Letter from the President

By Myrick Howard

One of the joys of working in historic preservation is the opportunity to work on special places that will be treasured for generations.

Our new Headquarters Office on Oberlin Road in Raleigh is certainly one such project. The Graves-Fields House and the Rev. Plummer T. Hall House tell compelling stories about a remarkable post-Civil War African-American community that's largely been paved over. They are highly visible reminders of a past that needs to be remembered. I’m certain that these houses will be treasured and studied for decades (maybe centuries) to come.

For several years Preservation North Carolina (PNC) had been looking around for its next office. Both PNC and the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, its partner in the 1997 renovation of the 1874 Briggs Hardware Building, agreed that we had succeeded in our original mission: encouraging the revitalization of historic Fayetteville Street in the heart of downtown Raleigh. Downtown was transformed during the two decades while PNC co-owned the building.

We looked at all sorts of alternatives for a new office, but nothing clicked. We even submitted an offer to purchase the Graves-Fields House on site, but our offer was not accepted. Instead the house was bought by a developer of offices and apartments. As a designated Raleigh landmark, the property was subject to a demolition delay period of 365 days, giving us only a short time to come up with an alternative plan. Developer (Jim Anthony with Collier’s International) generously gave us more than two years…plus the funds to move the house.

In July 2016 (!), I sent an email to several Raleigh preservationists, including some of PNC’s board leaders, with the subject line: “A Weird Idea.” What if we moved the Graves-Fields House to the vacant lot beside the Hall House? The responses were immediate and positive.

The first issue was whether the two houses would both actually fit on the lot. They would, but only if we didn’t have a driveway. All parking—and all...
construction activities—would have to be accessed through the neighboring properties. Though everyone agreed that a shared parking arrangement made for good urban policy, the reality was challenging. Parking ended up being the single most complicated issue for the project.

Oberlin Baptist Church patiently worked with us on the south side. On the north side, after months of discussions and the drafting of stacks of legal documents about parking access, the neighboring condo project went belly up. We would have to wait (months and months) for someone to purchase the property and then hope that the new owner would work with us. (He did.) While we were in limbo, we had to submit new alternatives for parking to the city to keep the project moving forward. We had already spent tens of thousands of dollars preparing the houses and site for relocation, but without parking the project would not be permitted.

We went through nine site reviews by the city over a period of more than a year, and parking issues dominated more than half of them. We were trying to do something different, and the straight-and-narrow (and sometimes ambiguous) code didn't flex with us.

Despite all the trials, tribulations—and yes, frustrations—I’m really glad we had to move the two houses and place them side-by-side. Yes, it violates the usual preservation standards, but our impact on Oberlin Road is more than twice as great. The two houses together have enormous presence, and their histories remain interconnected.

Next, we will work on interpretive signage and programming. Most of the 17,000 drivers who pass these charming and flamboyant houses on a daily basis probably have no idea that they were built by remarkable couples who were born into slavery. They need to know.

This project has really touched people’s hearts. We’ve raised (to date) $1.45 million for the now $1.48 million project, plus another $75,000 endowment for its long-term care.

We still have so much to learn about Oberlin and the families who occupied these houses. On the following pages is a brief history, followed by some of our takeaways from this project.

Maybe the idea wasn’t so weird after all. Enjoy! 😊

Myrick Howard is president of Preservation North Carolina.
Finally, A New Headquarters in Oberlin!

In 2016, the historic Rev. Plummer T. Hall House was sitting vacant and badly damaged by termites, and the historic Graves-Fields House, a couple of hundred feet away, was slated for demolition. Only four houses in the freedmen’s village of Oberlin were listed in the National Register, and two of those were highly endangered.

Oberlin, founded after the Civil War by emancipated and formerly free blacks, was a thriving self-contained village with churches, schools, businesses and homes. But the twentieth century was not kind to Oberlin. Segregation, redlining, highway construction, and commercial development took their toll on the once-proud neighborhood, which had boasted higher levels of education and homeownership rates than the City of Raleigh itself. Today only about 30 Oberlin houses remain where nearly 1200 inhabitants, mostly African-American, once lived. The first seven blocks of Oberlin Road have been wiped clean of any hint of the freedmen’s village.

Without intervention, these important houses—and their stories—would be lost. Renovating them for PNC’s new Headquarters Office would be complex and challenging, involving the relocation of not one, but two historic houses, and PNC would have to act quickly. The Hall House had to be moved farther back on its lot because it encroached on the right-of-way, and a 365-day delay was ticking away on demolition for the Graves-Fields House.

In the fall of 2016, PNC started the process of purchasing the Rev. Plummer T. Hall House and its vacant neighboring lot from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission. More than two years passed before PNC finally received its building permit for the project. During those two years, PNC was able to stabilize both houses using a demolition permit and raise the funds to do the project. As soon as we received our building permit in late 2018, we were ready to roll—literally.

And of great significance, during the delay we were able to immerse ourselves in the histories of these two houses. We quickly learned that we had hit the history jackpot!
From Slavery to National Prominence: The Graves Family

In 1883 Willis Graves, a young brickmason born in Mississippi, married Eleanor Hinton, a teacher born in Wake County. Both were born into slavery. Willis’ mother and stepfather and Eleanor’s parents were early pillars of the Oberlin community.

Willis was named a justice of the peace, served as an election official, and in 1898 ran for the State House. In November 1898, despite a daily barrage of White Supremacist cartoons on the front page of the News and Observer and scattered acts of racist violence in Raleigh, Willis spoke at an election rally for Republican candidates in downtown Raleigh. The rally was held just two days before the Wilmington Massacre (aka Coup or Race Riot), the event that contributed to the end of suffrage for African Americans. He lost the election.

For almost a decade, Willis served as chairman of Raleigh’s annual Emancipation Day celebration. His speech at the January 1, 1899 celebration was anything but celebratory; he reflected on the desperate circumstances that beset North Carolina’s African-American community after the violent overthrow in Wilmington.

The Graves’ impressive offspring clearly followed their father’s quest for justice and their mother’s love of education.

Their eldest son, Lemuel, attended Saint Augustine’s (then high school) and Shaw University before going to Cornell University. While at Cornell, he was the first student to be initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the first Greek Letter fraternity for African-American men. He did graduate work at Columbia University and later taught as a Professor of Botany and Agricultural Chemistry at Florida A&M University.

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By 1920, Lemuel returned to Raleigh with his wife, the former Louise Martin, and their three children. For the next decade, he worked in real estate and insurance, having started his own company. He held leadership positions in several organizations, including chairing Raleigh’s Emancipation Society for a decade, like his father.

After the Great Depression, Lemuel and his family moved to Harlem where he continued to work in real estate. George E. Haynes, the founding director of the National Urban League and the first black recipient of a Ph.D. from Columbia, was Lemuel’s business partner at Superior Housing, which they established to provide quality housing for African Americans coming to Harlem during the Great Migration.

Lemuel’s younger brother, Willis, Jr. (Bill), grew up in Oberlin and also attended Saint Augustine’s and Shaw University. After receiving a law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1919, Bill moved to Detroit for the opportunities of a growing black population, but he quickly discovered the city’s racial inequities in housing. He and his law partner, Francis Dent, became the point men in the fight against racially restrictive covenants in Detroit.

As counsel for the Detroit NAACP, Bill Graves worked with some of the nation’s most renowned civil rights attorneys, including Clarence Darrow (best known today for his role in the Tennessee “Scopes Monkey Trial”) and Thurgood Marshall (the first African American to serve on the US Supreme Court).
Bill participated with a group of prominent attorneys at gatherings in New York and Washington, DC to develop a national strategy for civil rights litigation.

From trial court to the Michigan Supreme Court, Graves and Dent defended an African-American couple, Orsell and Minnie McGhee, who had been sued by a white neighbor for buying a home that was subject to racially restrictive covenants. Their case was joined with similar cases from Missouri and Washington, DC and taken to the US Supreme Court with Thurgood Marshall as the lead defense attorney. Three justices recused themselves from the case, presumably because they owned homes subject to such covenants. *Shelley vs. Kramer* made racially restrictive covenants unenforceable and is regarded as a landmark civil rights victory. After the case, people of color could legally “live anywhere.”

Willis and Eleanor’s son George went to New York City where he had his own carpentry business and built showrooms for Helena Rubenstein. George and his wife Corinne, a native of Iowa, were active in the Communist Party in New York City. We hope to learn more.

Daughters Mildred and Christine were both teachers and served as church organists. Mildred lived across Oberlin Road from her brother Lemuel and taught at Oberlin School. She died at just 34 years old. Christine married a Methodist minister who served churches in Asheville, Cincinnati, Springfield (OH) and Lexington (KY). We don’t know much about the youngest son, Leroy. His draft registration indicated that he was a brick mason and had a “withered arm.”

Lemuel’s son, Lem Jr., (Gene), was born in Florida and spent his youth in Raleigh. He too attended Saint Augustine’s College (by 1934, no longer a prep school) and was an Alpha. He first worked for local African-American newspapers in Raleigh and Norfolk, where he rose through the ranks to editor. In 1940, he married Theora Weaver of Winton, a teacher.

During World War II, Gene saw action as an accredited war correspondent and was featured in a movie news reel about the contributions of blacks to the war effort. After the war, he became the Washington correspondent for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, the nation’s largest black American weekly. There he wrote about legislation, court cases, and executive actions related to African Americans, especially black soldiers who returned from military service to face continued segregation. In 1948, he became one of the first three black journalists to be included in an official presidential entourage traveling with President Harry Truman to several Caribbean nations.

In 1950, Gene was appointed deputy chief of the news and writing section of the Economic Cooperation Administration, which oversaw the Marshall Plan for rebuilding Europe. Graves enjoyed life in Paris, especially the freedom which was accorded him as a black man.

As a voice for equality, Gene achieved almost celebrity status in the black community. After a decade in Paris, Gene joined the United States Information Agency, and in the early 1960s he was appointed by President Kennedy to head *Voice of America* in Latin America. He died unexpectedly in Uruguay where he was stationed.
Two More Families Committed to Faith, Education and Family

The Fields Family

In the early 1930s, the Graves left their home on Oberlin Road, along with ten additional properties, in tax foreclosure. Their home went through several short-term ownerships, before being purchased by John and Alice Graham in 1938. Graham was a fireman for the original Norfolk and Southern Railroad, and his wife worked at a beauty parlor. (A railroad “fireman” stoked coal into a steam-powered locomotive’s boiler, a particularly grueling and dangerous job.)

In 1945, the Graves House was purchased by Spurgeon and Jeannette Fields. Spurgeon was a 30-year News and Observer employee and long-time chauffeur for Josephus Daniels, the newspaper’s publisher, Secretary of the Navy during the Woodrow Wilson administration, and Ambassador to Mexico. Fields was Daniels’ constant companion, especially after the death of Daniels’ wife, Addie. Spurgeon was noted for his garden; he gave vegetables, flowers and plants to friends and neighbors. Jeannette worked in a fashionable women’s clothing store in Cameron Village, where she developed a loyal clientele among white women.

Their son, Spurgeon “Gabe” Fields, Jr., was described as “butler, father figure, brother, confidante and valued member of the family” of Trent and Anna Ragland, two of Raleigh’s most philanthropic citizens. Fields grandchildren, Spurgeon, Andria and Rosalind had distinguished careers in law, education and broadcasting, respectively.

The Fields family is highly regarded in the Oberlin community. Their home was the frequent site of church and neighborhood socials.

The Halls and Oberlin Baptist Church

Rev. Plummer T. Hall was the first minister of First Baptist Church of Oberlin, later renamed Oberlin Baptist, founded in 1880 when two small churches joined together. Churches were among the earliest and most important institutions established by newly freed slaves and remained centers for education, social and cultural opportunity, and civic involvement throughout the 20th century in many African-American communities.

Plummer T. Hall was born into slavery in 1849 as the son of Plummer Hall and Caroline White, an enslaved couple in Warrenton. According to family tradition, Rev. Hall built the house as a wedding present for his bride, Delia Mallory, when the couple married in 1877. Deed records indicate that the land was a gift from Delia’s father.

The room attached to the right end of the front porch was built by members of the congregation as Rev. Hall’s pastoral office. Its exterior entrance marks it as his place of business at a time when the church would have had no office space for the pastor.

Learn More: Television Show Available On-Line

Working with Moonlight Communications of Fayetteville, Preservation NC has produced “Oberlin: A Village Rooted in Freedom,” a one-hour video about this project, the families, and Oberlin for broadcast in February on North Carolina Public Television. The show was made possible with support from Empire Properties of Raleigh and the Richard and Julia Moe Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

To see the show, go to PreservationNC.org.
The Stories are Lost Unless the Building is Saved

Creative Carpentry

Willis Graves built his Oberlin house with whatever he could get his hands on. As a brick mason, he may have taken home leftover or defective materials from his job sites. When we started preparing the house for its move, we found the walls were full of surprises. Numerous studs were badly warped and too short to reach from the floor to the ceiling. Wainscot fragments were used to connect patched studs.

Throughout the house, nothing matches. Each room has a different wainscot, and in some rooms the wainscot on one side of the room doesn’t match the wainscot on the other. Windows, mantels, doors, door hardware, and even porch posts don’t match. Encased in the ceiling of the porch is a porch post that was cut down for use in lieu of a four-by-four.

You have to admire Graves’ creative industriousness. He was building a proud and prominent house out of leftovers, and it worked. The house lasted for 130+ years before being reinforced with new lumber.

It’s True; Old Wood is Better

The Hall House was eaten up with termites. More accurately stated, the 1990s addition on the Hall House was eaten up with termites. Some studs, only about twenty years old, were completely destroyed!

Nonetheless, the original part of the house survived, even though part of it was sitting directly on the ground. Where a new piece of wood had been nailed to an old one, the new wood was in splinters and the old wood had mainly just surface damage.

The termites loved the space between the new 1990s oak floor and the old 1880s pine floor. It was like a secret highway. To our surprise, the new oak fared worse than the old heart pine. Unfortunately, too much damage had been done to the old wood floor to leave it uncovered so it’s now the subfloor for the “new” wood floor, milled from salvaged heart pine.

Paint Research Reveals More than Color

From the start of the project, we said that we would paint the houses in their original colors, whatever they were. We hired David Black to do the research, and surprise, we found through the paint analysis that the rear one-story portion of the Graves-Fields House was older than the two-story front. We hope to learn more about the earlier structure through other forms of research.

We also found that Willis Graves painted his new house with the same colors as the then new Executive Mansion in downtown Raleigh. We can imagine young Willis proudly showing off his home painted up with the latest colors.

Researching African-American Heritage is Tough

As we worked to learn more about the families who owned these houses, church records, marriage certificates (and bonds for the formerly enslaved), death certificates, draft cards, city directories, and family Bibles were especially important in revealing parentage and surnames. In Oberlin, deed research was a key tool that often helped us make sense of census records. Newspapers.com was also a highly valuable tool in finding tidbits of information that would cut through dead-ends.

But once you go back beyond the Civil War, it’s a huge challenge.

Since enslaved people weren’t named in antebellum censuses (they are only listed by age and sex under the enslavers’ names), didn’t own property, and had no birth or death certificates, and since they were traded from place to place with only unrecorded bills of sale (thus, disappearing without a trace), it’s very hard to trace the heritage of African Americans before the Civil War. You often have to listen to oral history, look for circumstantial evidence, spread the word among family members and in the local history community, and hope that clear evidence will someday show up.
Sometimes, repetition of given names and surnames may give clues. We found numerous similarities in the given names of the white family of Judge John Hall (one of three original NC Supreme Court justices) in Warrenton and those of the black Plummer Hall family (both during slavery and after). In 1858, Judge Hall’s son Isaac died, and that same year enslaved Isaac Hall was born. Coincidental?

Bottom line: we don’t know. If Plummer T. Hall and his ancestors had been white, we probably wouldn’t have to scratch around, searching for hints from similar names. Furthermore, even if we could establish who enslaved Plummer T. Hall’s parents, it would still be a great challenge to find his grandparents.

Tracing the roots of these families back to their African origins will be exceptionally difficult, if not impossible, unless some unexpected documentation is miraculously found.

**How the Internet Aids Research**

Research from the 1990s indicated that Lemuel and Bill Graves went north as brickmasons and plasterers like their father. Not hardly. The assumption is a fair one when all you can find in the local library are city directory listings. When Lemuel and Bill were growing up, their father had them listed in the directories as brickmasons and plasterers. Here’s a family sending their children to college with aspirations of professional development, but hedging their bets by training them in the trades. In a sense, it exemplifies the conflicting W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington philosophies in a family microcosm.

Searching “Lemuel Graves” on Google, a tool not available in the 1990s, unlocked a torrent of information, largely because of his role with Alpha Phi Alpha. A 2006 article about Lemuel in an Alpha magazine celebrating the fraternity’s centennial was written by a granddaughter named Susan Mask. Again, Google to the rescue! Tracking down Susan by internet opened the door to the Graves descendants, none of whom live in North Carolina.

Those family connections have been exceptionally rewarding. Sometimes You Get Lucky

Working with family members, we were able to dig up some fascinating new information about the Graves family, but we hit the wall once we got to the Civil War. We know nothing about Willis’ father Mathew nor about the ancestry of his mother, Viney. However, an internet search in Duke University’s archives uncovered a remembrance of Eleanor’s father, Lemuel Battle Hinton, providing several new hints about his origins.

In doing this kind of research, you have to make allowances for frequent misspellings, since the records are handwritten and the names may no longer be common. The remembrance of Hinton was incorrectly filed under misspelled first and last names. We found it by searching Lemuel, Lemon, Lemond, Samuel, Hinton, Hunter, Hunton, etc.

Recently one of Lemuel Graves’ granddaughters (from Florida) sent us a packet of papers about her father, Gene. In that packet were undated family trees that had been hand-drawn, complete with notes about skin complexion, and they contained several surprises—fodder for additional research. For example, Lemuel Hinton’s “fair-skinned” wife, Eleanor Lurina Boylan, may have been the daughter and slave of “Billy Boylan.” William Boylan, one of Raleigh’s most prominent 19th-century white citizens, owned numerous slaves in Wake and Johnston Counties and in Mississippi. Was he indeed her father?

Lemuel Hinton is recorded as a Zulu Prince, son of chief Ashanti warrior, who arrived on the last slave ship to come through the port of Mobile. We wonder whether this person was actually Lemuel’s father, since the legal slave trade ended in 1808. On Lemuel Hinton’s death certificate, his grandson and namesake Lemuel Graves informed the clerk that his grandfather was born in Africa. Until seeing this family tree, we thought that information was in error. Who knows whether we will be able to substantiate this fascinating and complex glimpse into the past?

More research to be done. We’ll welcome help!

**Family Members to the Rescue**

Andria Fields, granddaughter of Spurgeon Fields, provided us with invaluable photos of her family’s years in the Graves-Fields House. The Graves family (and
their Haywood cousins) also shared their family photos which predated the Fields family by 20-30 years. Combined, the photos were critical in helping us restore the house and yard correctly.

And then, we unexpectedly found that Andria had better photos of the Hall family than the Halls themselves, or the church that Rev. Hall founded. Who knew? The Fields and the Halls attended church together and were neighbors and were related. (Thanks, Andria!)

As they say, it takes a village…

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AJ Fletcher Foundation, Raleigh
"Graves descendants and relatives
"PNC Board and Staff (past and present)
113 Main Street  
Pollocksville  
Jones County  
$80,000  
See (K) on map

Bryan Lavender House

Rare Federal house with engaged two-tier front porch enclosed on one end and front bay containing exterior stair, a Charleston-style rarely seen in most of Eastern North Carolina!

The Bryan Lavender House was flooded by Hurricane Florence and the rise of the Trent River. With swift intervention and removal of drywall up to two feet above the water line and careful drying out, the house is ready to be restored to its former glory. Restoration will include all new plumbing, HVAC, and electrical on the first floor. The second story did not flood.

Originally a Hall and Parlor plan, a wing was added to the north side and in the 1950’s, a former detached kitchen was brought up to the house but not attached. Instead, a small wooden stoop connects the two structures which are barely a few feet apart. The house retains original woodwork including chair rail downstairs, original Federal Mantels including a detailed 3-part mantel in the parlor and a two-part mantel in the upstairs bedroom, and a faux grained door between the living and dining room. Hardware matches the era of the house. Beautiful heart pine floors throughout the house. Side wing could be used as den or bedroom and is plumbed for a bath. Back porch on this wing features a wall of windows for natural light. Upstairs, two bedrooms are connected by a shared bath.

The Lavender House is located in Pollocksville, a short 20-minute drive from the charming and historic town of New Bern, NC.

Square Feet: 2348; Lot Size: .74 acre; Zoning: Residential

Contact: Linda Holland, Broker, Coldwell Banker Willis Smith, 252-259-0756, Lindaholland@coldwellbanker.com

113 North Holland Street, Dallas  
Gaston County  
$125,000  
See (C) on map

Symre-Pasour House

Perfectly situated in between Gastonia and Charlotte, this property is ideal for an adaptive re-use office space or residence that provides the elusive combination of urban feel with small town charm! Part of the Dallas Historic District—it’s also eligible for historic tax credits!

Built ca. 1847, the Smyre-Pasour House is one of the few remaining antebellum Greek Revival-style houses in Gaston County. Set flush with the street and facing the former Gaston County Courthouse in the heart of the Courthouse Square, the yard is ample enough for sensitively designed parking. Extensive stabilization work is being completed, which will allow for easier rehabilitation and adaptive re-use. The house would make a great retail or office space, or a fine residence for those looking for an urban feel within the charm of a small Southern town.

The one-story, five-bay frame house has a three-bay wide addition to the north side with identical finish. The eaves are boxed, and at either end of the original block is a brick exterior end chimney. The addition stretches the façade to an eight-bay width and gives the impression of row-housing, a unique characteristic in a small Southern town.

Square Feet: 1,947; Lot Size: .33 acres; Zoning: Residential/Commercial

Contact: Ted Alexander, PNC Western Office, Shelby, 704-482-3531, talexander@presnc.org
Dr. Plunkett House

Rare Federal-style tripartite house set on a lovely lot in historic Warrenton with plenty of space for today’s living. Located just minutes away from Kerr Lake and Lake Gaston!

Built in 1818 by John LaTaste and used for a time by the Plunketts as a boarding school, this gracious house showcases an interesting array of woodwork that is both refined and whimsical. A large predominantly Federal-style entrance hall and parlor, Greek Revival-style wings, and Victorian additions provide ample space for modern living. Eligible for tax credits, the Dr. Plunkett House is located in the Warrenton Historic District two doors down from the Jacob Holt House and Visitors Center, a block from Town Hall and County Courthouse, and within short walking distance of the quaint yet bustling downtown with shops, services, eateries, and a small-town hardware store.

The house will require rehabilitation to address deferred maintenance and would benefit from updated systems, bathrooms, and a new kitchen. Though the roof was replaced with a metal roof in recent years, damage from past leaks require repair. Artificial siding will need to be removed and necessary repairs made to the original molded clapboard siding.

The picturesque Town of Warrenton is located between Kerr Lake and Lake Gaston and only an hour from Raleigh. Its well-preserved small-town character has been rediscovered and enjoys a thriving community life.

Square Feet: 2,716; Lot Size: 1 acre; Zoning: Residential

Contact: Cathleen Turner, PNC Piedmont Office, Durham, 919-401-8540, cturner@presnc.org

King House

Early log house with large stone chimneys, exposed beaded ceiling joists, wide wall planks, hand-forged door hardware, and a rear wing, once an early separate kitchen. Family cemetery with ancient soapstone markers nearby, all situated on a scenic ridge between Wentworth and Reidsville. Only 30 minutes to Piedmont-Triad International Airport and 39 minutes to Greensboro. Additional acreage available.

A rare survivor among the earliest houses built in Rockingham County, the King House sits unobtrusively on a hill above land first cultivated by Thomas King in the late 18th century. The majority of the house was kept intact and added to over the years, resulting in the present farm comprising over 240 acres. The house will require a complete rehabilitation including repair of the roof (some 5v metal panels were ripped off in a recent storm), restoration/repair of log structure, installation of new systems including electrical, plumbing and HVAC, a new kitchen and bathrooms.

The King House and cemetery are being sold on ten acres. Additional acreage is available for purchase.

Square Feet: 1,643 square feet; Lot Size: 10 acres; Zoning: Residential

Contact: Cathleen Turner, PNC Piedmont Office, Durham, 919-401-8540, cturner@presnc.org

204 South Bragg St.
Warrenton
Warren County
$85,000
See (J) on map

653 Vernon Rd
Wentworth
Rockingham County
$69,000
See (G) on map
Large gracious home with important early woodwork situated on over an acre that includes a Craftsman-era guest house. Located in lovely Warrenton, noted for its collection of Antebellum buildings. Near Kerr Lake and Lake Gaston.

The Louise Allen House is a lovely, large home built in the 1840s in the Greek Revival style and later refashioned in the Colonial Revival style. When the house was redesigned in the 1920s, a brick veneer was applied and additions were made including a warm, south-facing enclosed sunroom. The interior of the home retains several elements of the 19th century, including some elegant neoclassical mantles by noted Warrenton builder Jacob Holt and prominent Greek Revival woodwork.

Situated on a beautiful in-town lot nearly 1½ acres in size, the property is shaded by mature trees and was noted for its lovely blueberry and fig bushes. The property also includes the Smiley Cottage, a 1930s Craftsman-style guest house, sized at approximately 1200 square feet. The Louise Allen House will require a complete rehabilitation including reconstruction of the 1920s-era front porch (archival photo available), all new mechanical systems, structural repair (or rebuilding) of the rear kitchen area, miscellaneous interior and exterior cosmetic repairs, and a new kitchen and baths. The cottage will also need cosmetic repairs, updated systems, kitchen, and baths.

Located in the Warrenton National Register Historic District, the Louise Allen House and Smiley Cottage are eligible for preservation tax credits.

Square Feet: 2,992; Lot Size: 1.39 acres; Zoning: Residential

Contact: Cathleen Turner, PNC Piedmont Office, Durham, 919-401-8540, cturner@presnc.org

The Dr. Samuel Perry House, called “Oakley,” is a Greek Revival/Italianate plantation house situated near Centerville in the northeast corner of Franklin County, 11 miles north of Louisburg, NC. It was built in 1857 for Dr. Samuel Perry, a farmer and physician, by Jacob W. Holt, a master carpenter and builder. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1975) primarily for its architectural significance, it has 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and sits on 22 acres with more land available. Protected by PNC covenants, it may qualify for 50% county property tax deferment and for federal and state historic restoration tax credits.

Square Feet: 4,650; Lot Size: 22 acres; Zoning: Residential

Contact: Peter Andrews, 919-853-4145, peterandrews@earthlink.net

This Greek Revival, built between 1850-1860 with newer tin roof has exterior brick chimneys, 7 fireplaces, updated water heaters and septic system. The 2-story frame home boasts lovely Doric front porch entrance with open 2-story foyer, large rooms, high ceilings and 2 baths.

A “Diamond in the Rough” just waiting for your updates.

Square Feet: 3,200; Lot Size: 1.71 acres; Zoning: Residential

Contact: Ruth Ann Dyer, Fonville Morisey Realty/A Long & Foster Company, 919-632-8521, RDyer@fmrealty.com
See www.PreservationNC.org for more information

Mountain Brook Village

Porch rockers, spectacular views, mountain breezes, creeks & trails, wood burning fireplaces. 14 fully modernized historic Cottages (& the majestic 4 bedroom Farmhouse) are now being offered for individual sale as a delightful Smoky Mountain 1st & 2nd home front porch year round strolling community

www.mountainbrook.com

W.C. Winkler House

100 S. Bridge Street
Wilkesboro
Wilkes County
$240,000
See (D) on Map

Completely updated and preserved, the W.C. Winkler House is ready for a new beginning. Listed in NRHP, this 5BR, 2/2.5BA is in the heart of Downtown Wilkesboro, NC and still boasts much of the original features. Wraparound porch, balconies and Brushy Mountain and Downtown views just add to the charm of this historic Queen Anne. Come be enchanted!

Contact: Zach Bradham, 336-575-1312, zbradham@gmail.com, www.teammicholsonrealty.com

See www.PreservationNC.org for more information

The W. J. Roberts House ca. 1895

521 West Marion Street
Shelby, Cleveland County
Price: Buyers' offers invited
See (B) on map

Exquisite Craftsman-style house in Shelby’s premiere Historic District. Located in one of Shelby’s finest, most desirable and attractive residential neighborhoods, the W. J. Roberts House is a fine example of the Craftsman-style house with both Colonial and Tudor Revival influenced elements. The house features one of the most monumental staircases in Shelby and has four spacious bedrooms, two baths, a formal parlor, sitting room, dining room, original sleeping porch, servant staircase, and a “Dutch oven” kitchen indigenous to Cleveland County.

A contributing structure in the Central Shelby National Register Historic District, the house is potentially eligible for the state rehabilitation tax credits. It is sold “as is” and is under the protection of preservation covenants through Preservation North Carolina. It is livable in its current condition, but will need extensive upgrades to all mechanical systems as well as cosmetic improvements for today's living.

Within easy walking distance of Shelby’s nationally recognized tree-lined Uptown district, specialty retail shops, many restaurants, farmers market, government offices, banks, churches, arts council; the Earl Scruggs Center and the Don Gibson Theatre are all easily accessible. Shelby City Park and its acclaimed historic Carrousel is nearby. Shelby is also home to the American Legion World Series. Square Feet: approx. 4320; Lot Size: .675 acre; Zoning: R-10

Contact: Richard D. Craver: 704-487-9622   email: adelaidecraver@yahoo.com
The original house was built in the first half of the 19th century as a wooden hall and parlor farmhouse set on granite stones. At the beginning of the 20th century the house was enlarged adding a large wrap-around porch, along with a bay window, internal fireplaces and a kitchen. The farm and house were purchased by the LaCasse family in 1974. Since that time, they have carefully worked to restore the property and have added another bedroom and bathroom, making it a four-bedroom, two bath home. The house retains many of its original features including the staircase, all six mantles, wall boards and functioning wooden windows. Along with so much of the original character, the family has added modern conveniences such as dual fuel heating and a Wolf gas range. Ground mounted solar panels were installed for maximum sun exposure, reducing utility bills, while maintaining the natural woodland view. With updated wiring, plumbing and insulation this home is ready to occupy.

The acreage is protected from future development with a conservation easement. The house is on the Study List for the National Register of Historic Places.

Square Feet: 3,109; Lot Size: 47.5 acres; Zoning: Residential/Agricultural

Contact: Jane Bryan, Realtor, Performance Realty of the Piedmont performancealtyofthepiedmont.com
704-798-4474, janebryanpr@gmail.com
Please visit our website at www.PreservationNC.org to see many more historic properties available through PNC.

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See www.PreservationNC.org for more information

Available for Restoration

The Historic Properties Emporium section contains paid advertisements of historic properties for sale by owners and realtors. Preservation NC strongly encourages the buyers of these properties to place protective covenants into the deed at the time of closing to ensure the preservation of the historic buildings. Preservation NC will gladly assist in formulating covenants suited to specific buildings and sites. Paid advertising is also available on Preservation NC’s web site. Visit www.PreservationNC.org for more information.

Preservation North Carolina is the only statewide nonprofit preservation organization in North Carolina. It is a membership organization dedicated to preserving and promoting buildings and sites important to North Carolina’s diverse heritage. Preservation NC provides educational opportunities and public recognition of outstanding individuals and groups in preservation. Preservation NC operates an Endangered Properties Program (the Revolving Fund) to preserve endangered historic buildings and sites. Preservation NC’s staff members travel extensively, and are frequently out of the office. Their hours are generally 9 am to 5 pm, Monday–Friday. Appointments to see properties need to be made several days in advance, since volunteers help show them.

Tax Credits Available

In North Carolina, both state and federal income tax credits are available for the certified rehabilitation of historic structures. For the rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures, a 20% federal income tax credit and a tier based state income tax credit are available. For the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes (non-income producing properties), a 15% state tax credit is available for rehabilitation expenses up to $150,000. Eligible properties strongly urges owners interested in receiving tax credits to submit their rehabilitation plans for approval prior to commencement of work.

For more details, visit the NCHPO website at http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/tchome.htm, call 919-807-6570, or find NCHPO on facebook. You can also visit www.PreservationNC.org, call 919-832-3652, or find Preservation NC on facebook.

Advertise Your Historic Property

Find your buyer through the Historic Properties Emporium, online and in North Carolina Preservation. With nearly 20,000 visitors each month, PreservationNC.org is the place to reach a nationwide audience interested in historic properties in North Carolina. North Carolina Preservation is the best source for showcasing your historic property for nearly 5,000 PNC members. Members discounts available, and properties protected by PNC covenants and easements receive free online listings and discounted ads. Listing rates and terms available at www.PreservationNC.org/advertise