

# Private law firm, Preservation Society restoring Law School

'Mr. Sam's Law School'  
built in 1843

By MARY CLIFFORD  
Tar Heel Staff Writer

Historians at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill took pride in remembering its past as they pointed to renovated buildings while they walked around the neatly trimmed lawns. At the corner of Franklin Street and Hillsborough streets, between the beautifully renovated Chi-Omega and Tri-Delta houses was a weatherbeaten, old cottage. Long ivy vines grew over the broken stucco and stone walls and 2-foot tall grass and weeds covered the yard. The cottage had been physically neglected and historically overlooked. This cottage built in 1843, was the first site of the UNC Law School.

The UNC Law School, established in 1845, was the first professional school at UNC. The cottage once called "Mr. Sam's Law Office," was named after Professor Samuel Field. Field, and Professor William Horn Battle were the

law school's first professors.

Phillips, who was the original owner of the cottage, graduated from UNC in 1841, joined the faculty in 1845 as a professor of law and taught until 1859.

Battle graduated from UNC in 1820 and was the first law professor at UNC when UNC president Swain honored him with a professorship in 1845. Field and Battle taught without a law library and relied on their own legal experience as a primary teaching tool.

The history of the law school can be traced to the commencement of 1824 when graduating senior James W. Bryan delivered an oration titled, "Should a Professorship of Law be Established at the University?" By 1840 a law club had been formed and in 1845 the formal study of law had been brought to UNC.

The Law School was made up of two classes: Independents and the College class. The College Class had to have faculty permission to study law. Tuition was \$100 a year for the Independent Class and \$50 a year for the College Class. The College Class received a Bachelor of Law after two and a half years and the Independents finished in two years.



Tar Heel/Scott Bower

After years of neglect, the first site of the UNC Law School is being renovated into a private law office.

The law school was moved from the cottage on Franklin Street to South Building. It then moved to Smith Hall, Manning Hall and finally to its present location at Van Hecke-Wettach Hall in 1968. The enrollment of the law school has increased from 10 students in 1847 to about 700 today.

The former school is now being renovated into a private law office with the assistance of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society. The rear of the building is being extended to twice the original size. The Italian architecture will be maintained in the renovations, and a completion date for the project is not known.



Solution to today's  
puzzle from page 14

BASLE	CPOS	HATS
ALLEY	LILA	AREA
LEAVE	EVEN	MINT
DEVILS	FOOD	BASE
EAST	AMUSED	
BOUNTY	ABLER	
ANNE	SALA	AGILE
REDWOOD	ALTERED	
BROWN	ISLE	REND
RIATA	MASSEY	
PEKING	DRUB	
IRAN	ELDERBERRY	
LARK	NILE	OMAHA
ETAL	DEED	TIGER
DATE	ADDS	STEAD

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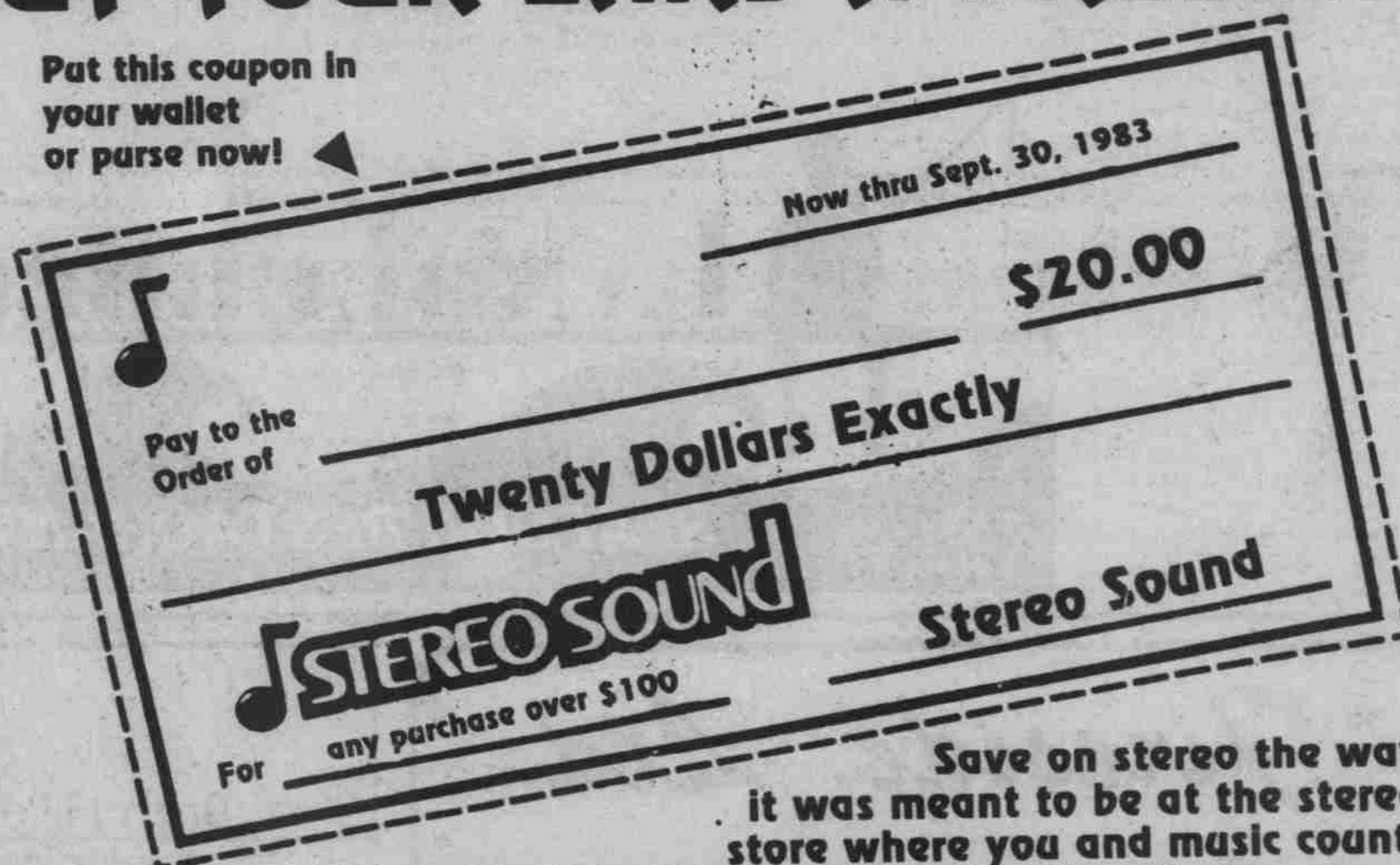
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