

At Old Raeford Prep School

House Once 2 Institute Homes For Boys

The old house on West Donaldson Avenue was moved the past couple of weeks in two sections, and that was only proper.

It will be converted into a clubhouse for the Deer Track Racquet Club being developed seven miles south of Raeford.

The house was built around the turn of the century as two separate bungalows for living quarters for boarding boy students at Raeford Institute.

The bungalows were among four rooming places for boys and were built on the institute's grounds. The institute was established in 1895 as a college preparatory and elementary school, since nothing was in the community at the time but one-room school houses.

The institute's campus covered most of the land bounded by West Donaldson and West Edinborough avenues, South Magnolia Street and North Main Street, except for strips owned by Raeford Presbyterian and First Baptist churches along the Magnolia Street and Donaldson Avenue borders respectively. Campus Avenue didn't exist then, and the origin of its name is obvious, since it runs through what was about the middle of the institute campus. The institute taught boys and girls, and everybody wore uniforms, including principal and teachers. The girls from outside the community were housed in a building that also contained the institute dining room, parlor and two bedrooms on

the ground floor, and dormitories for girls, the latter quarters on the second floor of the two-story building.

The college prep part of the school was a five-year high school, equivalent to a modern high school but something more.

The institute was turned over to the Hoke County school system in 1911 after Hoke County was formed officially, and it became a public school.

Among its living former students is Robert Gatlin, now a retired civil engineer and still active, partly as the National Weather Service's Raeford observer.

While the institute was serving boys and girls, people from near and far sent their youngsters to the institute. Some families even built homes and moved to Raeford to send their children to the institute. Some of the homes in the vicinity of the old campus were built by people who moved here for that reason.

After the institute went into the county school system, and F.E. Walker bought the lot and the two cottages. Then he combined the two to form the single house. Subsequently he sold the house to Bob Lewis, who, in turn sold it to Dr. Robert Leddy Murray, and for many years it was known as the Murray House. Dr. Murray practiced medicine in the community from 1925, about the time he bought the house, till 1965, when he retired and moved to Graham. He was a native of Summerville,

S.C., but was a graduate of Graham High School. Dr. Murray died at 85 last March 20 in an Alamance County nursing home (Graham is the county seat of Alamance). His wife, Madge, is still living in Graham. Their son, Robert Louis Murray, also is a physician, living in Roanoke, Va. The late Dr. Murray's brother, Marion, is a minister, living in High Point. The doctor also left four grandchildren.

From Dr. Murray, another doctor, Riley Jordan, bought the property from Dr. Jordan, and Stephen Phillips, head and owner of the Racquet Club project, bought it from the church when the church decided to have the house removed to provide more parking space in connection with the church's new sanctuary, which is under construction.

Incidentally the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad, built primarily for the wood products business flourishing at the time in this area, came in time to help the institute. Students rode the train to school.

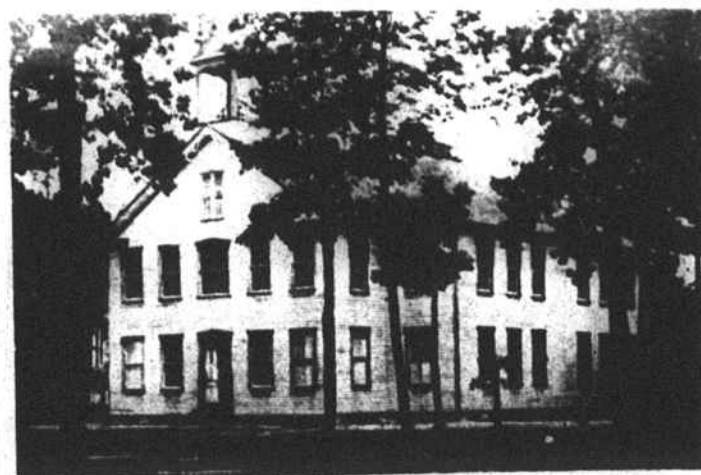
The tuition at the institute cost primary students \$1.50 a month, intermediates \$2, and ranged for the high school students from \$3 per month for the first year to \$4.50 per month for the fifth.

Board, furnished room, and

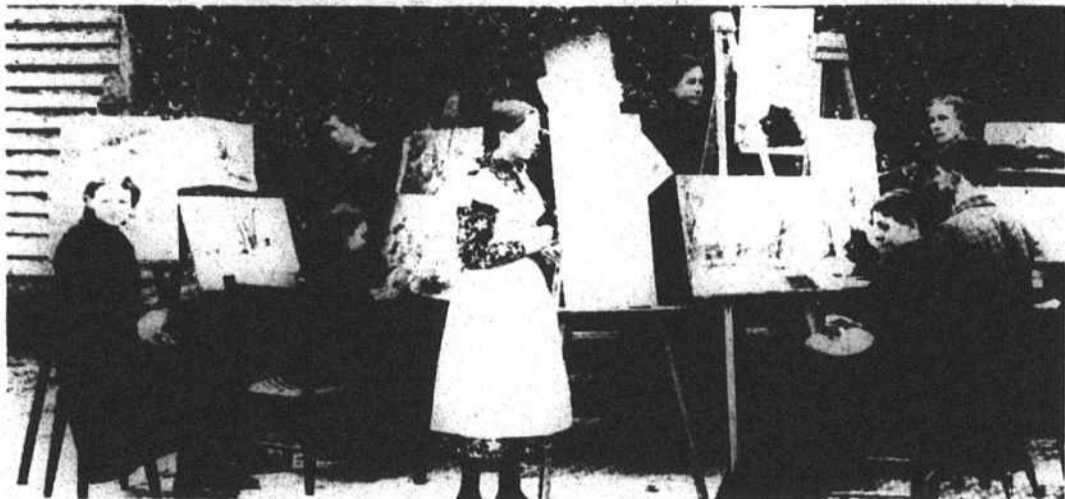
wood (for fuel) cost the resident students \$10 per month. Besides this, each student was charged 25 cents per month for the repair fund.

The teacherage was the Hampton House, which was taken down some time ago to provide the site for Open Arms Rest Home.

What was once the institute campus now contains City Hall, the Heritage Federal Savings & Loan (formerly Raeford Savings & Loan), the building opposite the public parking lot on West Edinborough, and the telephone company building on North Main Street.



Main building, Raeford Institute.



Art class under way at Raeford Institute. The teacher is Miss Vista Dudley.



The students and staff of Raeford Institute one school year. Note that everybody, including teachers and principal, wore uniforms at the institute.

The year this picture was taken is not known.

Retired School Personnel Hold First Meeting Sept. 15

The Hoke County Retired School Personnel will meet on Wednesday September 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hoke County Library.

There will be refreshments served at this opening meeting of

the year.

The organization will meet the third Wednesday of October, November, March, April and May at the library.



BATS IN THE BELFRY -- McCain Correctional Institute guard Allen Morrison, [center] spent some of his time off last week helping local exterminators Jimmy [right] and John [left] Conoly get the bats out of the Raeford Presbyterian Church. Morrison used his rappelling and rock climbing skills to place the bat poison around the eaves of the church.

In addition to mothballs, place whole cloves in pockets of woolen coats or in bags of sweaters for winter storage. Helps prevent moth damage and adds a nice spicy fragrance.

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- 3 - 5th Place Prizes, 1 - 8x10 Wood Frame

Grand Opening Hours

Thursday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
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