

Long Ago on Armfield Street



CONVERTED ACADEMY. Known as Professor Hill's academy, the structure located at 412 Armfield St. was converted to a residence in the early 1900s. This is the house as it appeared in the spring of 1972.

Elizabeth Cowan Pressley sent us a letter and picture a while back and it has been on the back burner for long enough. She writes that she was interested in an article that appeared in a recent **Iredell Citizen** about the old Statesville

Academy (also known as Professor Hill's Academy) on Armfield St. The article prompted her to write about the conversion of the academy into the house she grew up in.

After her father and mother, Mr.

and Mrs. B.A. Cowan, came to Statesville, they lived for a time in rented houses until deciding to buy the old Academy lot, she said. Their plan, originally, was to tear down the old school and build a home on the lot. When they talked with a contractor, though, he told them they would never find a house with brick walls like in the Academy.

"So, after purchasing a small slice of acreage on the east side, my parents decided to convert the old Academy into a home with a large living room, music room, parlor, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, two bedrooms, baths, and adding a bedroom and sleeping porch with a wrap-around front porch facing Armfield St," she said.

"I well remember the very large porch because I was required to sweep it many, many times," she said.

She recalled that her parents chose such features as hardwood floors, beautiful wainscoting for the dining room and a handsome brick mantel. She also remembered that gentlemen used to come by the house and request to come in because they had gone to school there.

"To the best of my memory," she said, the house was completed about 1913-14 and we moved from Salisbury Road (now East Front St.) from a house next door to the J.L. Sloan home."

"My sister and I grew up in the old Academy," she said. "Long before her recent death, she researched and had the old Academy placed on the United States Historical Record."

Seminar Offered

Mitchell Community College and the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring the seminar "How to Spread the Word About Your Business" Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. in Room 10 of the Continuing Education Center. The presenter is Dr. George Sappenfield.

This seminar is designed as Marketing 101 and touches the various ways of marketing a business including the importance of understanding the customer and targeting the message. This is an excellent workshop for those just starting a business or contemplating starting one; those whose businesses may be struggling; and

those who need to re-examine their marketing plan. It has gotten outstanding evaluations and repeat performances.

Dr. Sappenfield has an extensive background in public relations, promotions and advertising. He has worked for a number of agencies as director of public relations and has twice been a guest on ABC *Nightline*.

This seminar is free of charge. Call Mike Tucker at Mitchell Community College Continuing Education Division at 704-878-3220 to pre-register or for additional information.



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