

2

## POINTS OF INTEREST IN SOUTHPORT

### RUARK HOUSE

The home of author Robert Ruark stands on the corner of Nash and Lord Streets in Southport. Born in Wilmington, N. C. in 1915, Ruark spent his childhood in the home of his paternal grandparents and often returned to Southport in later years when a busy career as a traveling journalist and prolific novelist took him many places throughout Europe and Africa. He died in London in 1965 at the age of 49. Ruark's best-selling novels include Uhuru and Something of Value, both set in modern Africa. His widely-acclaimed book The Old Man and the Boy is a nostalgic personal account of his boyhood years in Southport.

### THOMPSON HOUSE

This house was once the residence of Captain Thomas M. Thompson who is remembered for his colorful career at sea and especially for his daring feats in running the Union blockade during the Civil War. This fine house became a showplace for treasured items from around the world collected by Captain Thompson and those of succeeding generations who also followed the seafaring life. Tradition says that members of the household often climbed to the cupola or widow's watch to scan the horizon for homeward-bound ships. The house remained in the Thompson family until recent years.

### NEWTON HOUSE

One of the oldest houses in Southport stands on the corner of Bay Street and Atlantic Avenue, occupying one of the lots shown on the original town plan. Archaeological evidence and examination of structural details indicate that this house was built in the late 1700's. It was at one time the home of Southport artist Art Newton.

### INDIAN TRAIL TREE

This ancient, gnarled oak has been estimated to be more than 800 years old. Indians in the Lower Cape Fear area may have bent the young tree to mark one of the trails leading to their fishing grounds, and the tree later took root at a second point, thus developing the curious humped formation.