

House Is Symbol Of Historic Halifax

By RAY S. WILKINSON



One of North Carolina's most historic old buildings has been discovered in Halifax and after extensive research is scheduled for restoration this summer.

The building is one of the rare examples of early American architecture in North Carolina where in the gambrel roof was used.

This frame building boasts a number of beautifully paneled doors, original H-L hinges, wood paneling and enormous heart pine exposed beams in the cellar.

Restoration Seen

The structure has been recently purchased by the Historic Halifax Restoration association and with the aid of private donations and a grant from the state restoration work will begin soon.

The building in its present condition opened for visitation during the celebration of Halifax day April 12. On this date in 1776, Halifax was the site of the North Carolina Provincial Congress convention which declared independence of Great Britain in the Halifax Resolves. This was the first action taken officially by any of the 13 Colonies to declare independence.

A picture of the building has been preserved in the Library of Congress as an example of rare quality in early American architecture. Until recently the old building had been overlooked as an historic site.

Colonial Roots

Its obvious value came to light after the director of historic sites for the N. C. state department of archives and history, W. S. Tarlton, recognized its significance in a survey recently completed in the historic town.

J. C. Taylor, a local attorney, began a laborious search of the title and first hopes were soon

confirmed. The site had belonged at various times to a number of Colonial leaders and in its later history was used as a Confederate hospital in the Civil war.

The site was originally part of a 13-acre tract owned by Joseph Montefort in 1772. Montefort was the first and only grand master of the Masons in America.

His grave is located across the street from the building to be restored in the yard of America's first Masonic Lodge built for the purpose of holding Masonic meetings.

Who Built It?

In 1781 the site was sold to William R. Davie, former governor of North Carolina, Ambassador to France and Revolutionary general.

According to estimates made by the historic sites department of the N. C. state department of archives and history, the present building was built in the late 1770's or possibly the 1780's. No official record is available as to which one of the early owners actually built the present building.

The building became a doctor's home in 1809 when a transaction was recorded in the name of Dr.

Gavis Dean "A Virginia Doctor of Physic".

After a number of other transactions it came into the hands of George W. Owens in 1847.

After Owens' death in 1850 it went into the estate of Mrs. Owens. During this period it was used as a hospital by Confederate forces in the War Between the States.

Present Plans

Present plans of the Historic Halifax Restoration association are to restore the building, furnish in keeping with its day of glory, and open it to the public.

A gradual restoration of many old buildings has been taking place in this historical little community during the past four years.

The town which had until recently been by-passed by the surge of modern America was found to hold a treasure trove of historically important frame and brick buildings.

The town is unique in the fact that modern buildings have not replaced many of the original frame buildings, standing in Col-

onial times.

The rich history of Halifax has been recently made public information for the citizens of the nation by the restoration association.

Historical Town

It was the site of the signing of the first Declaration of Independence on April 12, 1776. It was a one-time home of John Paul Jones, visited by George Washington and Cornwallis.

Flora Macdonald pleaded for the freedom of her husband in this community after he was captured in an early battle of the Revolution as a Tory combatant.

The old "gale" in which the Tories, captured at the Revolutionary battle of Moore creek bridge, were incarcerated has been restored and is now a museum of Colonial history.

This year the celebration of Halifax day on April 12 officially kicks off the celebration of Halifax county's 200th anniversary. The full celebration of the Halifax county bi-centennial will be held in the second week of May.

Market Review

Hogs & Poultry Declines Noted

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a summary of market price information for the week ended April 4, 1958, as gathered and edited by the Market News Service of the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

Fryers and broilers declined one cent per pound over North Carolina during the week. Farm prices early last week were reported at 20 cents per pound. By the middle of the week, however, a general slowness in demand along with a decrease in prices at other nearby producing areas had brought about additional weakness on the local markets. Closing sales around the state were reported at 19 cents.

Closing prices for broilers in the North Georgia area ranged from 18 to 19 but most sales were at 19. Delmarva and the Shenandoah valley reported light sales at 19 to 20 on Friday but the bulk of the closing trade in these two areas were on prices to be determined later.

Heavy hens declined one to two cents per pound in North Carolina during the week. Increased offerings and a weaker demand accounted for the decline. Closing farm sales ranged from 21 to 24 cents per pound but most sales were at 22 to 23.

Eggs Down
Eggs dropped off 6 to 7 cents per dozen on the state's leading markets. Closing prices for clean, sized, minimum 80 per cent A

quality large were reported at 44 3/4 cents per dozen in Raleigh. Mediums brought 42 and smalls, 30. In Durham, large sizes were reported at 43; mediums at 40 to 41 and smalls at 30.

Hogs declined 25 to 50 cents at North Carolina's daily buying stations. Here again increased offerings and a weaker demand accounted for the decline.

Top hogs on Friday around the state were reported ranging from 20.75 to 21.75. This compares with tops of 21.25 to 22.00 a week earlier.

In Chicago, hogs were down from 15 to 35 cents per hundred and closing tops were reported at 21.50 to 21.75.

Cattle prices were fairly steady on the Greensboro cash market. Closing prices for good to choice steers ranged from 25.00 to 27.25 while medium to good grades brought 22.00 to 24.00.

Good to choice heifers ranged from 24.00 to 26.25 and medium to good from 22.00 to 23.00. Beef type cows were reported at 17.00 to 19.00; dairy type at 14.00 to 17.00 and bulls at 20.00 to 22.00.

Auction Prices for cattle were steady to stronger on the Rocky Mount and Greensboro markets. Good steers ranged from 23.50 to 27.50; good and choice heifers from 23.00 to 26.50 and good and choice vealers from 31.00 to 36.00.

MANY ACTIVITIES

Continued From Page One
This week has been rather a busy one, with a meeting of the official board of the Yaupon church in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Dixon.

As soon as these special activities are history, the pastor has announced further work on the clearing of the church lot, and location of the exact site of the building. Provision is being made for a full spring and summer program of recreation with youth and other activities for adults. Workers have been secured for this work, and full announcements will be made about the last of April.

A meeting recently with Conference Officials indicates that church building activities will get under way on the new church about the middle or latter part of the summer. Rev. Tom Collins, Church Extension Secretary, is to preach at Yaupon church on April 20. Bishop Paul Garber is to visit later in the summer.

FLAG PRESENTED

Continued From Page One
E. L. Vereen, chairman of the WOW Camp auditors and chairman of the Waccamaw school board.

The WOW camp has approximately 22 members.

LITERBUGS ARE

Continued From Page One
ing to be particularly hard on folks who throw beer cans and liquor bottles out of their car windows; and the first ones we catch in these violations are going to wind up in court."

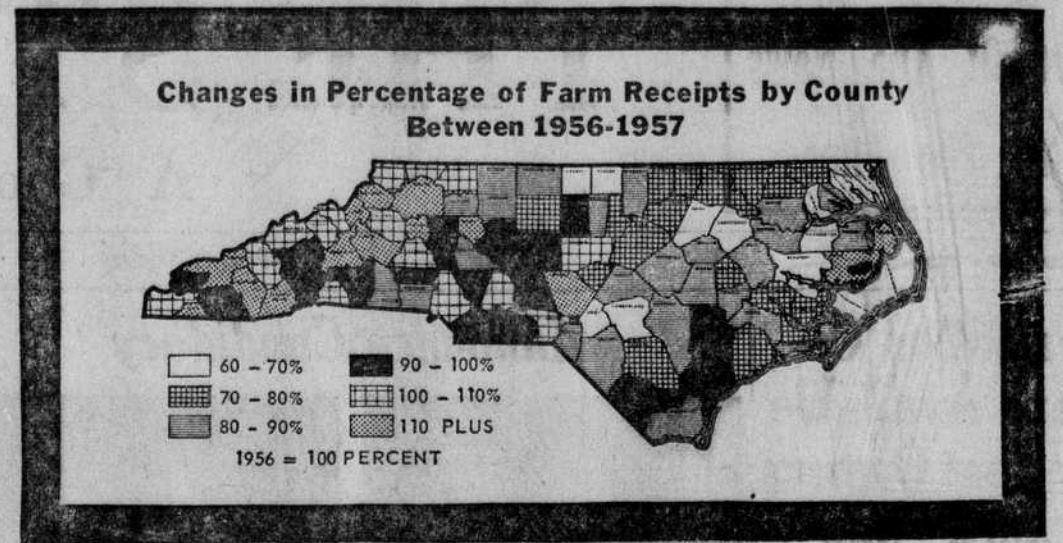
Commercial cows were reported at 18.00 to 22.25 and commercial bulls at 19.00 to 23.25.

Grains Steady

Shelled corn prices were generally steady on the state's leading markets. No. 2 yellow corn ranged from 1.50 to 1.52 per bushel in the eastern part of the state and from 1.55 to 1.56 in the Piedmont. No. 2 white corn was reported at 1.75 to 1.85. Soybeans were also steady with No. 2 yellows ranging from 2.15 to 2.16 at the close.

Wheat, oats and milo were unchanged. No. 2 red wheat brought 2.20 to 2.35 per bushel; No. 2 red oats, 99 to 95 cents; and No. 2 yellow milo, 2.40 to 2.55 per hundred pounds.

The price of cotton declined 2.50 to 2.75 per bale on the Charlotte market. Middling 1 1/32 inch averaged 35.66 at the close of the week. Strict low middling was reported at 31.41 and low middling at 25.61.



Losses Worry Governor

Urge 'Agri-Income' Study

Governor Luther H. Hodges has called attention to farm income losses from North Carolina's "Big Four" crops, and urged county agricultural, business and civic groups to study local situations with their county farm agents and other agricultural leaders and plan for higher returns from these crops and new sources of income for 1958.

The governor referred to a deficit of \$143,701,341 in farm income in the state last year, with heaviest losses coming from tobacco, cotton, corn and peanuts.

Earlier, the governor's Farm Advisory committee, headed by Dean D. W. Colvard of the North Carolina state college of agriculture, reviewed the income losses in 1957 from the four crops, and suggested that local county lead-

ers be alerted to opportunities available in 1958.

Irvin Enzor, Columbus county's area Farm Income contest winner is a member of this committee.

The governor said the picture was brightened by increases in livestock income and increases in government payments. Income from the latter was up \$14,300,000.

Poultry income was up \$12,000,000; hogs, \$9,000,000; eggs, \$8,000,000; fruits and vegetables, \$4,800,000; milk, \$4,300,000; and beef cattle, \$3,600,000.

Income from all livestock and poultry was \$37,438,000 higher than a year ago, leaving a deficit of \$143,701,341 in farm income

for the state.

The 1957 income figures, by counties, were obtained in a survey conducted by D. S. Weaver, director of the agricultural extension service.

Indicative of the jolt the lower income brought to farmers was the fact that the average loss in tobacco, alone, was more than \$1,025 per farm.

About 125,000 farmers grow tobacco in North Carolina. The Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont areas were hardest hit.

Reduced acreages of crops under control programs, extreme drought during the growing season, and unfavorable wet weather during harvesting were the major causes of the losses.

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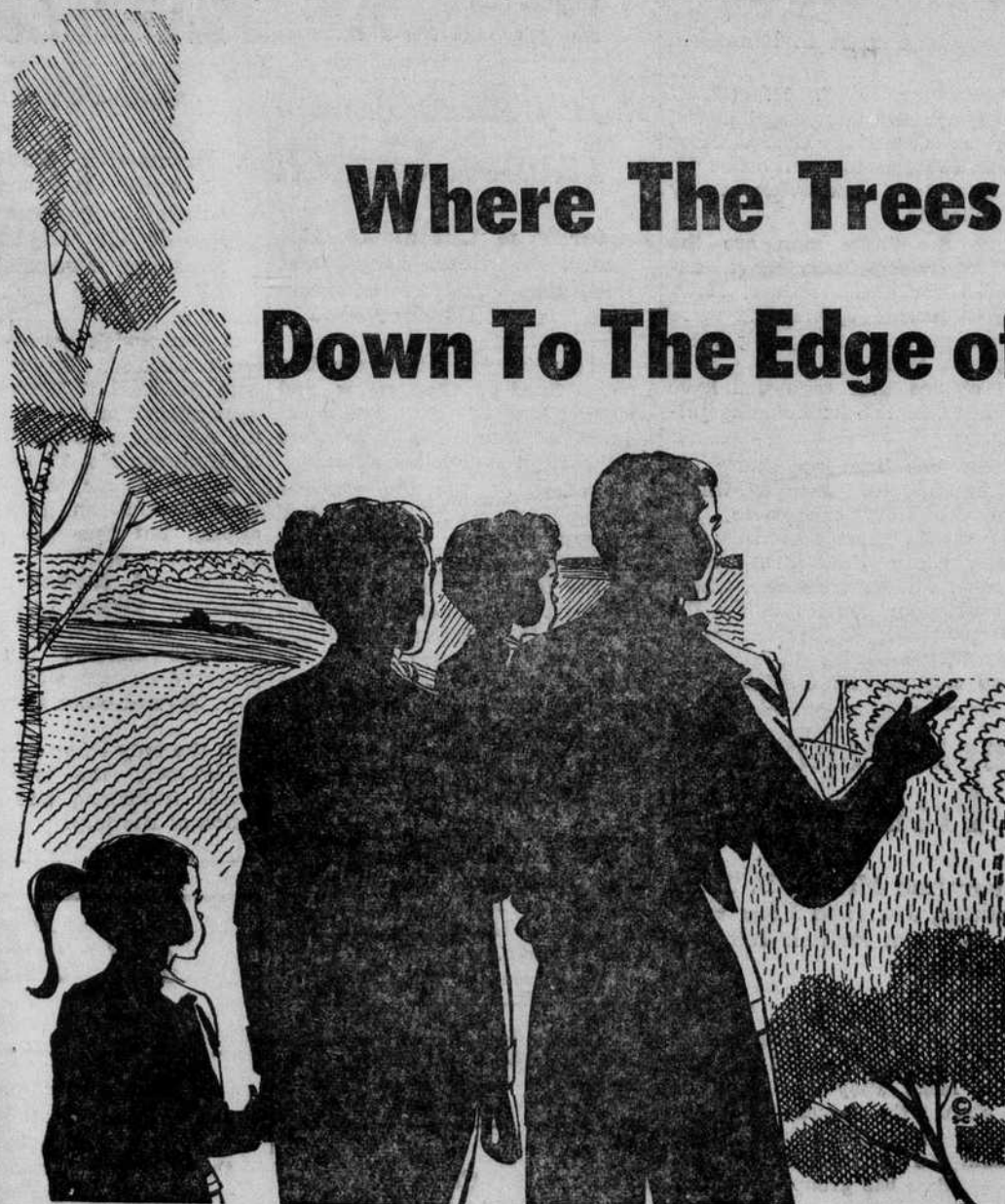
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