.

The building's rustic design utilizes mostly native woods sawed in Rankin County and was designed by J. W. Underwood & Company to follow the overall architectural design plan for Crossgates. Individuals and firms who are Chamber members donated much of the materials and labor required to construct the community center building.

Bill Orr serves as Executive Manager of the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce.



Crossgates Nursing Home

Crossgates Manor, at 355 Crossgates Boulevard, is a 50-bed skilled nursing home offering nursing care in home-like surroundings. Future plans call for an expansion with an additional 60-bed nursing unit. The home is completely staffed to meet all requirements of the State Board of Health.

The Administrator is Mrs. Gwen Harper who has served in this capacity since the home accepted its first patient on September 8, 1969.

Builders

Pictured on the right are the home builders who have helped create the marvelous character and style of Crossgates' residential areas. Each of them has taken care to see that the quality of Crossgates living is enhanced by each new house built.

Hunter's Woods

By mid-May, a total of 110 lots have been developed in this area of homes from about \$23,000 up. Families have actually moved into 51 of the homes that have been built and 32 homes are in various stages of construction, practically all with families waiting to move in. An additional 94 lots are being readied for use this summer just north of the area currently in use. A portion of this new area will include that formerly set aside for an elementary school following the advice of planning experts to incorporate all of the schools in one general area, thereby moving the elementary school grounds to join that marked for junior-senior high school use.

Grove Park

Of the 49 lots developed in Grove Park, families have moved into homes completed on 14 with homes being rushed to completion for 6 additional families. Homes in this area are from \$29,000 up. A total of 6 lots have been kept off the sales market to maintain an open spaciousness near the lake and all available lots have been purchased with the exception of 4. Plans call for an additional 16 lots to be completed by mid-summer.

Terrapin Hill

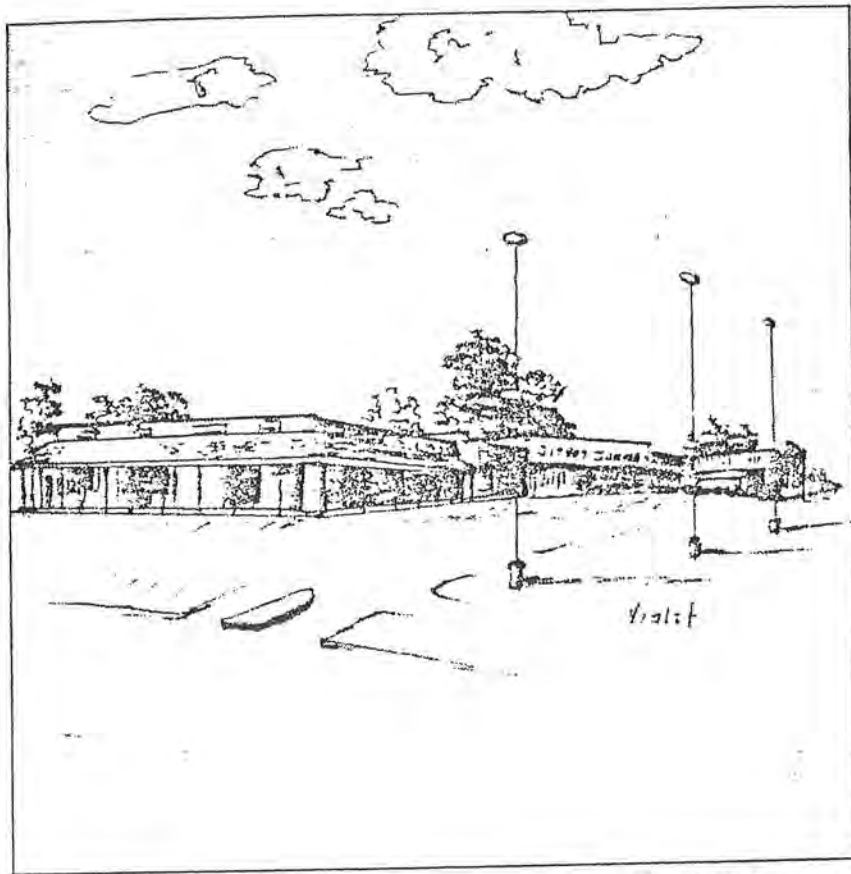
An area of lovely custom homes, 3 have been occupied thus far and 2 are under construction now with several more in the planning stages. Upon final completion of the entire Crossgates development, there will be only 87 Terrapin Hill homes with values ranging up from \$40,000.



Joe Hammons
Les Matheney
Robert Scroggins
J. W. Underwood

Hugh Jones
Kelly Currie
Thomas C. Harkins
Lloyd Burton

Lonnie Johnston
Ted White
Woods Eastland
Hugh Scott



by Violet Bogdahn

CROSSGATES VILLAGE - Conveniently located at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 80 E. and Woodgate Dr., this modern shopping plaza was opened in June, 1981. It has 115,000 sq. ft. of shopping space and is valued at 4.5 million dollars. It was built by the Mitchell Co. of Mobile, Alabama. Included within the center is a large supermaket, a discount department store, and many smaller shops. This complex offers a wide variety of services to Brandon residents including shopping, banking and dining.