



Photo by Tom McIntyre

AN HISTORICAL SURVEY—Carol Perrin of the North Carolina Department of History and Archives, is shown here conducting a survey on the Dr. Bob Baker home on N. Piedmont as part of her historical structure

search in Kings Mountain. The Baker house is the only structure of Queen Anne Victorian architecture in the community and as such, according to Ms. Perrin, should be saved from demolition by the State Highway Department.

*May Be Doomed For Destruction*

**Home Only One Of Its Kind**

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The most prominent 19th century architecture of quality in Kings Mountain may be doomed to destruction unless someone suddenly appears to save it.

The structure is the homeplace of Dr. Bob Baker on N. Piedmont Ave. The structure is listed with the Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History as a Queen Anne Victorian - and is the only one of the type in Kings Mountain.

The structure is due to be bulldozed under a N.C. State Highway Department contract because it is situated on the direct route of the new Hwy. 74 bypass. Initial construction has already begun on the bypass route off Hwy. 74 west of the city.

Michael Southern, western N.C. representative of the historic preservation section, said at this point the highway commission has washed its hands of the matter and the salvation or destruction of the structure is now between Dr. Baker and the general construction contractor.

"The home was originally scheduled to have been off the property last spring," Southern said. "But a group of interested citizens from Kings Mountain managed to get at least two extensions from the highway department. However, both extension deadlines have come and gone without someone being found willing

to put up the funds to remove the house to a safe site."

Southern said it is possible for the structure to be moved almost intact to another site. He said the overhangs and porches would probably be removed, then replaced once the house is relocated.

"The problem now is time," he said. "It is critical. The only salvation as I can see at this point is for some individual with a pocketful of money to suddenly appear on the scene. The house is practically free to that person. The expense comes in moving it. The number of obstacles and distance the house would encounter could cost between \$40,000-\$80,000. The greatest obstacles are power lines and trees."

Southern said he has talked with the Historic Preservation Fund of N.C. concerning saving the structure, but reports that at this time the group has its hands filled with similar projects.

Interest in saving the structure began fresh within the past couple of weeks while the historic preservation section representative, Carol

Perrin, conducted her survey on historical structures in Kings Mountain. The city contracted for the survey on a matching funds grant offered by the Division of Archives and History.

"Our department tries to review all highway department plans in they involve construction through communities," Southern said. "We have to determine what impact the plans will have on the historic environment. We may not be able to do anything in the Baker case, but through the grant surveys, such as Carol is conducting in Kings Mountain, we will be able to prevent such waste in the future. I'm glad Kings Mountain and many communities across the state have seen fit to take advantage of this program."

The Queen Anne Victorian architecture was very popular with the middle class during the 1800s and at the turn of the century. Most communities across the state had several homes of that style, but through natural attrition the

majority of these structures are gone now.

Southern said statewide the archives division has fought a continual fight to impress on communities the importance of preserving such structures.

"In the past couple of years the fight has begun to pay off," he said. "More and more communities are realizing they have valuable resources in these old structures. They not only add beauty, but cultural depth to the community."

"Aiding this fight is the fact of economic realities today," he continued. "It is less costly to restore these old homes than it is to build new ones. Couple this with the growing negative reaction to the bland architecture of today and you will find that more and more our historical structures are going to be preserved."

Interest in saving the Baker home will continue, but time is fighting back. The bulldozers are warming up and anyway now may just plow under a piece of the precious past.

**Thieves Hit Western Auto**

Early-morning thieves ripped off Western Auto Store Monday and inventorying was continuing yesterday afternoon to determine the value of the large quantity of merchandise stolen.

City Police Patrolman Harry Martin discovered the glass door broken on lower level of the store and upon investigation found that intruders had completely demolished the three doors which led to the upper level of the store.

Odus Smith, owner and operator of the firm, said that a number of television sets, watches, necklaces, a large quantity of guns and rifles, CB radios and equipment, including scanners and miscellaneous items. Mr. Smith said that both sections of the store were vandalized and heavily damaged.

Assisting in the investigation are city officers Robert Dodge and Ptl. Julius Burton.

**Studying Bible In The Back Yard**

A Back-Yard Bible Club has been underway in Kings Mountain at Pine Manor Apartments and others are scheduled at other apartment complexes in the city this summer.

Miss Vickie Hardin of Bessemer City, religious education major at Gardner Webb College and summer employe of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, said the classes are held from 9:30 until 11 a.m. mornings and that approximately 20-25 children participated during the recent visit of her Bible Mobile.

Miss Hardin said she parks her automobile in a shaded area of the apartment complexes, sits her books

on the car and invites students to participate in Bible stories, prayer, singing and fellowship. She also has been serving light refreshments.

She said that in some instances, many of the children she teaches are not active in Sunday School and the church.

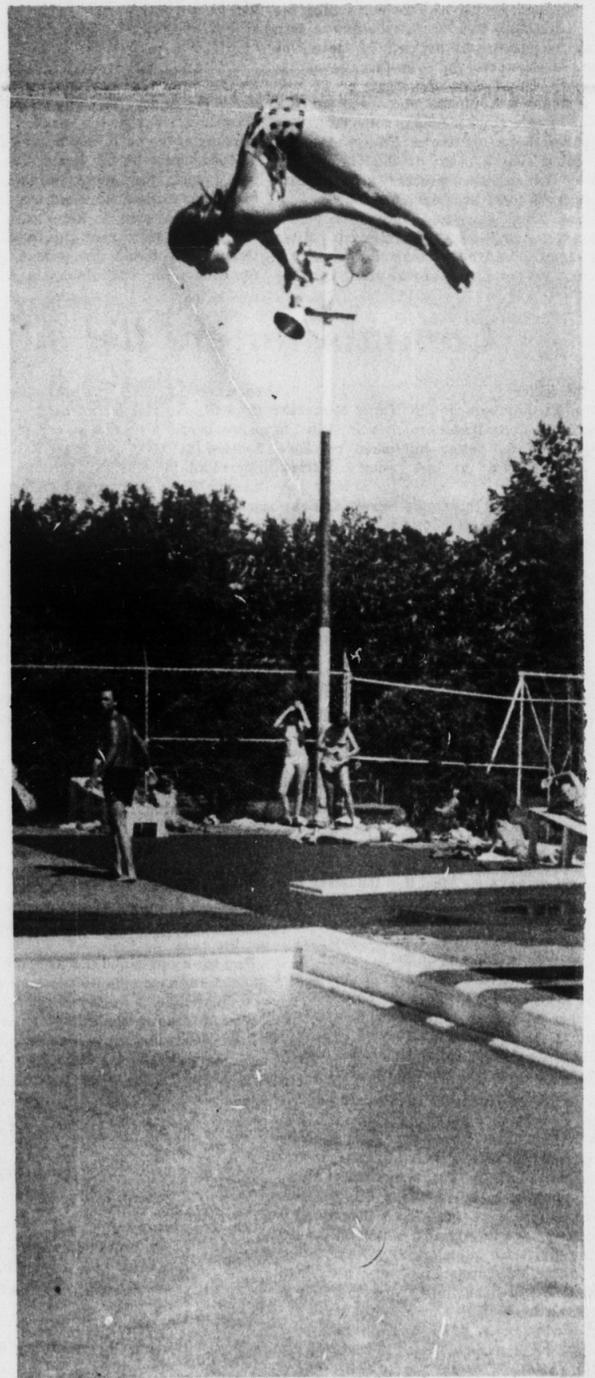
"This is our way of telling them about God and giving them some religious atmosphere", she said.

Kings Mountain Baptist Association sponsors similar programs all over the county. It is the third year the program has been in operation.



Photos by Gary Stewart

SUMMER FUN—The two photos above show youngsters cooling off in the swimming pool at Deal Street Park. The park pool is open from 1-6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 2-6 p.m. Sundays throughout the hot summer months.



**C Of C To Meet**

A general membership meeting of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce is scheduled Mon., June 25 at 7:30 a.m. at Kings Mountain Motor Inn.

The breakfast meeting will be hosted by several local companies and an official with Duke Power Co. will speak.

**Golden Reunion**

The Golden Anniversary reunion of the Class of 1929 of Kings Mountain High School will be held Wed., June 20th, at 6 p.m. at Kings Mountain Motor Inn.

All class members are encouraged to attend.