

Victorian Mansion Built In 1896

Living Today

SECTION B

Save This House

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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 Bridges.

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 floor. The mantelpieces 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, Phillip, 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, Phillip 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.

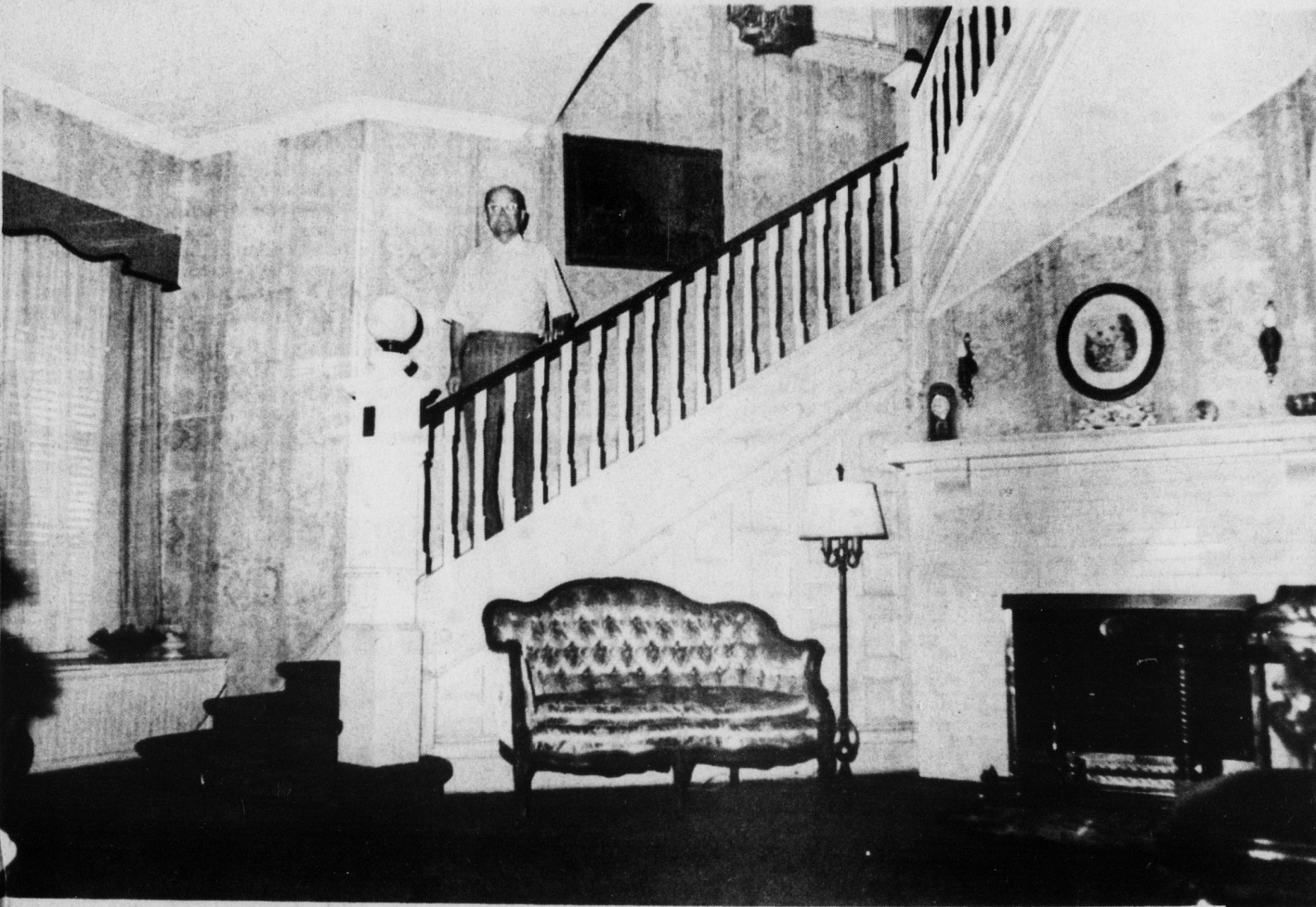
Can this old house be moved and saved for posterity?

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.



VICTORIAN DECOR The three-story home of Dr. Bob Baker, pictured on stairway, was built by Dr. Baker's grandfather, P. S. Baker, in 1896. The home is beautifully furnished in the Victorian motif.

Photos By Tom McIntyre



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

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 trustees.