

Cowan Museum To Be Dedicated In New Home Kelly-Farrior House

At home, at last. . . The Cowan collection in the renovated historical Kelly-Farrior House will be dedicated May 19 at 3 p.m.

The Cowan Museum-Kelly-Farrior House in Kenansville will hold dedication services this Sunday and the public is invited to view the artifacts and grounds. Located next to Liberty Hall on NC 24, the Cowan Museum reopened in its new location during March and since, more than 1,000 people have toured the historical house and seen the Cowan collection.

"We are very anxious to get the reaction of the local public," George Cowan, curator of the Cowan Museum said. "And, we are looking forward to relaxing, now that we have moved everything and have them (artifacts) about where they will remain. We've tried to arrange everything like it would have been in its natural environment."

The Cowan Museum first opened in July of 1981. Its home was the old Duplin County-Dorothy Wightman Library on Seminary Street in Kenansville. The original collection of artifacts was donated by George and Ila Cowan of Cedar Fork and consisted of 1,500 pieces. Since its donation, the collection has grown through donations by local citizens and additions made by the Cowans who act as curators for the museum.

The present home of the Cowan collection was donated to the county in 1982 by United Carolina Bank. The Kelly-Farrior House and property were purchased by the Kenansville UCB for future expansion. The house had been originally located next to UCB and was donated to the county to be moved from that site.

Deed to the Kelly-Farrior House was presented to the Cowans at a ceremony May 24, 1983. Later that

month the Kelly-Farrior House was moved by route of an old road behind Liberty Hall to a site in the Kenansville Municipal Park. Once in its present location, the Kelly-Farrior House underwent exterior and interior renovations to preserve the 1848 home and accommodate the Cowan collection. The renovations were completed at an estimated cost of \$100,000 -- funds which were raised through private donations.

In addition, plans for support buildings on the Museum grounds are underway. The donation of two log buildings for relocation on the Museum grounds have been used to house part of the Cowan collection. The log buildings and a restored 10-foot tall cart used to build the foundation of the Washington Monument are located behind the Kelly-Farrior House. The cart was moved on the Museum grounds during December of 1984 and the

two log buildings followed in January of this year.

As the home of the Cowan collection, the 137-year-old Kelly-Farrior House was wired with electricity and equipped with a plumbing system for its first time.

The Kelly-Farrior House is listed on the National Historic Register and is one of the earliest Greek revival style homes built in Kenansville. The house, originally built for John J. Kelly, is thought to have been constructed by Thomas Sheppard, a native of Onslow County. Sheppard is credited with construction of the Isaac Kelly Home and Liberty Hall, both Kenansville houses listed on the National Historic Register.

The restoration of the house was completed to accommodate museum artifacts and at the same time be a historical part of the collection, pointed out Duplin Agricultural Extension Service Director Lois Britt, who acts as county coordinator for the Cowan Museum. The restoration lends a special emphasis to the interior construction which used pegs and hand-hews support beams of carpenters of more than 100 years ago.



Cowan Museum Kelly-Farrior House Holds Dedication Services Sunday

Wallace Tabernacle Of Prayer For All People

There will be a Bible drama presented at Wallace Tabernacle of Prayer for All People. The drama was written and arranged by Alfair

Brinson. It is entitled "Christian Conversation, Part III." The cast includes members of Rainbow Baptist Church and others. An added attraction is "Heaven Help the

Home."

The public is invited to attend at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 11. See you there.

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