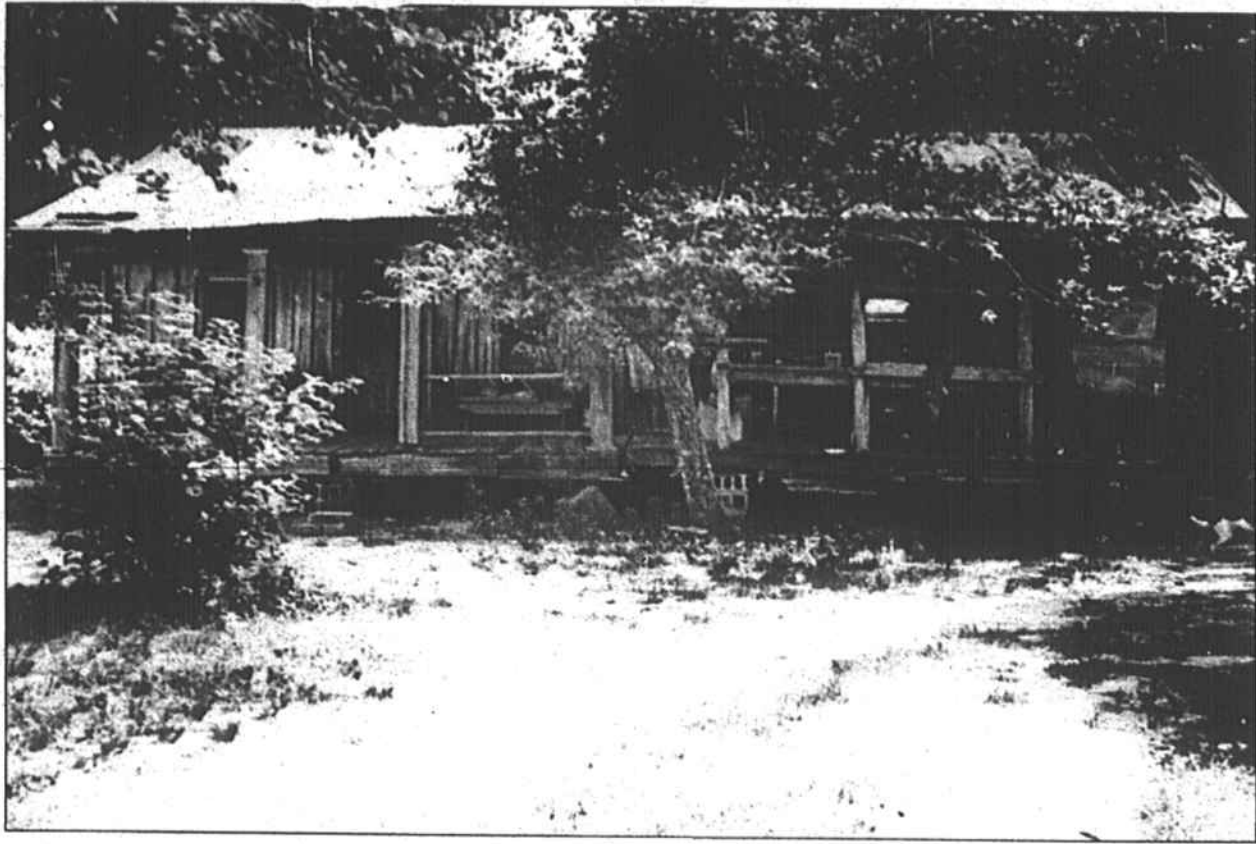
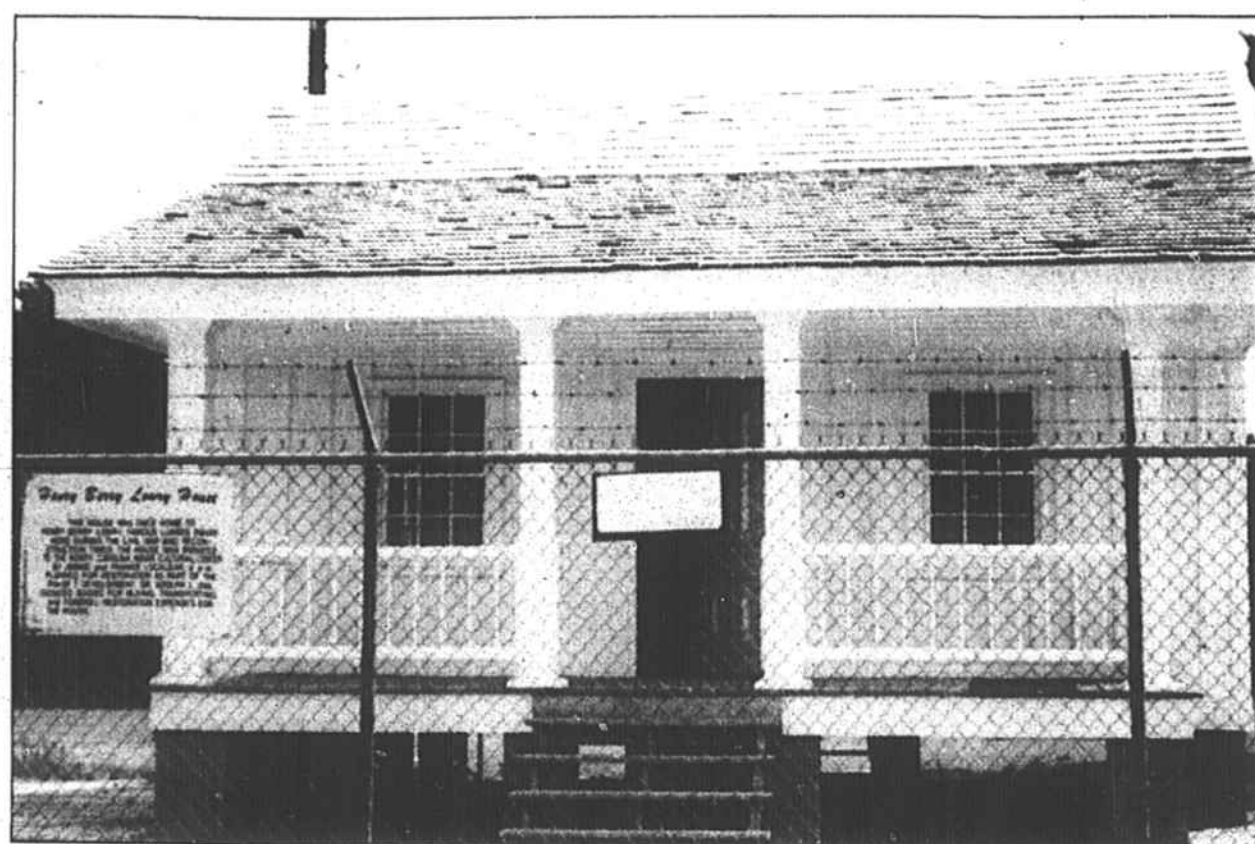


A look at the Henry Berry Lowrie House Editorially Speaking



Before



After

While we are excited to see some positive activity at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, we are nevertheless concerned with the looks of the Henry Berry Lowrie house which is standing on the property of the Cultural Center. We wish to raise two important questions: Is this restoration or renovation? Is this historically accurate or historical distortion? We will leave you to be the judge of that although we would editorially ask the board of directors of the NC Indian Cultural Center to rectify this house.... A new color and coat of paint would help...At least it would look more like what we

envision Henry Berry Lowrie's house looked like...the absence of color anyhow!

We would recommend restoration over renovation and wonder publicly how this house which has been called a "Swiss Chalet" will look when a Smoke House is constructed in the back yard. We encourage the Cultural Center Board to talk to the community, especially the NATIVES!! Many of us are offended by this white albatross!!! It is too white!!!

Letters to the Editor

Restoration of Henry Berry Lowrie House Raises Interesting Questions

To the Editor:
Yesterday, Sunday May 30th, Sixty Minutes had a program about art restoration in Italy. Seems that something like forty percent of art works in the world are in Italy (hey that's what sixty minutes said: "I wouldn't know myself.") A lot of it is very old, and has to be restored. The Italians then argue over whether it was restored right. At the moment there is a big fight over whether Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper, painted in 1497, was restored correctly.
Recently here a work of art, in this case architecture, was restored, that is to say, Allen Lowrie's old house where Henry Berry Lowrie was raised. The anger here over one particular point (the building whitewash) seems as intense as the continual quarrel that apparently goes on in Italy. I am not originally from Robeson County and only saw the house when it was in pretty good shape once. That was either 1979 or 1980 when Mr. Vernon Locklear took me to see it. People had been living in it until sometime in the 1970's. I was told we didn't go inside as it was still locked. I remember the pleasant weathered gray wood and the surrounding fields, my memory of the visit, other than that, is not very clear.
In the fall of 1986 one Peter Sandbeck, a restoration specialist with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh, wrote a typed report, numbered up to page

12, called "Henry BERRY LOWRY HOUSE, Pembroke, Robeson County/ Recommendations for Restoration." Sandbeck and his boss had visited the house in February of 1986.
Having no training as an architect, I am not competent to comment as to the validity of much of this report. It speaks of the "traditional hall-and-parlor plan, with the larger room or hall heated by a fireplace," a single exterior chimney, no longer there when Sandbeck saw it, "vertical board and batten siding" (like Clifton Oxendine's old house near Pembroke), "a three-bay-wide facade, sheltered by an original engaged shed porch supported by four square posts with molded caps," also "finely-crafted octagonal-shaped porch railings with unusual iron pickets, and a stylish front door having four panels in the shape of elongated octagons." Here I will give only a sampling of Sandbeck's comments but the following seemed especially interesting.
"Much original hardware remains, including a cast-iron box lock, iron hinges and patent window latches. The screws used to fasten these hardware items proved to be especially useful in estimating the date of construction of the house. Both the hinges and the window latches are held in place by machine-made screws with painted tips. Screws of this type were first available during the late 1840's

in this country, thus indicating that the house could not have been built before this time."
I have two things to say about that. First, many people here will remember Bob Hersch, director of the library at what was then known as Pembroke State University; he was director for six years until meeting an unlooked-for and untimely death in a car accident in 1989. Well, he knew a lot about old houses, both log and frame, and he told me that that type of machine-made screws was not available in this country "most places", he said. Until the late 1840's. In other words, the house could conceivably be older than that.
Secondly, this shows that Henry Berry Lowrie was raised in the house. The 1850 census shows his father, Allen Lowrie, age given as 55, as head of the household. Living in the house also at that time were his second wife, maiden name Polly Cumbo, age given as 40. Now (and I mention this because of the misrepresentation in the late movie), Allen Lowrie was the father of fourteen. He and his first wife, Catharine Locklear, had had just one child, Elizabeth, born about 1820, who married William Goins. But he and his second wife, Mary or Polly, had nine boys and four girls between the 1820's and 1848. I name them in approximate order: Peter Patrick Lowrie, Purdie Lowrie, William Lowrie, Sinclair Lowrie, Mary Ann Lowrie,

Orra Lowrie, James Lowrie, Clavin Lowrie, Tom Lowrie, Stephen (Stevie) Lowrie (four years old in the 1850 census); Purline or Caroline Lowrie, and Sally Jane ("Pert") Lowrie. Well, in 1850 when the census-taker came to see, the eight youngest of these children were still at home, from Orra on down to Pert. There was also a four-year old living in the house called Benjamin Lowrie. I don't know who that was, perhaps a grandchild.
Some of the recommendations of the Sandbeck report seem to have been carried out to the letter: that is, the board-and-batten siding and the wood shingle roof, which really does look pretty good. Other recommendations (as to the chimney and the foundations) were not carried out at all. Something needs to be done about this. Now we get back to the paint! Of Sandbeck says, "Our examination of the exterior revealed that the house had been painted originally or at an early date. It is entirely logical that a house having a number of unusual and stylish details should have been completed. Our office can provide paint research services to determine the original exterior paint colors." My question: "Was this ever done? And if it was done, should the house really be painted a blinding white? It looks too different that way from its appearance within living memory."
Yours Truly,
Wes Taukchiray
Maxton, NC

Congratulations to Rev. Mike Cummings

This in reference to the recent election of Rev. Mike Cummings to the position of President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. This elevation of Rev. Cummings into this position was a testament to the many years of dedication and prayerful ministry Rev. Cummings has performed in the many years that I have been acquainted with him. His years of hard work and gifted ministry has touched the lives of many people. While serving as the Director of Missions for the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, Rev. Cummings has exemplified concern, commitment, and compassion for those less fortunate. Having worked closely with him in my position as a Social Worker with Four County Community Services, Inc., I am familiar with his method of going the extra mile to meet the needs of people in the community. His philosophy is "Ministering to the Whole Man." Rev. Cummings understands that it is a waste of time and effort to talk to a person about his eternal destination when he is hungry and has no place to live. He therefore teaches the love of Jesus through his actions, and is a true witness for our Savior. While he is known far and wide for his inspiration and anointed preaching, he is also known by many of us, myself and my co-workers Rena Hunt and Debbie Lou Oxendine especially as a man who knows how to get things done. We have assisted him and he has assisted us in reaching the imme-

diately physical needs of the less fortunate in our community. He has served as an ambassador between the Burnt Swamp Association and the other agencies in this county and is known for his dedication to meeting the needs of those who cross his path in need. Rev. Cummings has the unique ability to reach out and help others as well as inspire and encourage them spiritually.
When I heard that he had been elected to the Presidency of the State Convention, my first thought was that he would do a marvelous job. He is capable and competent as an administrator and is an eloquent and inspirational speaker. My next thought, of course, was who would take over the community ministry that he and his wife, Quac Cummings, have performed so lovingly. Then I learned that he would continue in a dual capacity as director of missions and president of the convention. I was elated to hear that and am sure that he will adequately perform his responsibilities with integrity, honesty and compassion. I publicly commend Rev. Cummings for his advancement and will continue to pray for him as he accepts his new responsibilities as President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. We are proud of you, Rev. Cummings.
Sincerely yours,
Maddie Rae Locklear
Rena Hunt
Debbie Lou Oxendine

...From the Desk of the Superintendent by Dr. Barry Harding

I probably should've discussed the outstanding results we attained in End of the Grade Writing Tests for fourth and seventh grade students in last week's column. The reason I didn't certainly didn't reflect on the importance of those results. It, instead, had to do with the fact that we had over a thousand students scheduled to complete their public school education with ceremonies on Friday and I felt that that was a once in a lifetime happening that I wanted to acknowledge. Having done that, I can now take the opportunity to properly salute the over thirty five hundred elementary school students who came through with flying colors on the afore-mentioned tests.
The increase in writing scores for fourth graders not only improved by 14.1% over last year's scores, the scores were also higher than the scores in the 1996-97 school year which were actually higher than last year's scores. Among seventh graders, this year's scores indicated a continuing improvement over the past couple of years with this year's improvement being substantially higher than last year's. This year's scores were up by 13.4% over last year. Last year's scores were only up 4.8% over the 1996-97 school year. Especially noteworthy was the fact that we not only showed improvement over our scores of last year, we also closed the gap that exists between our scores and the region and state. Fourth grade scores, for example, moved from being 13.8% behind the rest of the region to only 3.3% behind and 15.6% behind the state only 5.0%. Seventh grade scores likewise showed significant improvement over last year. While seventh graders trailed the region last year by 8.8% and the state by 12.2%, this year's scores showed them to be only 4.5% behind the region and 6.7% behind the state.
These are improvements that we're extremely proud of as I'm certain everyone in the county is. It's important to understand that these improvements did not come about without a great deal of concerted effort. Teachers in those grades became more fa-

milar, through staff development, about the writing process and how new ways to teach their students could be instituted to obtain greater success. Those new ways varied from school to school as principals and teachers had the opportunity to select methods which they felt would work best for their students. One constant which contributed greatly to their success, though, was the use of practice prompts every nine weeks. By giving students a topic on which to write and then going over the results with them, students were able to get a better understanding of what was expected of them on the test. This proved to be very effective.
We have come a long way from just a few short years ago when our scores were a matter of great concern. Thanks, though, to the effort of dedicated teachers and principals, Central Office personnel and supportive parents, and, of course, students willing to learn, I feel that we've turned the corner and, although we still have much work to do, we are now on the road to becoming the kind of school system we know we can be and that everyone can be proud of.

Garth Locklear, Chairman of the Indian Honor Association will be paying tribute to the Indian Elders in the July 1, 1999 edition of the Carolina Indian Voice. The Indian Honor Association honors those Indian elders who have voted in the general election and have worked to ensure that all family members have voted.

Expecting A Delivery?

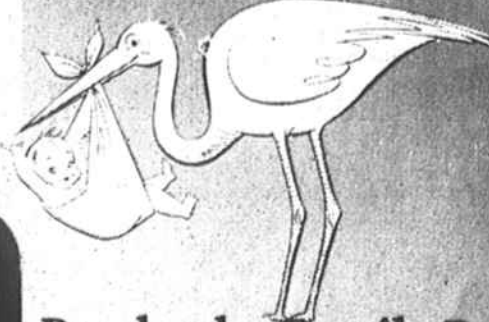
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