Available for Restoration

The Historic Scarborough House

502 W. Allenton Street, Mount Gilead
Montgomery County

The Scarborough House is a lovely 19th century farm house richly framed by ornamental woodwork and beautifully sited beneath mature trees. Built in the 1880s by Henry Grif and Florence ("Frankie") Scarborough, descendants of some of the first settlers to the area, the house displays both the latest architectural fashion and practicality of a successful cotton farming family.

The Scarborough House is located in the picturesque Town of Mt. Gilead, a well-established trading town by the 1830s along the Fayetteville to Salisbury Plank Road, and later, the Norfolk Southern railroad. The Town quickly grew to prominence as a cotton trading center, along with the robust gold mining industry in the nearby Uwharrie Mountains. Timber was also plentiful and houses like the Scarborough House were built with high quality lumber and embellished with ornamental detail crafted locally or brought in by the railroad.

The well-proportioned two-story frame house has an inviting wraparound porch richly ornamented on the left side with curvilinear and geometric patterned sawnwork and brackets along with turned balustrades. Substantial square posts support the entire length of the porch and provide a unifying visual effect to an otherwise asymmetrical elevation. The entranceway is enhanced by a framework of decorative woodwork, a double-leaf paneled door beneath a wavy glass transom and sidelights with paneled woodwork below. The multi-gabled roof covered in embossed metal shingles is equally as showy with a deep cornice and wide eaves embellished with elaborate pendant brackets and scroll ornament. The gables feature louvered vents with Gothic pointed arches.

The tall two-over-two sash windows let in abundant light to the spacious interior. The front entrance hall features a long unpainted stairway that has acquired a deep red patina on the treads, turned brackets, railing, and robust newel post. On either side of the center hallway are two rooms on the right and two on the left. The back hallway, once open to the outside, was at some point enclosed for a utility/mudroom. On the left side of the entrance/stair hall are a living and dining room connected by a wide door opening creating a large open space, and a sizable kitchen wing. The rooms on the right side of the house were probably used as bedrooms. The second floor has three rooms divided by the stair hall. Most rooms on the first and second floors have fireplaces with simple three-part mantels.

The property also includes five outbuildings: wellhouse, smokehouse, barn, corncrib, and 1920s garage built for Frankie Scarborough who was one of the first in Mt. Gilead to purchase a car. A lean-to shed near the well housed a solar hot-water heater installed by Larry Scarborough, the great grandson of Henry and Frankie.

The Scarborough House will need structural repairs to the rear hall floor and ceiling caused by a roof leak (recently dried-in), as well as porch repairs, removal of old ceiling tiles and carpeting, plus updates to the kitchen, baths, and mechanical systems.

For more information or to make an appointment to see the Scarborough House contact:

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For more information about Preservation NC and other endangered properties visit www.PreservationNC.org.
Financial Incentives: The Scarborough 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 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 www.hpo.ncdcr.gov.

Directions: From Charlotte, take E 5th Street to merge onto US-74 E via the ramp to NC-27 E. In 3 miles keep left to continue on E Independence Blvd/E Independence Expy. Take a slight left onto NC-27 E/Albemarle Rd. in 0.8 miles. Continue to follow NC-27 E for 25.3 miles and then turn right onto NC-205 S/S Oak Ridge Rd.. Continue to follow NC-205 S. In 3.6 miles continue straight onto N Main Street. Turn left onto NC-138 N/Aquadale Rd. in 0.1 miles. In 6.2 miles turn right onto Plank Rd.. Turn left onto Hardy Rd. in 3.2 miles. Turn left onto Mt. Zion Church Rd. in 1.7 miles and in 2.6 miles Mt. Zion Church Rd. turns slightly right and becomes Riverview Rd.. In 0.5 miles turn left onto US-52 N and then turn right onto NC-731 E in 0.5 miles. The property will be on the left in 5.8 miles.

Area Information: Mt. Gilead is a lovely small town of around 1,400 residents situated in the beautiful Uwharrie Mountains and located between Charlotte and Fayetteville and just south of Greensboro. The downtown is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is home to charming antique shops, locally owned businesses including an old-time hardware store and McRae Industries (makers of military and western boots), the Piedmont Arts Guild, and the Mount Gilead Museum making it a wonderful destination for anyone. Mt. Gilead is also home to several surrounding recreational areas including Lake Tillery, the Pee Dee River, Badin Lake Recreational Area, Morrow Mountain State Park and numerous hiking trails making it the perfect location for outdoor enthusiasts. Also nearby is the Town Creek Indian Mound State Historical Site, that interprets pre-Columbian culture on the Little River. Read an article on Mt. Gilead at www.ourstate.com/mount-gilead. For more information, visit www.mtgileadnc.com and www.montgomerycountync.com.

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:
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