Available for Restoration

The Historic Polk House

101 Old E. US 74, Polkton
Anson County

Situated on a small rise overlooking the quaint Town of Polkton, the Polk House is an important early 19th century Federal farmhouse significant for its early architecture and as the birthplace of L.L. Polk.

Built around 1830, the two-story frame house has heavy hand-hewn, mortise-and-tenon construction set on sturdy, locally quarried brownstone foundation piers. The gable roof is covered by a standing seam roof and accentuated by a heavy boxed cornice and flush eaves. Tall nine-over-nine windows on the side and six-over-nine windows on the front and rear elevations let in lots of light. The deep shed roof front porch shelters the flush sheathing and entryway adjacent to an enclosed porch room. A similar porch enclosure is located on the rear elevation and is also early to the house judging from the exposed mortise-and-tenon framing near the roof line and sturdy sills and joists underneath.

The hall-and-parlor plan has attractive interior details including an enclosed winder stair, hand-planed plank walls and ceilings, beautiful heart pine floors, and six-paneled doors throughout. The hall features an expansive paneled wainscot with elaborately carved chair rail. The adjacent parlor features a large stylish Federal mantel with dentil molding beneath the deep shelf supported by reeded pilasters and diagonal reeding across the frieze.

The enclosed winder stair has a gradual rise with beautiful flush sheathing terminating in an attractive flat wainscot and finely crafted newel post and railing at the top of the stairs. The wood appears to have remnants of faux finish. The room above the parlor has simpler Federal finishes including a flat-panel wainscot, vertical wide board walls, and a smaller version of the stylish mantel in the parlor. The larger adjacent room appears to have remained unfinished until the early 20th century with narrower wood walls and ceilings.

The house is best known as the birthplace and home of Leonidas Lafayette Polk (1837-1892). Polk’s accomplishments are numerous but he is best known as the publisher of Progressive Farmer, founder of North Carolina State University and Meredith College, the first NC Commissioner of Agriculture, and president of the National Farmers Alliance. Born into a prominent farm family, he lost his parents by the age of 15 and inherited land and the homeplace. He was educated just up the road at Davidson College and spent his early years championing the causes of area farmers as publisher of The Ansonian and initiating the Grange system. When the railroad arrived in the early 1870s, Polk laid out the Town of Polkton on his acreage to the north of the railroad.

The house was a rental property for many years and has been empty for some time. It will require a complete rehabilitation including all new systems, a kitchen, bathrooms, reconstruction of the chimneys, and repair and restoration of the porches, windows, siding, doors and flooring.

Price: $28,000
Square Feet: 1,896
Lot Size: 2 acres
Zoning: Residential

One Hour to Charlotte, 30 Minutes to Lake Tillery/Uwharrie National Forest!

For more information or to make an appointment to see the Polk House contact:
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Join us! For more information about Preservation NC and other endangered properties visit www.PreservationNC.org.
Financial Incentives: The Polk House is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places but it may be eligible for listing. If listed, it would become eligible for historic preservation tax credits. In North Carolina both state and federal income tax credits are available for the certified rehabilitation of historic structures. For the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes certified historic structures (non-income producing properties), a 15% state tax credit is available. For more information on Historic Preservation Tax Credits contact the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office at 919-807-6570 or at www.hpo.ncdcr.gov.

Directions: From Charlotte: merge onto US-74 E via the ramp to NC-27 E. Use the left 2 lanes to turn slightly left onto NC-27 E/Albemarle Rd and continue for 7.5 miles. Turn left onto the Interstate 485 Inner S ramp. In 3 miles merge onto I-485 Inner. Take exit 44 for NC-218 toward Mint Hill. In 30.4 miles turn left onto NC-218 E/Fairview Rd. In 423 feet turn left onto Williams Street and then turn left onto Old U.S. 74 E. The property will be on the right.

Area Information: Polkton is a small town in Anson County, North Carolina. Polkton is located along US Hwy 74 seven miles west of Wadesboro, about one hour east of Charlotte, and 30 minutes to Lake Tillery and Uwharrie National Forest. Anson County is also home to the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, Flint Ridge Shooting Preserve, Inc., Griffin Hill Hunting Preserve, and Blewet Falls Lake, which provide many outdoor recreational activities. Polkton began as the farm of Colonel Leonidas Lafayette Polk, the noted agrarian crusader. Founder L.L. Polk laid out the streets for the town in 1870 and Polkton was incorporated in 1875. Visit www.townofpolkton.org or www.co.anson.nc.us for more information.

Preservation North Carolina is a statewide, private, non-profit membership organization that protects and promotes the architectural heritage of North Carolina. Through its Endangered Properties Program it acquires and sells endangered historic buildings. Preservation North Carolina sells all properties with protective covenants and a rehabilitation agreement to ensure that the historic buildings will be renovated and that they will be protected from demolition and unsympathetic changes in the years to come. For samples of these legal documents visit www.presnc.org/get-help/easements-covenants.

For general information or to join Preservation NC: