## Living Living Today

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## Save This House

By ELIZABETH STEWART

Womans Editor

A local society for preservation of heritage is gearing up in Kings Mountain to try to save the 1896 Victorian three-story Baker residence on North Piedmont Ave. from

being demolished and establish a historical landmark to house a museum and restaurant.

The home of Dr. Bob Baker is situated in the path of the proposed U. S. 74 Bypass of Kings Mountain and May 15th is the deadline date the

state department of transportation has given the Kings Mountain dentist to vacate the premises and move to his newly-acquired residence on West Mountain St., the former home of Jonas and Doris

Spurred by history buffs Liz (Mrs. Haywood E.) Lynch and Sarah Frances (Mrs. David) Faunce, eight local women held an organizational meeting last Wednesday evening to form a corporation called Victorian House. Ltd. and the papers were being drawn up by Attorney Bob Bradley this week. Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Faunce were named the trustess for the results of the least the second of the seco tees for the new venture and Charles Hamilton was asked to serve as treasurer for funds to be deposited

at First Citizens Bank & Trust Co. Widen House Movers of Concord have agreed to move the large Victorian mansion to a downtown location for cost of \$40,000, said Mrs.

The women's volunteer group was meeting again yesterday morning to begin calling on local industry and interested citizens to seek donations for Victorian House 1896, and "hopefully", according to Mrs.
Lynch, "raise the necessary funds to
pay the movers."
Meanwhile, Mrs. Lynch is con-

tacting local property owners this week in an effort to obtain property in the downtown area to relocate the

"Citizens will be asked to donate a one-time-only gift, which of course, is tax-deductible," explained Mrs. Lynch, who envisions that once the house is moved that the corporation would be eligible for grants and from help from such agencies as Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. Baker, who was born and reared in the house built by his grandfather, the late Philip Sylvanus Baker, has "mixed emotions" about moving from the residence and would like to see the home preserved for historical reasons. Timber for the sprawling mansion was hand-picked and cut in the Patterson Grove community. The beautiful hardwood floors, exquisite mantelpieces and chandeliers, and the elaborate construction would be an elegant setting for entertaining 10 or hundreds.

The house has six bedrooms, a winding stairway, balconies off the

second floor, and a full attic which has a beautiful cathedral ceiling. A formal living room, foyer and entrance hall, formal dining room, den, master bedroom, kitchen and trophy room-library is on the first The mantlepieces in all the first floor rooms are conversation pieces with intricate design. The rooms are all wallpapered and the elegant 18th Century furnishings of the late Dr. and Mrs. Luther P. Baker enhance the residence. Bob Baker, his brothers, Philip, Tom, Dick, of Rock Hill, S. C., and sister, Peggy Baker Fulford of Knoxville, Tenn., were all reared in the house.

There are five spacious bedrooms on the second floor and the third floor houses an assortment of memorabilia handed down through many generations of Bakers, including old-timey baby carriages

and family keepsakes.

Bob Baker's grandfather operated a textile plant at Crowder's Mountain when he built the house in 1896 for his family of five children. He also operated the Lula Mill, named for his wife. Philip Sylvanus Baker died in the Panic or depression of 1908.

Bob's father, the late Dr. L. P. Baker, started practicing dentistry here in 1907 and was a dentist for 57 years before his death in 1967. His sons were also reared in the business and continue the practice today. Mrs. Baker died in 1976.

Bob Baker plans to move most of the elegant furnishings into his new house, except for several bedroom suites which will go into other family members' homes. The former Jonas Bridges home is also a large house and Bob plans to use as much as possible the Victorian house furnishings.

Can this old house be moved and

saved for posterity?
Only 11 days remain to moving day for Bob Baker.

Working against a deadline, local women say they are getting some good response from initial contacts,

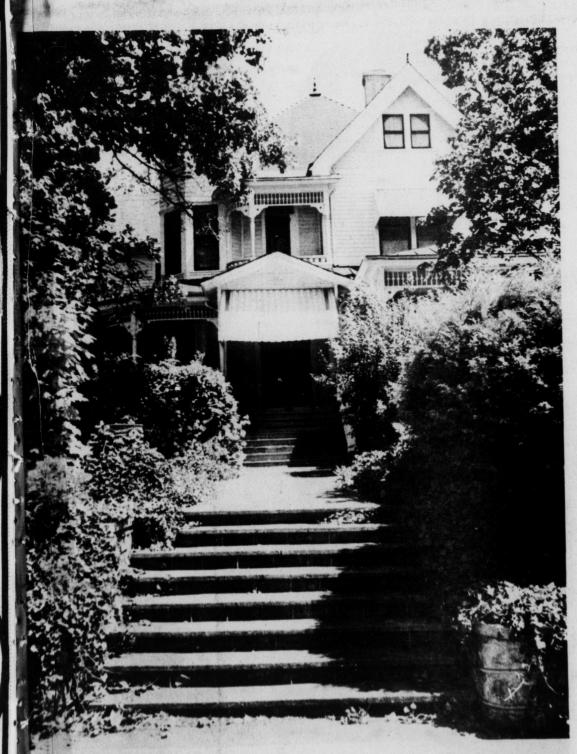
some discouragement from others. Victorian House, Ltd. would be a Kings Mountain museum-showplace and headquarters for meetings, conventions, etc. with a high class restaurant to be opened at some future time, promoters envision.

Bob Baker hopes this "dream"

will be a reality.



Photos By Tom McIntyre



TOTORIAN BAKER HOME - The beautiful Vicrian home of Dr. Bob Baker is situated in the path of e U. S. 74 By-Pass of Kings Mountain, Local history ffs this week established a society for preservation of

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heritage to raise funds to move the residence for housing at some future time of a museum and restaurant.



STEERING COMMITTEE - Mrs. Haywood E. Lynch, left, Mrs. Tommy (Beth) Baker, and Dr. Bob Baker, right, discuss formation of Victorian House, Ltd.

of which Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. David Faunce (not pictured) will serve as trusteees.