

Curator's Corner:

January Porter

Archaeology Volunteer Program & Lab Night

The LCHA held the very first Archaeology Volunteer Lab Night on February 1, 2009. This program is part of an initiative to create a substantial archaeology volunteer program for Lincoln County. This program will allow for future site inspections and fieldwork opportunities as well as quicker artifact analysis, furthering the curation process and LCHA's mission of preserving our local cultural resources. Lab nights are gaining new volunteers each week, and there is a substantial interest from the public.

Lab Nights are Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the archaeology lab at the Lincoln Cultural Center. Volunteers are washing, sorting, identifying, bagging, and curating artifacts obtained from the Archaeology Camps in 2008 at Ramsour's Mill Battlefield and Historic Woodside Plantation. In addition, volunteers are processing several donated collections from surface collectors. There are still many artifacts to analyze, and the upcoming Archaeology Camps and site investigations continue to provide more opportunities for volunteers to curate and learn about prehistoric and historic artifacts.

The archaeology of Lincoln County is extremely important, and our organization is at the forefront of many county organizations in that we are performing archaeological studies. The archaeology program is still in its infancy, but we have made leaps and bounds so far in regard to the past year. This year holds many opportunities for volunteer involvement in the programs, and we look forward to teaching and improving the public knowledge about archaeology and cultural resources.

With the release of our third newsletter, I feel compelled as the LCHA executive director to address various questions about our organization's mission and activities, our accomplishments up to this point, and our plans for the next fiscal year. Over the past thirteen years, the Association has become the only history organization in Lincolnton and Lincoln County with professional staff that have advanced degrees and on-the-job experience in the areas of museum studies, historic preservation, archaeology, oral history, research and publishing, cemetery restoration, and a myriad of other areas in this profession totaling nearly thirty years. The Association not only operates and manages the collections contained in the Lincoln County Museum of History, now numbering over 500,000 objects and artifacts, its staff also serves the Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission on historic preservation projects such as the Madison-Derr Iron Furnace, Ramsour's Mill Revolutionary War battlesite, Jacob Forney House, Robert Mundy House, Eureka Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill, Mariposa Road Bridge, Shelton-Lowe Farmstead at the Rock Springs Park in Denver, and over four historic cemeteries. Association staff also writes historic structures reports for local property owners that have an interest in having their buildings, structures, and sites designated as local historic landmarks; facilitates the preservation and acquisition of local historic landmarks; serves on local committees such as Lincoln County's chapter of the Carolina Thread Trail; and, uses professional connections in the field to secure affordable preservation services from colleagues across North Carolina on local projects.

During the fiscal year 2008-2009, the Association started new programs and projects while progressing with on-going projects in the City of Lincolnton and Lincoln County. In July, the Association coordinated a workshop with the Historic Properties Commission to chink and daub a log structure that was relocated to the Ramsour's Mill battlesite. In conjunction with the workshop, we held the first ever archaeology camp at the Ramsour's Mill site and at historic Woodside Plantation. Currently, the Association's archaeologist has coordinated an archaeology volunteer night to clean and catalog artifacts uncovered during reconnaissance surveys throughout Lincoln County. Association staff researched, wrote, and submitted applications to have the City of Lincolnton and Lincoln County designated

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The Lincoln Sentinel, e-newsletter of the LCHA and Lincoln County Museum of History, is published four times per year for the members of the organization. The newsletter includes information on the most recent acquisitions, programs, projects, news, and articles on local historical topics.

The mission of the LCHA is to collect, preserve, study, and present the history of Lincolnton and Lincoln County from the time of its first inhabitants to the present through exhibitions, publications, programs, projects, and special events.

as Preserve America communities. The City and County were two of fourteen communities designated in 2008. Additionally, our staff facilitated the acquisition of the historic Plonk Family Cemetery and eleven acres of land surrounding this cemetery; wrote the nomination to have the Reinhardt-Craig House, Kiln, and Pottery Shop included on the National Register of Historic Places; and have written preservation plans and reports on local historic buildings and sites that include the Brown-Butt-Pressley House, Daniel E. Rhyne House, River Road property, Shelton-Lowe Farmstead, former Lincolnton Recreation Hall, and the Block Smith Gymnasium for the Lincoln County Parks and Recreation department.

The LCHA has taken big steps towards expanding our online presence to reach a global audience. Currently, we maintain our organizational website (www.LincolnCountyHistory.com), our new LCHA online network (www.LincolnCountyHistory.Ning.com), in addition to our curator's blog (www.lchacuratorscorner.blogspot.com) that afford us the opportunity to provide historic and contemporary photographs, blog posts, videos, and event posts in an online setting. We have over 130 members on our online network, and it continues to grow. We have also begun creating online newsletters to help reduce costs associated with printing and postage, and to open our services to a global audience. Additionally, the LCHA received a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council for the Lincoln County Voices Oral History Project to transcribe and post on our website over ten interviews with individuals and groups from Lincoln County's African-American Community. We have completed each of the interview's transcriptions, and will have these interviews (audio, transcriptions, and photographs) posted on our website by the end of March. We plan to continue this project and expand this portion of our website to include more audio and video footage of these interviews, and photograph galleries.

In addition to these new projects and programs, the LCHA plans to add other activities during the upcoming fiscal year's list. On April 11, 2009, the LCHA's staff plans to conduct its first neighborhood tour, focusing on North Cedar Street. LCHA staff will plan to conduct these tours of various neighborhoods in Lincolnton and Lincoln County every other month, notifying citizens through various media outlets that include the local newspapers, and our online networks. We are also planning a fundraising effort at historic Vesuvius Vineyards or another historic location, later to be determined. TASTE 2009 is a fundraising effort that will continue the momentum generated by the recent ArtStroll. TASTE is the acronym for Tradition, Art, Style, Taste, and Excellence.

We are very excited about all that the LCHA has accomplished over the years, and truly appreciate the support from local government and our contributors and members. This support provides the financial impetus for our ever-expanding activities in Lincoln County.

LCHA Executive Director
Jason L. Harpe



The John R. Moore House photographed recently.
Photograph courtesy of Mary Whisonant

John R. Moore House circa. 1911

Statement of Significance

The John Moore House is the only building in Lincoln County with a squat Queen Anne style dome. The John Moore House provides a physical and architectural representation of Lincolnton's population growth from 1900 to 1920, and new citizens' acceptance and openness to prevailing eclectic styles of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and bungalows. The John Moore House is associated with men and women who

John R. Moore House circa. 1911 - cont.



The John R. Moore House
Photograph courtesy of John Hoyle

made an impact on Lincolnton and Lincoln County in the areas of transportation, industry, education, and politics/government. The John Moore House is the best preserved historic building on South Cedar Street, and is rivaled in its architecture and preservation by only one other Victorian style building in Lincolnton, the Daniel E. Rhyne House in the Laboratory section of Lincolnton. The only major change to the house's exterior occurred during the ownership of James A. Abernethy between 1913 and 1920 when he changed the Colonial Revival style porch and added a porte cochere to resemble those seen on bungalows.

Associative History

Recognized in Lincoln County as the house with the dome, the John Moore House is a unique and well-preserved building whose eleven owners have made very few alterations to its Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style exterior. John R. Moore, a telegraph operator and railroad depot agent, and his wife Minnie Belle purchased the property from Julia H. McCutchen in 1908 and built their home by 1910. John R. Moore was born in 1881 in South Carolina, and he married his wife Minnie in 1909. Minnie was born in Maryland, her mother's home state, and her father was born in Virginia. During their first year living at the house, John and Minnie boarded Ola Noell, a thirty-five year old widow who worked as a saleswoman at a department store.¹

The house exemplifies Lincolnton and Lincoln County's recognition of the stylistic tenets of the Late Victorian period combined with the eclecticism of Colonial Revival and the modern Craftsman style. The only changes made to the house occurred during the ownership of James A. Abernethy, Sr., between 1913 and 1920, and

include a porte cochere at the northern elevation and a bungalow style front porch that replaced the original Colonial Revival style porch.

During the final decade of the nineteenth-century and the first two decades of the twentieth century, Lincolnton and Lincoln County experienced growth and development spurred by the ambition, lucrative investments, a renewed local interest in industrial and commercial ventures, and a vision of New South industrialism among men such as Edgar Love, Alfred Nixon, Daniel E. Rhyne, Robert S. Reinhardt, and others. These men were responsible for building textile mills, serving as stakeholders in banking and other entrepreneurial ventures, and constructing new buildings in downtown Lincolnton that were consistent with the prevailing national architectural trends. In 1909, for example, Robert S. Reinhardt built the most ornately detailed office building in Lincolnton in the Beaux Arts style.² From 1887 to 1907, Daniel E. Rhyne built and operated more than six textile mills in Lincoln County, and held interests in other mills, mines, banks, and wagon companies in the Piedmont and Mountain regions of North Carolina.

This movement gained momentum between 1900 and 1930, and added mining operations, brick dealerships, furniture stores, casket companies, textile mills, new church buildings, a new courthouse, and a desire to form a local historical society to add to Lincolnton's economic, social, and historical infrastructure.³ In addition, this movement affected the demographics and geographic layout of Lincolnton's central business district. The population in the county seat increased from 828 in 1900 to 2,413 in 1910.⁴ During this decade, a proliferation of large two-story brick buildings took the place of older one- and two-story frame homes around Lincolnton's court square, stretching down East and West Main Streets.

Julia H. McCutchen purchased the property located at 317 South Cedar Street from Lincolnton attorney Lemuel Wetmore. Wetmore acquired the property from his father, Rev. Dr. William R. Wetmore. Rev. Wetmore (1834-1904) came to Lincolnton in the latter half of 1862 as rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and was ordained a priest by

John R. Moore House circa. 1911 - cont.

Bishop Thomas Atkinson on September 21, 1862. In addition to ministerial work, Reverend Wetmore served alongside Professor H.H. Smith at the Pleasant Retreat Male Academy in Lincolnton. St. Luke's was virtually rebuilt and a new cornerstone laid during his directorship in 1886. He is buried in the St. Luke's Episcopal Church cemetery.⁵

Rev. Wetmore's eldest son, Lemuel Wetmore, was born on December 2, 1865, nearly three years after his mother and father's move to Lincolnton. Lemuel Bingham Wetmore (1865-1918) received his early educational instruction from his father and advanced instruction at Horner's Military Academy in Hillsboro, North Carolina. Lemuel read law under the tutelage of Judge D.M. Furches of Statesville, North Carolina and was admitted to the bar in 1889. Although he did not seek local or state political office, Wetmore practiced law in Lincolnton for almost thirty years. His first wife was Nellie Jarrett, daughter of Frank Jarrett of Newton, and his second wife was Clara Lander, the daughter of Frank C. and Lou Templeton Lander.⁶

On September 22, 1908 Julia H. McCutchen sold to John R. Moore the property located at 317 South Cedar Street that measured forty nine feet wide fronting on Cedar Street, and only one corner was surveyed and staked.⁷ On March 31, 1909, L.B. Wetmore and John R. Moore agreed to hire Capt. C.C. Wrenshall, Lincolnton civil engineer, to survey and establish all lines so that the property would front squarely on Cedar Street and "extend at right angles from Cedar Street 198 feet back."⁸ John Moore built his home between the time he purchased the property in 1909 and 1911, because a house first appears on this lot in the 1911 Sanborn Map.

John R. and Minnie Belle owned their property for less than three years, and the property changed hands six times before Fred and Marguerite Thompson acquired it in 1952 and held ownership for thirty-nine years. Sometime in 1912 or 1913 James Alonzo Abernethy, Sr. acquired the property from John R. Moore because Abernethy's ownership is referenced in a deed dated September 19, 1913 where L.B. and Clara Wetmore sell to J.A. Abernethy "a strip of land three feet wide and one hundred and ninety eight feet long off of

the south side of L.B. Wetmore's lot...that is to say a strip of said lot lying next to the John Moore lot (now owned by J.A. Abernethy) three feet in width and running the full length of said lot back from the street and at right angles to said Cedar Street." J.A. Abernethy paid \$125 and agreed to build a "good division fence" on his part of the building.⁹

It is during the period from 1913 to 1920, under J.A. Abernethy's ownership, that the John Moore House received nearly all of its exterior alterations. Originally, the house's exterior trim work was painted a dark color, and the porch only covered half of the façade and the northern elevation. Additionally, the porch's roofline had rounded corners. James A. Abernethy was born on Dutchman's Creek near Mt. Holly, Gaston County, in 1851, the son of Dr. James and Mary Rankin Abernethy, and grew to maturity as a farm boy during the turbulent years of the Civil War and Reconstruction. He relocated to Lincolnton in 1887 alongside other Gaston County natives such as Daniel E. Rhyne (Abernethy's brother-in-law), Laban J. Rhyne, and David P. Rhodes, and involved himself in textiles. He married Sarah Elizabeth Rhyne, daughter of Moses Rhyne, and they had four children, one of which, James A. Abernethy, Jr., inherited the John Moore House from his father.¹⁰ James A. Abernethy, Sr. died in Lincolnton in August 1938.

James A. Abernethy, Jr. acquired the John Moore House from his father on December 6, 1920 for ten dollars and in the consideration of love and affection.¹¹ James Abernethy, Jr. occupied the house for less than two years with his wife Edna. He was the fourth son of James and Sarah Abernethy and became a pillar of the community in Lincolnton before relocating his family to Florida in 1936. James, Sarah, and their family later returned to Lincolnton. He was the chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, Democratic candidate for the North Carolina Legislature, vice-president of the Young Democrats in North Carolina, and chairman of the Green Pastures convocation in Charlotte when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke in that city.¹² Abernethy also owned and operated the Lincoln Lithia Inn, in addition to numerous other business interests in Lincoln County and Florida.

The citizens of Lincolnton and Lincoln County brought to a close the second decade of the twentieth century and World War I on July 1, 1919 with a welcome

John R. Moore House circa. 1911 - cont.

home celebration in downtown Lincolnton for the men who served the war effort from Lincoln County. Organizers decorated the downtown commercial district with American flags and bunting stretched from the courthouse to each building on the northern and southern sides of the 100 block. In John M. and Paul J. Mullen's publication *Welcome Home Day to Our War Heroes*, Lincoln County's Troop A, 30th Military Police was featured with a brief history of their organization, growth, and service on the Mexican border and in France during World War I.¹³

Lincolnton and Lincoln County welcomed the 1920s with population figures that showed Lincolnton's numbers at 3,390 and Lincoln County's at 17,862.¹⁴ The City published its first city directory in 1925 and explained that "its atmosphere is pure, bracing and invigorating," and its "water supply is as pure and clear as the mountain streams which gust forth from the silent sentinels which tower their heads among the clouds surrounding the city." Lincolnton had numerous industries that included fifteen cotton mills, foundries and machine shops, rubber factories, cement block factories, electric powered flour mills, and wood working plants. Additionally, the city boasted about their modern hospital, modern garages and sales service stations, movie theatres, paved streets and sidewalks, and modern



Marcus Herbert "Hub" Kuhn (1889-1980)
Photograph courtesy of LCHA

churches and schools. Not only did the City's fathers proclaim their true Southern hospitality, they also believed their citizens to be refined and cultured.¹⁵

James A. Abernethy, Jr. and his wife Edna sold the John Moore House to M.H. and Nora Lander Kuhn on May 11, 1923. In this transaction the Kuhns acquired both tracts of land acquired by

Abernethy and "nine feet of ground conveyed to James A. Abernethy, Jr. by Mrs. Clara Wetmore on March 26, 1923."¹⁶ Marcus Herbert "Hub" Kuhn (1889-1980) was an insurance agent for Prudential Insurance in Lincolnton throughout his working years, and operated an office out of a small building behind the house at 314 South Cedar Street.¹⁷ He married Nora McPherson Lander on June 16, 1915,

and was a brother-in-law of Lemuel B. Wetmore.¹⁸ Kuhn was also a member of the Lincolnton Chamber of Commerce. M.H. and Nora L. Kuhn owned the house and property for thirteen years, and they sold it to William M. and Margaret S. Lentz on June 8, 1936.¹⁹

William M. "Buster" and Margaret Lentz purchased the John Moore House less than one year after they moved to Lincolnton in 1935. Lentz was a prominent businessman that reopened the former Elm Grove Cotton Mill on the South Fork River with business partners Edgar "Cap" Love and Bill Barineau soon after he moved to Lincolnton and changed the name of the mill to Crown Converting Company. He was



William M. "Buster" Lentz
Photograph courtesy of LCHA

active in local politics and civic organizations, serving on the local school board and as Mayor of Lincolnton for twenty-one years.²⁰

William and Margaret Lentz sold the John Moore House to C.E. and Agnes Kiger on May 3, 1944, during the throes of World War II.²¹ Charles Ernest Kiger was born on December 31, 1895 in Forsyth County,

North Carolina, the son of Abram and Sarah Misamore Kiger. He enlisted in the Army during World War I on March 7, 1918 and served the United States in an ambulance company in France. He served in this capacity until his discharge on April 9, 1919. After the war Ernest lived in Thomasville, North Carolina and worked for a furniture company in nearby Randleman. Ernest met his future wife, Agnes Rike, while in Randleman, and the couple lived in Thomasville until they moved to Lincolnton on November 11, 1922 for Ernest's new job at the Ideal Chair Company.²²

During World War II, Ernest served in the Naval Shipyard in Jacksonville, Florida, and upon his return home resumed his position as a finishing foreman at the Ideal Chair Company. The Kigers owned the property for just over four years and sold it to G. Alvin and Josephine Saunders on March 2, 1948.²³

Alvin and Mary Saunders founded Saunders Furniture



Margaret Lentz
Photograph courtesy of LCHA

John R. Moore House circa. 1911 - cont.



Saunders Furniture Company
Photograph courtesy of LCHA

in downtown Lincolnton in 1949, and relocated to a 14,779 square foot building at 3265 N.C. Highway 27 East in 1953. When the couple moved the business to Highway 27 East, they changed the name to Saunders Furniture Mart and sold furniture, Ohio China and Pottery, groceries, and gas.²⁴ The Saunders occupied the John Moore House for four years and sold it on August 12, 1952 to Fred and Marguerite Thompson.

Fred C. (1889-1983) and Marguerite Thompson (1910-2007) owned the John Moore House for nearly forty years – the longest owners of the house. While occupying the house, Fred worked as the supervisor of County School System's Bus Garage. Fred was originally from the Denver area and worked during the 1920s for the Ford dealership in Mount Holly, Gaston County, North Carolina. He served as the supervisor of Lincoln County School's Bus Garage from the late 1930s to the 1970s. Marguerite attended Mars Hill College and Catawba College and taught English at Lincolnton High School. Fred and Margaret had one son and two daughters. Their son, Fred Thompson, Jr., served in the United States Navy during the 1960s, graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1965, and went to law school in 1971. He is now a partner in the law firm of Parker, Poe, Bernstein, and Thompson in Charlotte, North Carolina. Fred and Marguerite's daughters were Fredda and Mary Emma Thompson.²⁵ By 1976, both Fred and Marguerite Thompson were retired.²⁶ The only additions Fred and Marguerite Thompson

made to the John Moore House were the additions of an air conditioning system and modern plumbing.

Marguerite Thompson sold the house to James Bellar Carpenter and wife, Mary H. Carpenter, as tenants by the entirety and Maxine C. Morrow on October 29, 1991.²⁷ After holding the property for eight years, James and Mary Carpenter and Maxine C. Morrow, sold the house and property to Albert L. Dozier and wife, Linda A. Dozier on August 18, 1998.²⁸ Al Dozier worked as the editor of the Lincoln Times-News while occupying the John Moore House, and moved to his home state of South Carolina after his wife Linda became ill with cancer. During their ownership, the Dozier's replaced the metal roof on the front porch and porte cochere with tin.

The Doziers sold the house to Allen S. and Rosemary Hubbard, the current owners, on June 16, 2005.²⁹ Allen is a retired geologist with whom many local organizations have contracted to conduct Phase I Environmental Site Assessments. Both Allen and Rosemary are involved in community and civic organizations that include the Rotary Club of Lincolnton, Lincoln County Historical Association, and Christian Ministeries. They are committed and dedicated to the preservation of the John Moore House's architectural integrity, and they have opened their home for Christmas tours held in downtown Lincolnton over the past three years.

Architectural Description

Exterior Description

The John R. Moore House is situated on .28 acres near historic downtown Lincolnton in Lincoln County, North Carolina at 317 South Cedar Street. The property, rectangular in shape, is bordered on the west by South Cedar Street, on the north by a small town homes, and on the south and east by contiguous properties. The nominated property includes .28 acres and the exterior envelope of the dwelling. The current owners are Allen and Rosemary Hubbard, and they have been in possession of the property since 2005. The most recent deed to the John R. Moore House is listed in the Lincoln County Deed Book 1709 at page 306. The tax parcel ID number is 16863.

John R. Moore House circa. 1911 - cont.

A paved driveway off Cedar Street at the western elevation leads to a bungalow-style porte cochere that the Mr. and Mrs. James A. Abernethy, Sr. likely added to the house during their ownership, sometime between 1913 and 1920. A brick walkway laid in a basket weave pattern leads from Cedar Street at the western elevation of the house to a spacious front porch that extends across the western and northern elevations. The house combines Queen Anne style bay windows and Colonial Revival style pedimented gables and porch columns. Various small shrubs and trees are juxtaposed across the house's front, side, and back yards, and a small white picket fence separates the front and side yards at the house's southern elevation. Originally, a wrought iron fence buffered the front yard from Cedar Street.

The John R. Moore House is a two-story residential dwelling three blocks from historic downtown Lincoln whose main square feet measures 2,210, and an unfinished basement equals 552 square feet. The house originally carried the house number 233, and it was changed to 317 in later years.³⁰ The house is the only historic resource located on this lot and is located less than 200 yards south of the historic Eureka Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill and East Main Street. The John R. Moore House is the most striking building on South Cedar Street, and is the only building with a dome in Lincoln County. Other dwellings in the first three blocks of South Cedar provide an appropriate and suitable context for the John Moore House. The dwellings are primarily one- and two-story bungalows and Colonial Revival style houses. The most recognizable and distinguishable feature on the John Moore House is a squat corner dome and large finial, a features rivaled by no other structure in Lincoln County.

The John R. Moore House is a frame building three bays wide by three bays deep that rests on a continuous running bond brick foundation that is painted white to match the house's prevailing color scheme. White horizontal three-inch weatherboards provide the predominant siding, and the northwestern elevation is covered in square shingle siding. Pedimented cross gables extending from the façade and the southern elevation, and classical porch columns add Colonial Revival style flair to the house's Queen Anne style detailing. The asymmetrical design, corner tower, and employment of bay windows are from the Queen Anne style.

The focal points of the façade are the pedimented front cross gable with a moderately pitched roof and central entrance. The front cross gable has a ribbon of three double hung windows whose upper sash treatment is identical to those employed on the upper sashes of the central entry's sidelights. The front cross gable is sheathed in weatherboard siding, and an attic vent is situated below the peak of this gable. Three one-over-one double hung windows encircle the bay window on the first story at the northwestern elevation, directly below the corner tower. The original front door with a single

James A. Abernethy built the current porch and porte cochere during his ownership between 1913 and 1920. The original porch wrapped the front and northern elevation and displayed simple classical posts of the Colonial Revival style. The current shed roofed front porch's floor is covered with thin tongue-and-groove pine decking painted gray. The porch is supported by simple round classical columns with unassuming capitals and bases that rest on brick pillars encircled by a brick apron with concrete coping. The porch ceiling and the porte cochere's ceiling are covered with bead board that is painted white. Under the porch's eaves is a tall frieze and architrave that is separated by a shallow recession.

A moderately steeped cross gable and one-over double hung windows mark the southern elevation. A ribbon on one-over-one double hung windows occupy the cross gable and are surmounted by a metal louvered attic vent. This elevation is sheathed in German siding with corner boards. The current owners use wooden louvered shutters operational from the interior on the bottom sash to control light and for privacy. Accessible from this elevation is a porch extension with brick flooring that was added contemporaneously. Also at this elevation is a picket fence that separates the house from the property located to the south.

Extending from the north elevation is a cross gable with window and glazing treatments identical to the southern elevation. The hipped roof porte cochere extends from this elevation and is supported by the columns and piers identical to those used on the hipped roofed porch. Unlike the porch, the porte cochere has a tall frieze and

John R. Moore House circa. 1911 - cont.

architrave that is separated by a taenia instead of a shallow recession. The three bay southern elevation offers a secondary entrance to the house's first story and is accessed through a door with six panes over three raised panels. This entrance accesses a room that during the 1950s was two bedrooms.³¹ The center bay of this façade has a twelve-pane casement flanked by two-over-two double hung windows. The third bay has a casement window with horizontal panes flanked by two-over-two windows. An additional small room at this elevation has a six-over-six double hung window.

The eastern elevation (rear elevation) is marked by a cross gable that is identical to the cross gables at the northern and southern elevations with a ribbon on one-over-one double hung windows and a louvered attic vent. A modern wooden deck accesses the rear entrance at this elevation. This elevation has two adjoining six-over-six double hung windows and a one-over-one window.

Interior Description

The interior of the John Moore House retains the original wood flooring, trim, detailing, and layout. The central entry provides access to the large living room whose floors are original one and one-half inch oak decking. Oak and pine are the predominant flooring that spans the house's first and second stories. In addition to the original wood flooring, each of the house's rooms on the first and second floors retains the original, wide baseboards with molded caps, and hardware. Additionally, the first and second floor rooms have plaster and bead board ceilings and modest crown molding.

The central entrance provides access to a living room at the northern elevation and a dining room at the southern elevation. The living room has a classical mantel with dentil molding and columns with recessed panels and capitals and it is the only room that has access to the chimney that rises from this room and terminates in a corbelled cap. This room has three-inch wide oak decking, modest crown molding, and wide baseboard with molded caps. The inoperable hearth and hearth surround is covered by black tiling.

The living room is partitioned from the dining room by classical columns supported by dividers with recessed bead board panels. The oak flooring in the living room extends to the dining room. The

dining room walls are covered in sheet rock and are surmounted by simple crown molding. The dining room provides access to a breakfast room, the dining room, kitchen, and stairway. The hallway leading beyond the living room has oak flooring and leads to a stairway accessing the second story. The staircase has chamfered newel posts with square tiered pine newel caps. An unpainted pine banister tops turned balusters that are painted white. The stairway's treads are exposed pine, and the risers are painted white.

The rooms at the northern elevation, accessible from the central hallway, open through double doors with fourteen panes surmounted by a four pane transom. These doors lead to the stairway and all the rooms on the first story. Accessible from the stairway and breakfast room is the kitchen and washroom. Each of these rooms, in addition to all of the second floor rooms, have bead board covering the ceiling, sheet rock walls, and simple base board and crown molding. The second floor rooms have wide heart pine flooring with their original doors and hardware. The room at the northeastern elevation has a door that accesses the corner tower.



Did
You
Know

The Reinhardt-Craig Groundhog Kiln is oldest continually operated kiln in North Carolina.

John R. Moore House circa. 1911 - cont.

Endnotes

¹Lincoln County Census, 1910. Information on John R. and Minnie Belle Moore was supplied by Ann M. Dellinger.

²Maurice York, "An Economic and Social History of Lincoln County," from *Our Enduring Past: A Survey of 235 Years of Life and Architecture in Lincoln County, North Carolina* (Lincolnton: Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission, second printing, 1987), 146.

³Frank Cauble, *Biography of Daniel E. Rhyne*, n.p., 1974, 40.

⁴York, "An Economic and Social History of Lincoln County," 273.

⁵Jason L. Harpe, *Images of America: Lincoln County* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2000), 83.

⁶William Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County, North Carolina* (Charlotte, N.C.: The Observer Printing House, Inc., 1937), 304.

⁷Lincoln County Deed Book 98, Page 376, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

⁸Lincoln County Deed Book 105, Page 82, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina. Capt. C.C. Wrenshall (1835-1910) was a Captain in the Civil War and a Lincolnton Civil Engineer.

⁹Lincoln County Deed Book 112, Page 429, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

¹⁰Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, 421-422; "Another Native Pioneer Passes," *Lincoln County News*, 25 August 1938.

¹¹Lincoln County Deed Book 134, Page 122, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

¹²"James A. Abernethy, Jr. To Move To Florida," *Lincoln County News*, 24 September 1936.

¹³Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, 356-357. Troop A of the North Carolina National Guard was organized on February 1912 by Capt. Warren A. Fair (eventual Lieut. Colonel in the U.S. Army), J.O. Shuford, First Lieutenant., and R.S. Reinhardt, Jr., Second Lieutenant.

¹⁴Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, 362.

¹⁵Lincolnton City Directory, 1925.

¹⁶Lincoln County Deed Book 138, Page 77, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

¹⁷David G. Thompson, interview by author, 8 December 2008. Hub and his brother changed the spelling of their last name from Coon to Kuhn to reflect the traditional spelling of this early Lincoln County family.

¹⁸Sherrill, *Annals of Lincoln County*, 431; Obituary, "M.H. Kuhn," *Lincoln Times-News*, March 9, 1980.

¹⁹Lincoln County Deed Book 186, Page 449, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

²⁰Lincoln County Historical Association, *Lincoln County Heritage, 1997* (Lincolnton, N.C.: Lincoln County Historical Association, 1997), 141-142.

²¹Lincoln County Deed Book 235, Page 145, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

²²In 1922, Arthur, Nathan, and Mark Zimtbbaum of Brooklyn, New York, purchased a large tract of land at the junction of North Academy and East Cherry Streets in Lincolnton for the

purpose of building a chair factory. One this site, the Zimtbbaums erected several wooden building – a manufacturing place, boiler room, warehouse, and office. In the early years, Arthur headed the plant. Nathan made several visits from New York to the plant and later Mark came from the northern plant to oversee the company alongside Randolph Zimtbbaum. Mildred McLean was hired to run the office, and was later assisted by Frances Buff. Joseph Long of Thomasville, Jake Schrum, and Ernest Kiger were hired as foreman to operate the plant.

²³Lincoln County Historical Association, *Lincoln County Heritage, 1997*, 131-132; Lincoln County Deed Book 256, Page 460, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

²⁴Jason L. Harpe, *Images of America: Lincolnton – From the Collection of Clyde C. Cornwell* (Mt. Pleasant, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing Company, 2003), 75; "Final Days," *Lincoln Times-News*, 25 April 2008.

²⁵Fred Thompson, Jr., interview by author, 8 December 2008.

²⁶Lincolnton City Directories, 1967, 1973, and 1976.

²⁷Lincoln County Deed Book 778, Page 366, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

²⁸Lincoln County Deed Book 1062, Page 779, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

²⁹Lincoln County Deed Book 1709, Page 306, Lincoln County Register of Deeds, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

³⁰Lincoln County Census, 1910.

³¹Fred Thompson Interview, 7 December 2008.



Did You Know?

The Reinhardt Building in downtown Lincolnton is the only building in Lincoln County from the Beaux-Art style of architecture.

The Clyde “Baby Ray” Cornwell Photograph Collection



Clyde “Baby Ray” Cornwell
Photograph courtesy of LCHA

The Clyde “Baby Ray” Cornwell Photograph Collection includes over 200,000 acetate negatives and black-and-white and color images, spanning from the late 1930s to the late 1970s. Contained in the collection are images of weddings, parades, public officials, churches, civic organizations, religious organizations and activities,

family reunions, tent revivals, business openings, construction, catastrophes, houses, and county and city buildings, birthday parties, sports groups, school groups, library bulletin boards, and even corpses.

Most, if not all, of the developed images carry the ink from the block stamp that bears the advertising label: CLYDE C. CORNWELL, PHOTOGRAPHER “SPECIALIZING ON PHOTOS IN YOUR HOME.” The yellowed, discolored, and tattered sleeves that Baby Ray Cornwell used to hold his negatives are a testament to the many years of handling. Indecipherable scribble on the front or back of the negative sleeves is the only source of identification for the event or events he captured. Some of the names, events, and dates on the negative sleeves have not matched the actual negative, so we have attempted to identify the image to the best of our abilities, utilizing newspaper articles, wedding announcements, and the collective memory of the community.

Found in these images are the lives of prominent politicians, mill workers, small businessmen, ministers, Boy and Girl Scouts, farmers, city and county workers, men and women of the military, “4-H-ers,” and even Miss America 1964. The time and places that they occupy make up a forty year period that saw Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects,

soldiers leaving for World War II, construction of new buildings and housing developments, the baby boomer generation, the early waters of

Lake Norman, six Presidents, integration, and the advent of rock ‘n roll. Clyde “Baby Ray” Cornwell, always in his station wagon, along with Frazier’s Studio of Lincolnton, captured this time period and supplied the local newspapers, individuals, families, and businesses with candid, posed, and artistic photographs of Lincolnton’s citizens. Cornwell,

known to everyone as Baby Ray, received his nickname from his mother. She began calling him this after discovering a likeness between Clyde and the character Baby Ray that was featured in early school primers. Though very little is known about the background, aspirations, and workings of Baby Ray Cornwell, most local remember him as a robust man with camera ready to capture another slice of Lincolnton’s happenings.

Thanks to the foresight and commitment to history of two former Lincoln County Historical Association members, Paul Dellinger and Elsie Keever, the citizens of Lincolnton and Lincoln

County can enjoy Baby Ray Cornwell’s works for years to come. Their procurement of this collection and donation to the Lincoln County Historical Association will enable current and future generations to recognize, identify, and request copies of these photographs. Photographs from this collection adorn the walls of Aunt Bessie’s Restaurant and Fatz Café in Lincolnton.



Estelle Ross and BookMobile
Photograph courtesy of LCHA



Crowell Hospital
Photograph courtesy of LCHA



Newbold Group
Photograph courtesy of LCHA

Events & Announcements:

Saturday, April 11, 2009 - Lincolnton Walking Tours

The LCHA staff will begin leading neighborhood tours on Saturday, April 11, 2009, with North Cedar Street as our first location. Guides will discuss architectural styles and distinct architectural features while providing associative history on each building. The tour will begin at the Lincoln Cultural Center at 10:00 am and end at the intersection of North Cedar Street and Dixon Street. We are implementing this program because so many people have requested it. Please plan to meet us at the Lincoln Cultural Center with your walking shoes and questions. We will reschedule the tour if inclement weather dictates. Contact us at (704) 748-9090 or at lcmh@bellsouth.net with any questions you may have.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 - Lincoln Cultural Center, Lincolnton

Engaging Volunteers for a Lasting Relationship & Recruiting New Members to Your Historical Organization

During this practical workshop, Kay Mitchell-Thomas, tourism development officer of the N.C. Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development, and John Woodard, president of the Murfreesboro Historical Association, will share the secrets of recruiting and retaining volunteers. Jason Harpe, Executive Director of the Lincoln County Historical Association, will discuss how to recruit young people to join historical organizations and the different ways these new members can help your organization. He will also discuss how to use new technologies to appeal to Web-savvy generations.

The workshop runs from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and costs \$15 for Federation members, \$20 for non-members.

Saturday, May 16, 2009 - Charlotte Museum of History, Charlotte

LCHA staff will take part in the Mec Dec Day Celebration at the Charlotte Museum of History in Charlotte, and the Wesley Chapel Pottery Festival in Newton. For information on the Mec Dec Day Celebration in Charlotte, visit <http://www.charlottesmuseum.org>.

Saturday, May 16, 2009 - Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Newton

The Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Newton, North Carolina will host the second annual Wesley Chapel Pottery Celebration. Featured at the festival will be exhibits of traditional alkaline-glazed stoneware pottery from the Catawba Valley, in addition to food, fun, and wares on sale from contemporary potters from the Catawba Valley, Seagrove, and other areas of North Carolina. Be sure not to miss the "A Day at the Wheel" Pottery Exhibition.

Come and be a part of a local tradition. Pottery making has been a part of our local heritage for generations. This event is intended to celebrate and remember over 20 Catawba Valley potters who worshipped at Wesley Chapel over more than 175 years including the Hiltons, Weavers, Blackburns, and Ritchies.

An historical display of Catawba Valley area traditional pottery will be on display. The pieces will represent work from well-known past potters from the Blackburn Community. Many well known area potters will be on hand to demonstrate their craft. They will also have items for sale. A silent pottery auction will be held. The display and auction will be in the church Fellowship Hall. Breakfast, lunch items, and beverages will be on sale in the church's Fellowship Hall. Lovely handmade crafts made by the United Methodist Women Craft makers and delicious baked goods will also be available. Raffle tickets for the UMW handmade quilt, the "Dutch Doll" pattern, will be available. Live old-time gospel music will be played by local musicians. Children's activities include clay works, balloon art, and an historical scavenger hunt.

Admission and parking are free!

Events & Announcements: - cont.

June 13 & 14, 2009 - Battle of Ramsour's Mill Celebration

The Lincoln County Historic Properties Commission, Lincoln County Historical Association, Jacob Forney Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Catawba Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution are planning and hosting the annual celebration of the Revolutionary War battle at Ramsour's Mill. These organizations are still confirming all of the activities that will take place at this celebration, so look for updates on the LCHA website (www.LincolnCountyHistory.com), and the LCHA online network (www.LincolnCountyHistory.Ning.com).

June 15-19 & June 22-26, 2009 - LCHA Archaeology Summer Camps

The LCHA is hosting the second season of Archaeology Camps in Lincoln County.

Session 1 - Methods and techniques taught include grid and unit placement, excavation, artifact recovery, and processing of recovered materials. Camp will end with a field trip to the Berry Site, a Mississippian site and the location of Fort San Juan in Morganton, NC. Session 1 corresponds with Public Field Day. This is partial day camp from 9:00am to 1:00pm for 4 days. The cost is \$60.00 per child and includes: snacks, equipment, and activities.

Camp Capacity: 9 - Age Range: 8th grade and older

Session 2 - This camp specifically focuses on the method of archaeological field survey. Campers learn how to establish a grid on a site, shovel testing techniques, recording methodology, soil measurements, artifact recovery, and processing of artifacts. The research objective for this camp is to locate possible features with a particular area of the Ramsour's Mill Battlefield, located in Lincolnton, NC. This is a partial day camp from 9:00am to 1:00pm for 5 days. The cost is \$60.00 per child and includes: snacks, equipment, and activities.

Camp Capacity: 9 - Age Range: 8th grade and older

Become a Member!

Encourage your friends and family to join the LCHA and assist us with our efforts to collect and preserve Lincolnton & Lincoln County's rich history. You can find a membership form on our website LincolnCountyHistory.com.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and information that may be of interest to the Association.

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Lincoln County Historical Association

Lincoln County Museum of History
403 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

(704) 748-9090
(704) 732-9057

lcmh@bellsouth.net
LincolnCountyHistory.com