

The State Port Pilot

# NEIGHBORS

## By candlelight

### Luminaries will light the way for Saturday's tour of homes

Historic houses festooned in holiday finery will be featured in the Southport Candlelight Tour of Homes on Saturday, December 12.

Sponsored by Southport 2000, Inc., in conjunction with the

celebration of the city's Bicentennial, the tour will wind its way along the waterfront highlighted by more than 1,000 luminaries.

The tour will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$8 a person and

can be purchased from area merchants and at the Southport 2000, Inc., office.

There will be nine stops on the tour, including the Southport Maritime Museum at 116 N. Howe Street where complimentary wassail will be served throughout the evening.

The following homes will be featured on the tour:

•5 River Watch Lane. This new custom-built home is situated beneath a canopy of live oaks and offers a view of the Cape Fear River. Traditional design has been blended with contemporary convenience to create an example of gracious Southern living.

•413 East Bay Street (circa 1852-1860). Formerly the Fort Johnston hospital, this two-story home was moved to its present site in 1889. It later became the residence of Annie Mae Woodside, the first woman superintendent of schools in North Carolina. It is currently home to Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Fortney.

•301 East Bay Street (circa 1859). Originally the home of Thomas D. Meares, this dwelling was later converted into a resort hotel. Among the lively clientele were merchants and summer visitors including "Tony the Ghost", who still makes an occasional visit. Distinctive features include a deep brick basement, an "H" shaped floor plan and "secret tunnels" which still remain under the structure. The former Brunswick Inn is currently the residence of Barry and Stuart Callari.

•239 East Bay Street (circa 1800-1820). The imposing two-and-a-half story Walker-Pyke House with its clipped gable roof and three dormer windows is believed to be the oldest house in Southport. Prior to the turn of the century the first floor was remodeled. The home was



restored in the 1980s by its current owners, Dr. and Mrs. Sam Sue.

•114 West Bay Street. The No. 1 beacon on the mantel of the Doshier House once marked the entrance to the Intracoastal Waterway and attests to the salty heritage of this home. Tommy Doshier, whose grandmother owned the house, has renovated the structure with the help of his father and brother. A ship's bunk from a decommissioned liberty ship, a captain's wheel and propeller are all part of the nautical menagerie in this rustic Southport home.

•202 West Bay Street. This two-story structure at the corner of Lord and West Bay streets

was built in the mid-1930s for Rob Davis, a lawyer. The oversized foyer was originally used as a library. The hip roof and porch eaves display porch rafters in the bungalow style. The expansive porch is supported by clusters of posts articulated by block-like capitals.

•410 Brunswick Street (circa 1889). This Southport cottage allows an unobstructed view of one of Southport's most photographed scenes, the yacht basin. Formerly a Methodist parsonage, the house was moved to its present location in 1889, at which time a kitchen wing was added. The home is currently the residence of Eleanor Smith.

Also on the tour is the

Driftwood Shell Shop and Watts Charter Boats, located at the end of Bay Street at the yacht basin. Four generations of the Watts family have maintained this property which has served as a launching site for offshore fishing charters developed by Hulan Watts in 1933. A former fish house on the property was renovated and now serves as the shell shop, owned and operated by Watts' daughter, Dot Schmidt, and granddaughter, Kyra Ann Toler.

The Southport Maritime Museum, also on the tour, opened its doors this year and features a collection of memorabilia covering the vast nautical history of the lower Cape Fear area.



202 WEST BAY STREET



410 BRUNSWICK STREET



5 RIVER WATCH LANE



DRIFTWOOD SHELL SHOP



SOUTHPORT MARITIME MUSEUM



301 EAST BAY STREET



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413 EAST BAY STREET



239 EAST BAY STREET