

Angela Birchett

From: J. Pyle [pyb@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2006 12:16 PM
To: grfarrjr@aol.com
Cc: angela.birchett@ncmail.net
Subject: Farrell House

Mr. Farrell--

Thank you for your telephone call yesterday about your grandfather's house at Farrington Pt. and Lystra Roads. I visited the location and talked with Wayne yesterday. I am not expert in moving or even in a detailed assessment, but the house appears to me to be worth preserving, one way or another. I did not go inside, but Wayne described floors, beadboard, and plastered walls. We walked around the house, and I could observe the condition of some of the sills, the porch, balustrade, siding, and soffits.

I mentioned to you over the telephone the non-profit corporation, Preservation North Carolina, whose mission is to protect and promote buildings, sites, and landscapes important to the diverse heritage of North Carolina. Lynn Cowan is their director for the piedmont region, and her relevant contact information is telephone 336-228-6644 or e-mail lcowan@presnc.org. Their Web site is www.PreservationNC.org, where you could see examples of structures they help market and learn more about what they do. I would encourage you to look over the Web site and consult with Lynn.

Time may be an important factor to you. I would hope that you could arrange for a visit from someone who knows about historical construction. I cannot tell you that this house has great historical significance and should be saved at all costs; it probably does not. If you can sell it or give it to someone to move, the cost of moving should not be so high as it would be with a two-story house. We have the names of several developers who are looking for a historical house to put on a residential subdivision.

Deconstruction, or the careful taking apart of a building to salvage usable historical materials, is another option, and my guess is that there is a considerable amount of such material. We can give you the name of at least one person who does this kind of work.

The last resort -- demolition -- is costly, and if I am correct in identifying abestos shingles, that might be considerable.

If I can be of further help, please call. The Chatham County Historical Association would like to receive any historical information you have about the building, old photographs if you still have some in the family, and permission to photograph the building for our archives. I am using my personal e-mail address in the interest of time; the Association address is history@chathamhistory.org. My telephone, as you know, is 542-3603.

--Jane Pyle, Chatham County Historical Association