Available for Restoration

The Historic Dunn House

818 Jay Street, Eden
Rockingham County

The Dunn House is an exquisite example of Colonial Revival architecture in the Central Leakesville National Register Historic District in Eden. It is among the few pre-war houses designed by an architect in Eden. Built in 1928 for William Oscar Jenkins, a meticulous engineer, and his wife Ruby Ivie, the house was designed by Virginia architect J. Bryant Heard. The Jenkins remained in the house for a very short period probably due to the Depression, before it was conveyed to Mr. Jenkins’ sister Sallie Gray Ivie Dunn and her husband, attorney Adolphus William Dunn. The house remains in family ownership today.

Heard’s fondness for the classical idiom is expressed throughout his body of work and in the Dunn House, which includes a classical Doric entry portico enhanced by a wide fanlight over the door and sidelites, a Doric-columned side porch and sunroom on either side all topped by a Chippendale-inspired balustrade, arched attic windows in the gables, and Flemish-bond brickwork with basketweave courses along the cornice and water table. His strong adherence to symmetry is likely the reason for two interior end chimneys with only one serving a practical purpose within. Paired doublehung windows on the front elevation provide lots of light for the interior.

The sweeping interior spaces include a gracious entry hall highlighted by a long staircase with curved newel, large openings into the living and dining rooms, a Butler’s pantry and kitchen, and an adorable half-bath off the back hall. Three bedrooms and a full bath make up the second floor. A finished attic with full bathroom was a whimsical addition in the 1960s and is accessed by a metal spiral staircase.

A lattice-covered back porch leads to a lovely backyard where the driveway is located. A two-car garage with shed room allows for generous storage space. The house will need some minor plaster repair, interior paint, and cosmetic updates. Previous roof leaks have been repaired. Drainage issues that are causing water intrusion into the basement and foundation, along with cracks in the brickwork near the sunroom were assessed and a report with repair recommendations and likely estimate is available. The house was last re-wired in the 1960s and has never had a central air conditioning system. Some original light fixtures remain on-site in storage. The historic Dunn House is a contributing structure in the Central Leakesville Historic District and is eligible for historic preservation tax credits.

For more information or to make an appointment to see the Dunn House, contact:
Cathleen Turner, Regional Director • 919-401-8540 • cturner@presnc.org

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Financial Incentives: The Dunn House is a contributing structure in the Central Leakesville Historic District and is therefore 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 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, certified historic structures (non-income producing properties) a 15% state tax credit is available for rehabilitation expenses up to $150,000. For more information on Historic Preservation Tax Credits, please contact the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office at 919-807-6570 or at www.hpo.ncdcr.gov.

Directions: From Greensboro, take US 29 North for approx. 20 miles. Take Exit 153 for US-158/N Carolina 14 toward Eden/Yanceyville. Turn left onto NC-14 N and continue for 7.6 mi. Continue to follow NC-14 N. Turn left on US-311 S (0.6 mi). Turn right at the 1st cross street onto Bethlehem Church Rd (1.5 mi). Turn right onto Old State Hwy 87/ Washington St (0.7 mi). Turn left on Patrick St to Jay St. The Dunn House is on the corner.

Area Information: The Town now known as Eden was created in 1967 from three separate towns of Leakesville, Spray and Draper. Located at the confluence of the Dan and Smith Rivers, the area has an important industrial heritage where an impressive collection of large mill buildings powered by the nearby rivers and canals, charming commercial centers, and an array of residential neighborhoods populate the bluffs surrounding the community. Today residents and visitors enjoy bountiful recreational opportunities including greenway trails, camping, kayaking and canoeing, festivals celebrating its musical heritage including Bluegrass legend Charlie Poole, and tours. Located near the Virginia border, Eden is 30 minutes from Greensboro, 40 minutes from Winston-Salem and Danville VA. For more information, visit www.exploredenn.com, www.edenn.us, and www.co.rockingham.nc.us.

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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