

**Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House Landmark Report**  
**304 South Central Avenue**  
**Belmont, Gaston County, North Carolina**

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## Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House Local Landmark Report

### 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Lewis House

Current Name: Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House

### 2. Location

Street Address: 304 South Central Avenue

Planning Jurisdiction: Belmont

Parcel ID#: 225361

### 3. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)

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## **Abstract**

The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House<sup>1</sup> is being proposed for local landmark designation to recognize its historical significance in Belmont and Gaston County, North Carolina. The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House stands as a remarkable example of a Tudor Revival-style dwelling associated with the Stowe family. The property is being proposed for local landmark designation so that the building's material integrity can be maintained through the design review process administered by the Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission. The proposed landmark designation applies only to the building's exterior.

## **Narrative and Architectural Description**

### Setting

The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is located at 304 South Central Avenue in Belmont, Southpoint Township, Gaston County, North Carolina (Figure 1-3). Situated on the west side of South Central Avenue, the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is located across from the terminus of Keener Boulevard. South Central Avenue is one of the major thoroughfares in Belmont that runs north-south and links US Highway 29-74 at the north end of town to the southernmost point of the peninsula. This corridor contains a number of dwellings that date from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century, most notably including the Samuel Pinckney Stowe House (also known as Stowe Manor) and the James W. and Zada Rankin Stowe House.

The property is accessed by a driveway off of South Central Avenue and is bounded by a vacant lot to the north, South Central Avenue and mid-century housing to the east, single-family homes to the south, and a wooded lot and more single-family houses to the west. The lot is 1.98 acres, and the house is set back from the road by about 150 feet. Along with the house, the lot also has an original Tudor Revival-style garage.

The spacious lot on which the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is located features a circular concrete driveway that leads from South Central Avenue to the garage located 40 feet west of the house. Additional access to the house is possible from a gravel sidewalk that leads from South Central Avenue to the front door and a concrete sidewalk off the driveway. The parcel's grassy lawn is manicured and mature trees, such as Magnolias and other tree types, act as a barrier for the house on all sides. Landscaping surrounds the immediate perimeter of the house and includes a variety of bushes and flowers. Additional landscaping features around the house include the large flagstone patio that runs along the primary and north elevations. The flagstone patio connects with the elevated patio on the rear (west) elevation, which is faced with brick and has a plain metal balustrade, which was added around 2000. In addition, an inground pool with a metal fence is situated at the western edge of the lot and was also built around 2000.

The parcel identification number for the property is 225361. The value of the property on which the building is located is \$78,820, and the value of the building is \$566,380. The Charles T. and Beatrice

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<sup>1</sup> The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is identified as the Lewis House in the Belmont Historic District National Register Nomination form. After conducting research and an interview with the son of Charles T. Stowe, it was determined the house was not associated with the Lewis family. Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe purchased the house and property from Robert and Vera Jackson in 1937. Therefore, the house is now identified and referred to as the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House.

Chafin Stowe House is a contributing historic resource to the Belmont Historic District, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

### Exterior

The highly intact Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is a sprawling two-story Tudor Revival dwelling with a number of character-defining features typical of the style (Plates 1-9). The house has a complex form with a two-story main block, single-story wing off the south elevation, and a porte-cochere off the north elevation. The house is characterized by a complex roofline with multiple steep gables, including two projecting gables and a shed roof dormer on the primary elevation. The rear (west) elevation includes an additional gable.

The house is constructed of light frame and is faced with brick laid in a running bond on the first story. Brick is also used decoratively throughout the first story as header sills for the windows in addition to the two rounded arch openings on the front porch and the three segmental arch openings on the north porte-cochere. Brick is also used on the two substantial chimneys, one of which is located on the façade between the main block and south wing and the other is an interior chimney between the main block and porte-cochere. The second-story gables throughout the house feature decorative half-timbering with a wavy vergeboard and oversized, scrolled brackets. The two façade gables project slightly over the first story and have additional decorative brackets between the two stories. All of the various roof sections are clad with multi-color clay tile added in 2019.

The sprawling primary elevation features the two projecting gables. The north projecting gable forms a front porch with two arched openings on the east and north elevations. There are two single-leaf, segmental arch doorways tucked beneath the porch. The main front door is situated on the west wall of the porch and is composed of a cross-buck surmounted by nine lights. The other door is located on the south wall of the porch and is protected by a wood storm door with glazing above a wire panel. An additional feature on the primary elevation is the shed roof wall dormer on the south elevation of the gabled projection. The windows throughout the primary elevation are metal casements with multi-pane glazing.

The south elevation is dominated by two additional gables with wavy vergeboard. The gables are clad with wavy weatherboard siding with oversized decorative brackets that match the primary elevation. This elevation also features three original metal casement windows on the first story, along with the exposed basement windows.

The rear (west) elevation has an asymmetrical gable that is flush with the first story and its materials match those of the primary elevation. The only elevation to undergo a major change, the rear elevation had a single-story gabled sunroom attached to the first story of the gable. This was removed around 2000, at the same time the concrete and brick patio and pool were added. The rear elevation has an additional single-leaf front door composed of a single, raised panel surmounted by nine square lights.

The main feature of the north elevation is the porte-cochere with its segmental arches on the north, east, and west elevation. A glazed, single-leaf door with a wood storm door that leads into the living room of the dwelling is protected by the porte-cochere. In addition, a set of modern French doors surmounted by a transom is situated in the west bay and was added around 2000.

The house also shares the parcel with an original garage, which matches the materials of the house (Plates 10-11). The one-and-one-half-story garage has a front gable with a double-bay opening. The

gable is adorned with plaster and decorative half-timbering, in addition to a six-over-six, double-hung wood sash window. Additional six-over-six windows are located on the north and south elevation, along with exposed rafter tails. The wood doors to the garage are double-leaf and swing outwards. The building is capped by a clay tile roof that replaced asphalt shingles in 2019.

### Interior

Much like the exterior, the interior of the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is highly intact with much of its original materials still in place (Plates 12-26). The first floor is composed of three different living spaces, two bathrooms, a study, a kitchen with a butler's pantry, and a dining room. The front door opens into a main living room with an additional seating room connected in the northwest corner. A single-leaf door on the south wall leads into the hallway where the staircase is located, along with the other single-leaf doors into the bathrooms, two additional living spaces, and the kitchen and dining rooms. The staircase leads to the second-floor landing and hall, which allows access to the three bedrooms and two bathrooms on the level, all of which have slanted ceilings.

A few additions and alterations have taken place within the house. For example, the dining room was formerly a bedroom, but the interior walls were cut away 2001 to form a half wall dividing the dining space from the kitchen. In addition, a half bathroom was added on the first floor, along with a full bathroom on the second floor for modern convenience.<sup>2</sup>

Despite these few alterations, the house retains many of its original interior features. The floors throughout most of the house are the original heart pine and the walls are textured plaster. The doors, door surrounds, and baseboards on the second floor are all chestnut. The only rooms that differ from this are the bathrooms, which are composed of black and ivory basket weave tile floors with tile knee walls surmounted by plaster, and the balance of the kitchen area's floor is dark walnut. Another original feature throughout the house is the original wood trim. This thick, fluted trim embraces nearly all the windows and doors throughout the house. The rooms on the first floor are also outfitted with thick baseboards, and the two main living areas upon entry to the house have crown moulding. The doors throughout the house are single leaf with a batten pattern and original metal hardware. There are two examples of uncased arched openings on the first and second stories, in addition to two arched doorways in the main living area.

Two more important interior features of the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House are the staircase and the fireplaces. The centrally located, open staircase has a straight flight of stairs. The staircase is composed of an open stringer with a simple square newel post and balustrade. Also important to the character of the house are the four fireplaces, located in the main living area, the study, first floor bedroom, and the master bedroom on the second floor. The main living area has a fireplace with stone face and brick hearth. The mantel is composed of shelf with brackets and has a foliated design beneath the shelf. The fireplace in the study has a flagstone face and hearth. Wood paneling makes up the remainder of the surround. The fireplace in the master bedroom is situated in the northeast corner of the room. It has a granite face and hearth with a simple surround with molded trim and a shelf.

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<sup>2</sup> All alterations followed the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines and Standards for Rehabilitation.

## **Integrity Statement**

The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House retains a very high level of material integrity and ranks high on the evaluation of its integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, association, and location. The building remains on its original site and has not been moved since its construction between 1932 and 1935. In addition, the setting remains intact in terms of its proximity to downtown Belmont and the other Stowe family houses, despite the construction of single-story dwellings near the property. The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House also retains a high level of integrity with regard to design, materials, and workmanship. The house possesses characteristic features of the Tudor Revival style, including its steeply pitched, multiple-gable form; decorative half-timbering in the gables; original metal casement windows with multi-pane glazing; and rounded arch front door. Not only are the exterior materials still intact, but so too are the interior materials, including the doors and window trim, heart pine floors, plaster walls, and fireplaces. Overall, the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House, despite no longer having an association with the Stowe family, has a strong feeling of the Tudor Revival style and its initial construction between 1932 and 1935.

## **Statement of Significance**

The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House possesses significance on the local level within Belmont and Gaston County, North Carolina. Built between 1932 and 1935, the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House stands as an excellent example of Tudor Revival-style architecture that rises above other examples of the style in Belmont. The house's sprawling, steep, multi-gable plan set into a designed landscape creates a picturesque scene. The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House's character-defining features also include original, multi-light metal casement windows; decorative half-timbering in the gables; two large, prominent chimneys; and brick wall cladding. Overall, the house reflects the wealth and prosperity brought about by the textile industry within Belmont.

The Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is associated with its namesake, the Stowe family. Although Charles T. Stowe passed away at a young age, he was able to make his own lasting mark on the textile industry in Belmont. Stowe is recognized as having saved the Belmont Hosiery Mills, Inc., which was established in 1928 by R. L. Stowe, Jr. Unsuccessful in its early years and hindered by the Great Depression, Belmont Hosiery was struggling before Stowe took over management in 1930. As a result of his efforts, the mill expanded and tripled its floorspace in 1934, and also expanded into the women's and children's markets. Stowe was able to set up Belmont Hosiery for a successful continuation after his death, and remained in the family until his son, Charles T. Stowe, Jr., sold the firm in 1998.

## **Historical Background Narrative and Architectural Context**

### Formation of Gaston County & Belmont

Prior to European settlement, the area that is now Gaston County was occupied by various Native American tribes, including the Catawba. In the mid-eighteenth century, Scotch-Irish and German migrants from Pennsylvania traveled along the Great Wagon Road. Increasing numbers of European settlers throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries resulted in the formation of Gaston County in 1846 (Corbitt 1950: 103).

Prior to the development of the textile industry following the Civil War, Gaston County was primarily agricultural with small, self-sufficient farms (Alexander 1996: 8-3). The development of market towns and large-scale agriculture was impeded due to poor soils and limited river access, but this would change with the introduction of the railroad in the mid-nineteenth century. Although the area had its limitations, Gaston County was well-suited for cotton manufacturing because of its numerous, fast moving rivers and streams for operating water powered mills (Alexander 1996: 8-3). Textiles were the first major industry in Gaston County, and the construction of Mountain Island Mill in 1848 began a long and storied history that continued for over 150 years (Ragan 2001: 15). Woodlawn Mill was formed by Moses H. Rhyne and Caleb, Laban, and Lewis Lineberger in 1850 or early 1851. The following mills were built in Gaston County during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century: Mount Holly Mills (1874), Spencer Mountain (1874), McAden Mills (1883), Cherryville Manufacturing Company (1891), Stanley Creek Cotton Mills (1892), Trenton Cotton Mills (1893), Ozark Mills (1899), and Chronicle Cotton Mills (1901) (*The Gastonia Gazette* 1971). These mills were able to thrive, despite the lack of railroad transportation. The aforementioned mills put Gaston County in fourth place in textile production in North Carolina during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Alexander 1996: 8-3).

Railroad construction improved across the North Carolina, especially after the conclusion of the Civil War. Although a section of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad ran through Gaston County prior to the Civil War, Belmont received its first rail line in 1870 when the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline constructed a line north from Atlanta to Charlotte (Alexander 1996: 8-4). Belmont was chosen as a fueling station and railroad bridge across the Catawba River. The construction of the new rail facilities was supervised by John Garibaldi, an Italian immigrant and supervising engineer for the Mecklenburg County Iron Works of Charlotte. As a result, the rail stop became known as Garibaldi or Garibaldi's Station and began to emerge as a leading town in Gaston County. In 1873, the leg from Charlotte to Spartanburg was operational and passed through Garibaldi or Garibaldi's Station (Alexander 1996: 8-4).

In 1876, a Catholic mission opened and assisted in the persuasion of changing the city's name. Because a man by the name of Giuseppe Garibaldi had been an important figure in taking control of Rome from the Pope, Father Leo Haid, leader of the abbey, proposed the town be renamed St. Mary's. However, locals suggested Belmont, meaning "below the mountains" and the name was officially adopted in 1886 (Martin 2002: 8-6).

Throughout the late nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century, textile mills continued to be established in abundance. By 1902, 300 mills had been constructed within 100 miles of Charlotte, thus making the area home to more than one-half of the looms and spindles in the south (Martin 2002: 8-6). Belmont was slow to establish a textile industry, as evidenced by it being the only municipality in Gaston County without a textile mill in 1900 with a mere population of 145. With the textile industry about to explode, the Stowe family was integral to Belmont's involvement in the textile industry.

### The Stowe Family

The Stowe family has a deep and rooted history within Gaston County and the Belmont community. Brothers Samuel P. Stowe, the father of Charles T. Stowe, and Robert L. Stowe entered into the textile industry in 1899 when they were approached by R. Pinckney Rankin, George Gray, and John F. Love to invest in their Gastonia spinning mill, known as Ozark Mills (Alexander 1996: 8-7). Ozark Mills was extremely successful and the Stowes' investment tripled in value. By 1901, the Stowe brothers

began raising local capital to build a mill in Belmont. Together the Stowe brothers, Rankin, Gray, and Love formed steam-operated Chronicle Mills, which was active by 1902 (Martin 2002: 8-7). The Stowes were aggressive in adopting innovations and expanding operations. Chronicle Mills initially produced carded yarns, but shortly after its start converted to the finer combed yarns, and in 1908, was expanded from 5,000 to 10,000 spindles (Alexander 2002: 8-8). By 1915, the team of the Stowe brothers, Lineberger, and Rhyne constructed a fourth and fifth mill, known as the National and Climax Spinning Company, and constructed an office building at the corner of Catawba and Main streets (Alexander 2002: 8-9).

The 1920s led to continued progress on the textile industry front. The Stowes and Linbergers established two additional mills, Sterling Spinning Company and Crescent Spinning. By the early 1920s, 12 textile mills had been established and by the end of the decade, other mills or textile processing plants had been established including Belmont Processing, Belmont Fabric Company, Stowe Thread Company, Belmont Hosiery Mills, Hatch Full-Fashioned Hosiery, and Knit Products Corporation (Alexander 2002: 8-10). Although the 1920s were filled with prosperity for the Belmont community and for textile production, the Great Depression brought about hardship, causing mills to operate on shortened schedules or shut down completely. One of the Stowe family operations, the Belmont Hosiery Mill, came close to failure but was saved by a young Charles T. Stowe, son of Samuel P. Stowe.

#### Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe

Charles Theodore Stowe was born on November 24, 1904 to parents Samuel P. and Mary Crawford Stowe (Ancestry 2007). Samuel P. Stowe, a Belmont native, was prominent and well-known in the Belmont community and worked with his brother, Robert L. Stowe, for many years to build up the textile industry. Samuel P. Stowe had a hand in a number of operations including Majestic Manufacturing Co., Climax Spinning Co., the Stowe Spinning Co., Belmont Converting Co., Sterling Spinning Co., Stowe Thread Co., Belmont Hosiery Mills, Belmont Knitting Co., Eagle Yarn Mills, and the Bank of Belmont (*The Charlotte Observer* 1956: 1). Samuel P. Stowe's success and involvement undoubtedly set up his son for a career in the textile industry.

Charles T. Stowe's mother was Mary Crawford, who grew up in McConnellsville, South Carolina. Stowe lost his mother at the age of four, as she succumbed to pneumonia on February 27, 1907, just 10 days after she gave birth to another son, Crawford (*The Gastonia Gazette* 1907: 3). According to the US Census, both Charles T. Stowe and his father were living with Mary Crawford Stowe's mother, Marian, in Belmont in 1910 (US Census 1910). In 1915, Stowe's father remarried to Ethel Patrick and by 1920, the family included Samuel P. Stowe, Ethel, Charles T., son Samuel P. Jr., and daughter Elizabeth (North Carolina County Register of Deeds 2015; US Census 1920).

After an education at McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Charles T. Stowe attended Davidson College (*The Charlotte Observer* 1945: 18; Ragan 2001: 252). Stowe was in the Class of 1928, but he did not finish because he decided to go to work for his father (Charles T. Stowe, Jr., Personal Communication, October 26, 2020).

On November 24, 1929, Charles T. Stowe married Beatrice Chafin of Washington, Georgia (*The Charlotte Observer* 1929: 7). Born Jeanne Beatrice Chafin to parents James B. and Mary Lavinia Chafin on November 24, 1906, she more commonly went by Beatrice. Beatrice Chafin Stowe attended George State College for Women to pursue a degree in teaching and graduated in 1924 (*The Atlanta*



*Constitution* 1924: 5C). By 1928, she was a teacher in Belmont in the local school (*The Charlotte Observer* 1928).

After their marriage in 1929, the newlywed Stowes moved into a house on Catawba Street in Belmont (US Census 1930). Comparing the census data with newspaper articles in the first half of the 1930s, it appears that the Tudor Revival-style house at 304 South Central Avenue was built and occupied sometime between 1932 and 1935 (*The Charlotte Observer* 1932: 17; US Census 1940). According to the Stowes' son, Charles T. Stowe, Jr., the family purchased the land from Robert and Vera Jackson (Charles T. Stowe, Jr., Personal Communication, October 26, 2020).<sup>3</sup> The house was constructed near other Stowe family houses, including the Renaissance Revival Samuel Pinckney Stowe House (known as Stowe Manor) and the Colonial Revival James W. and Zelda Rankin Stowe House, which were constructed in 1922 and 1913, respectively. According to the 1940 census, the family was living in the house at 304 South Central Avenue and had been in 1935 (US Census 1940). Living with the Stowes were their two children, Marian and Charles Jr., along with two African American servants named Robbie Williams and Divia Duff (US Census 1940).

Although the career of Charles T. Stowe was cut short by an early death, he left an important and mark on the textile industry of Belmont. In 1930, Stowe was tasked with running the Belmont Hosiery Mills, Inc., which had been established in 1928 by R. L. Stowe, Jr. (Ragan 2001: 252). The purpose of the mill was to convert cotton yarn into hosiery, which required garters until rivaling companies began to make elastic-top socks (*The Charlotte Observer* 1928: 3; Martin 2002: 8-9). The company was not successful in its early years and the Great Depression further stymied any chance at success. As secretary-treasurer and operator of the plant, Stowe had his work cut out for him to salvage Belmont Hosiery. Stowe did so by correcting operational and sales issues (Ragan 2001: 252; Martin 2002: 8-9). By 1934, the mill was expanded and tripled the plant's floorspace and taking in raw goods from other mills for finishing (Martin 2002: 8-9). Under Stowe's management, Belmont Hosiery also expanded into the women's and children's markets. The company would later manufacture seamless nylon hosiery starting in the mid-1940s after the completion of the new Belmont Hosiery Mill building (Ragan 2001: 252; Martin 2002: 8-9, 8-10).

Apart from his involvement with the Belmont Hosiery, Stowe was also vice president of the Sterling Spinning Company and a director of the Bank of Belmont and the Climax Spinning Company (*The Charlotte Observer* 1945: 18). Stowe was also an active member of the community and was a member of the board of deacons of the First Presbyterian Church, Belmont Kiwanis Club, and the Gaston Country Club (*The Charlotte Observer* 1945: 18).

Charles T. Stowe died unexpectedly on December 28, 1945 and left behind his wife Beatrice and two children, ages nine and seven (*The Charlotte Observer* 1945: 18). According to city directory records, Beatrice and her children continued to live in the house after the death of Charles T. Stowe (Hill Directory Company 1941, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1963). In addition, Stowe left his estate to his wife and two children in equal portions (*The Charlotte Observer* 1946: 9). Beatrice Chafin Stowe lived in the house until her death in 1974 (*The Gastonia Gazette* 1974: 1).

Charles T. Stowe's father, Samuel P. Stowe, was charged with the responsibility of the various mills that his son was overseeing (Ragan 2001: 252). Upon Charles T. Stowe, Jr.'s graduation from Davidson

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<sup>3</sup> The Stowes purchased the house and property from Robert and Vera Jackson in 1937. Gaston County Deed Book 342, Page 132. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Gaston County Courthouse, Gastonia, North Carolina.

College in 1958, he became involved with his grandfather in the operation of Belmont Hosiery and soon became manager (Ragan 2001: 252; Charles T. Stowe, Jr., Personal Communication, October 26, 2020). The Belmont Heritage Corporation was formed in 1972 as a holding company for all of the mills owned by the Stowe family, which included Belmont Hosiery. Charles T. Stowe, Jr. was elected vice president and director of the Belmont Heritage Corporation, but in the 1980s, took the hosiery assets and reformed Belmont Hosiery Mills, Inc. He continued to own and operate the mill until 1998, when he sold the firm to Chipman-Union, Inc. of Union Point, Georgia. Just three years later Chipman-Union shut down the plant completely (Ragan 2001: 253).

#### Ownership After the Stowe Family (1978-1997)

In 1978, the property was sold to Eric C. and Barbara B. Presley by Charles T. Stowe, Jr. and his wife, Sara, and Marian Stowe Rhyne and her husband, Jonathan (GCRD 1978 1244:108). The Gadd family purchased the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House in 1997 and held ownership until 2006 (GCRD 1997 2654:724). Several minor changes were made to the property during this time, including the removal of the sunroom on the back of the house, the construction of the back porch, and installation of the pool in the backyard. The Gadds sold the house to Robert A. and Katherine C. Presley in 2006 but purchased the house again in 2016 (GCRD 1997 4269:1323; GCRD 2016 4871:1140). The Gadds are the current owners and residents of the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House.

#### Architectural Context

The Tudor Revival style grew in popularity nationally between 1890 and 1940 and is adapted from late Medieval and early Renaissance English prototypes (McAlester 2015: 454). The Tudor Revival style is characterized by a steeply pitched rooflines; brick facades with one or more front-facing gables; tall, narrow windows; massive chimneys; a front door and/or entry porch with round or Tudor arch; and decorative half-timbering.

The Tudor style of architecture was developed around 1485 with Henry VII and ended with the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. The style was an answer to the Gothic movement as nobility no longer felt the need to reside in fortified, stone castles, but rather cozy oak-paneled dwellings (Johnston 2008: 4-15). In the nineteenth century, the rise of Romanticism and a renewed interest in craftsmanship led to the Tudor Revival style. The movement was encouraged by British architects such as Phillip S. Webb, C.F.A. Voysey, M.H. Baillie Scott, and Sir Edwin Lutyens (McAlester 2015: 454). The Tudor Revival style was carried over to the United States when London publisher B.T. Batsford produced a number of books containing photographs, measured drawings, and drawings of old English homes. This trend was furthered in 1911 when *The Domestic Architecture of England During the Tudor Period* by Thomas Garner and Arthur Stratton was published in the U.S. (McAlester 2015: 454).

The Tudor Revival became a favorite stylistic favorite for newly wealthy Americans as it suggested ancestral ties with England (Johnston 2008: 4-17). The style was meant to conjure up associations of aristocracy, wealth, and country living. Over time, less ornate versions of the style became popular through pattern books, builders' guides, and mail order catalogs.

Four Tudor Revival houses in Belmont make good comparisons to the Stowe House even though they pale in comparison to the grandeur and architectural design of the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House. Notable contributing Tudor Revival-style houses include 201 North Central Avenue, 302 North Central Avenue, and 303 North Central Avenue (Plates 27-29). In addition, 124 North Central Avenue is also an example of a Tudor Revival dwelling (Plate 30). These houses no longer

retain the highest level of material integrity. For example, 201 North Central Avenue has vinyl siding and replacement windows. Only one of these four houses retains its original windows, the one being 303 North Central Avenue. Overall, the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House is an outstanding and highly intact example of the Tudor Revival style.

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**Communications with Jason L. Harpe, Public Historian**

- 1) Charles T. Stowe III, son of Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe, October 26, 2020. Personal communication.
- 2) Douglas and Nancy Gadd, Current homeowners of the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House, June 10, 2020. Personal communication.

## Maps

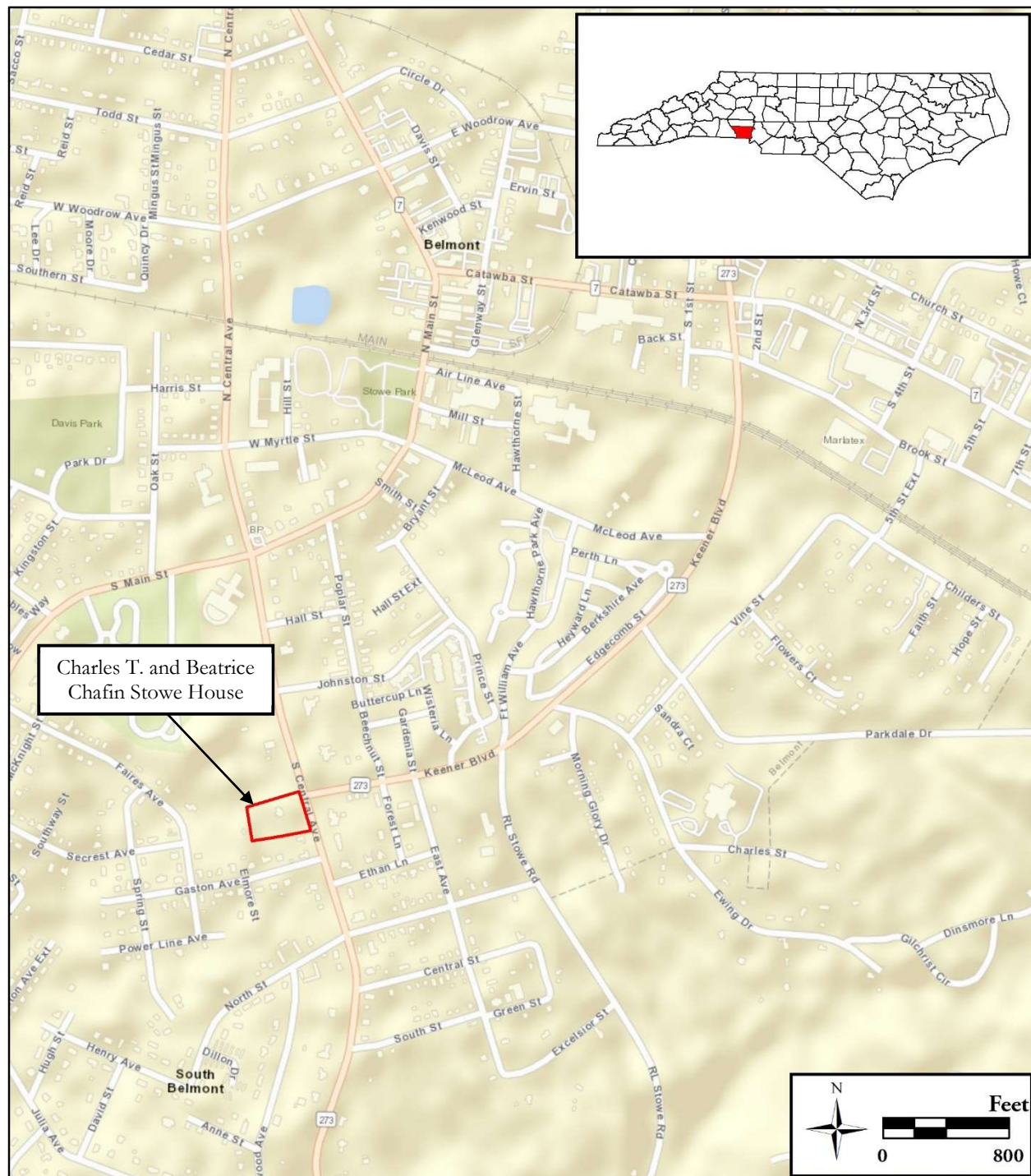


Figure 1: Street map showing the location of the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House (World Street Map, ESRI 2020).



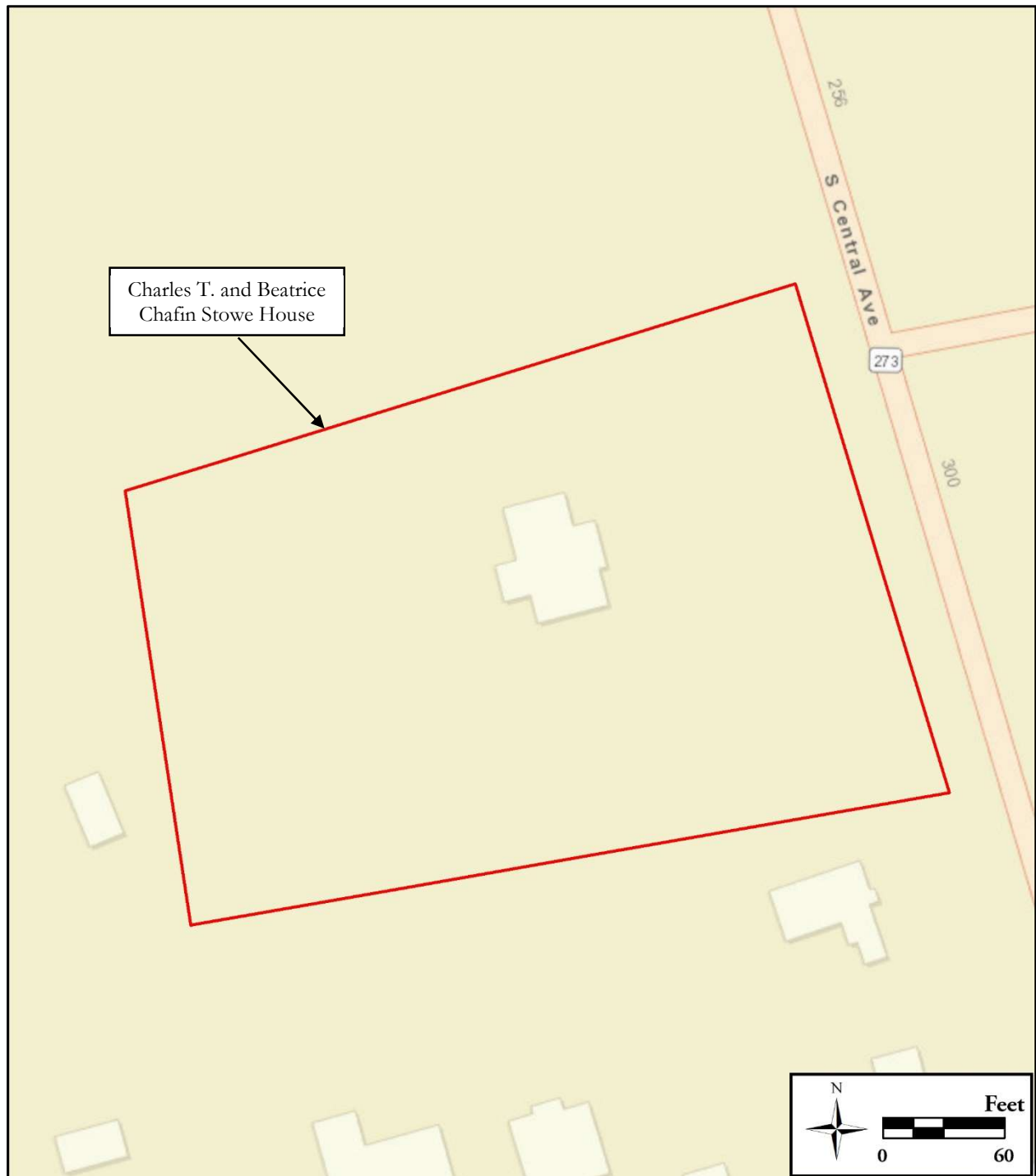


Figure 2: Street map showing the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House parcel (World Street Map, ESRI 2020).





Figure 3: Aerial photograph showing the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House parcel (World Imagery, ESRI 2020).



## Photographs



Plate 1: View of the Charles T. and Beatrice Chafin Stowe House from North Central Avenue.



Plate 2: Primary elevation.





Plate 3: North elevation.



Plate 4: Rear elevation and porch.





Plate 5: Rear elevation and porch.



Plate 6: South elevation.





Plate 7: South and primary elevations with garage in the left side of the photo.

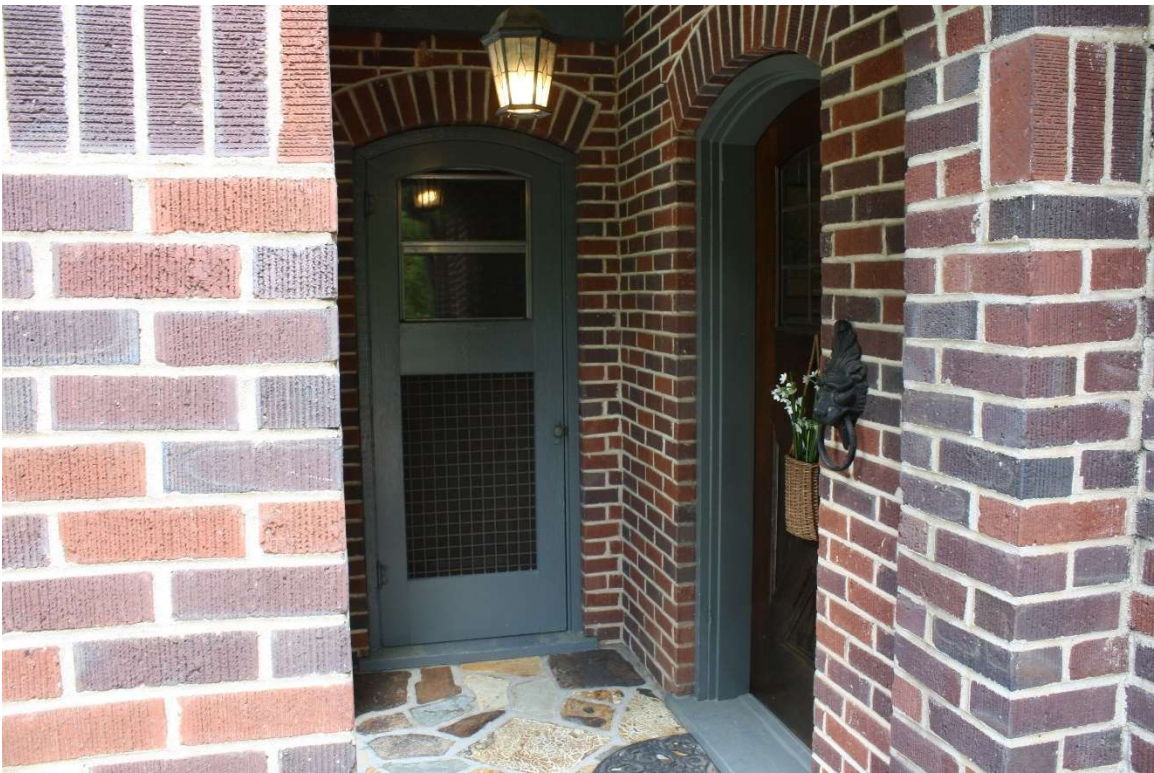


Plate 8: Detail of the primary entry porch with two single-leaf doors.



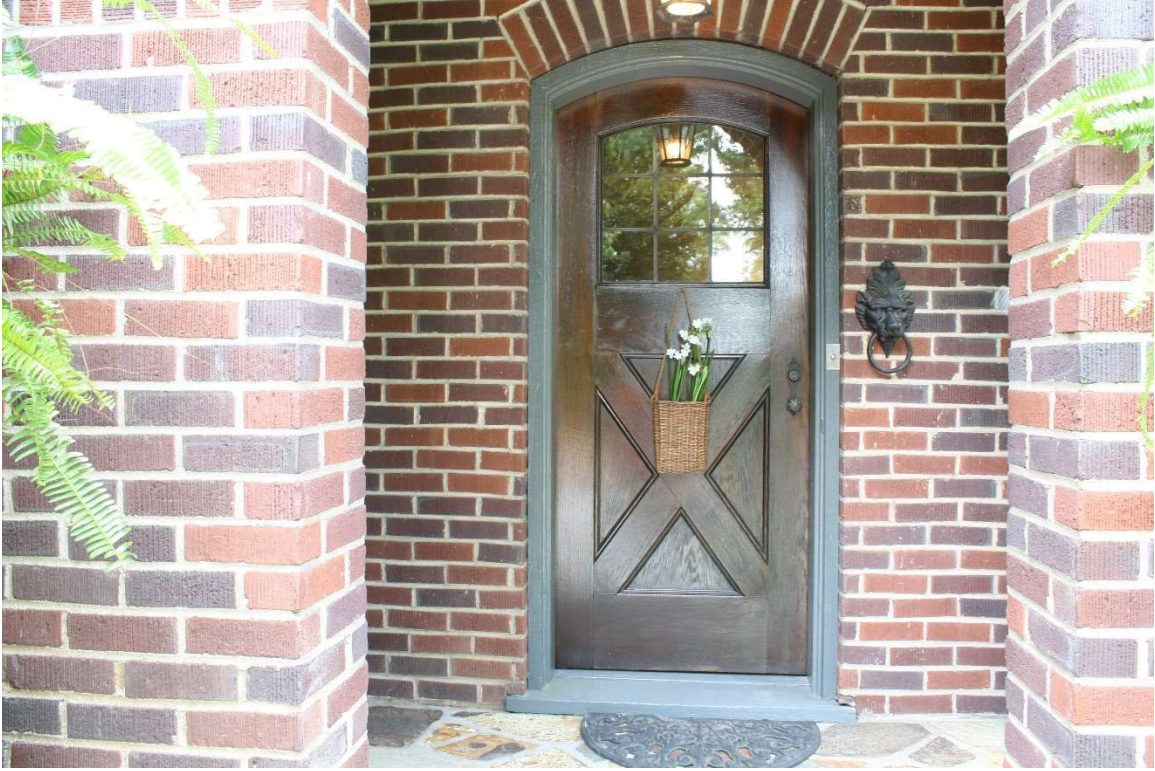


Plate 9: Detail of the front door on the primary elevation.



Plate 10: Primary and north elevations of the original garage.





Plate 11: View of the north elevation of the original garage.



Plate 12: View of the first floor living room looking northwest.





Plate 13: View of the first floor living room looking southeast.



Plate 14: Detail of the first floor living room fireplace.





Plate 15: View of the first-floor sitting room looking west.

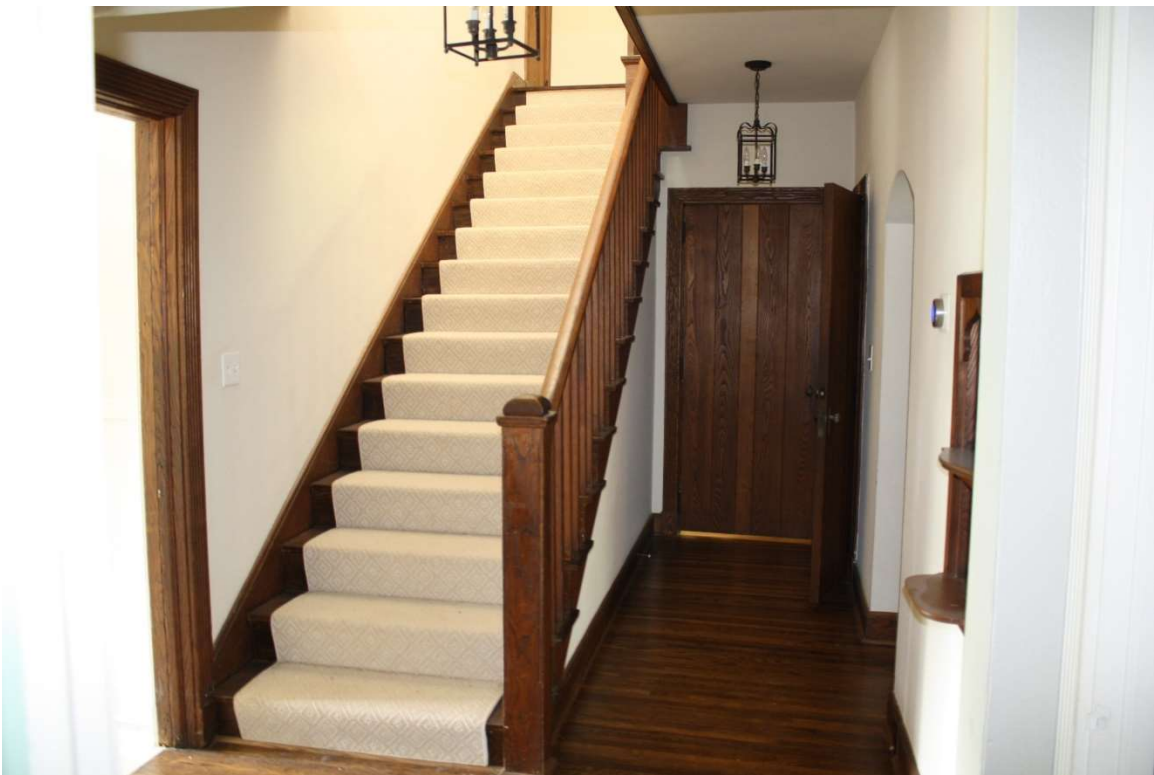


Plate 16: View of the hallway looking north.



Plate 17: View from first floor looking up to the second-floor landing.



Plate 18: View of the study looking southwest.





Plate 19: View of the kitchen looking north.



Plate 20: View of the dining room (former bedroom) from the kitchen looking south.



Plate 21: View of the second-floor landing looking south.

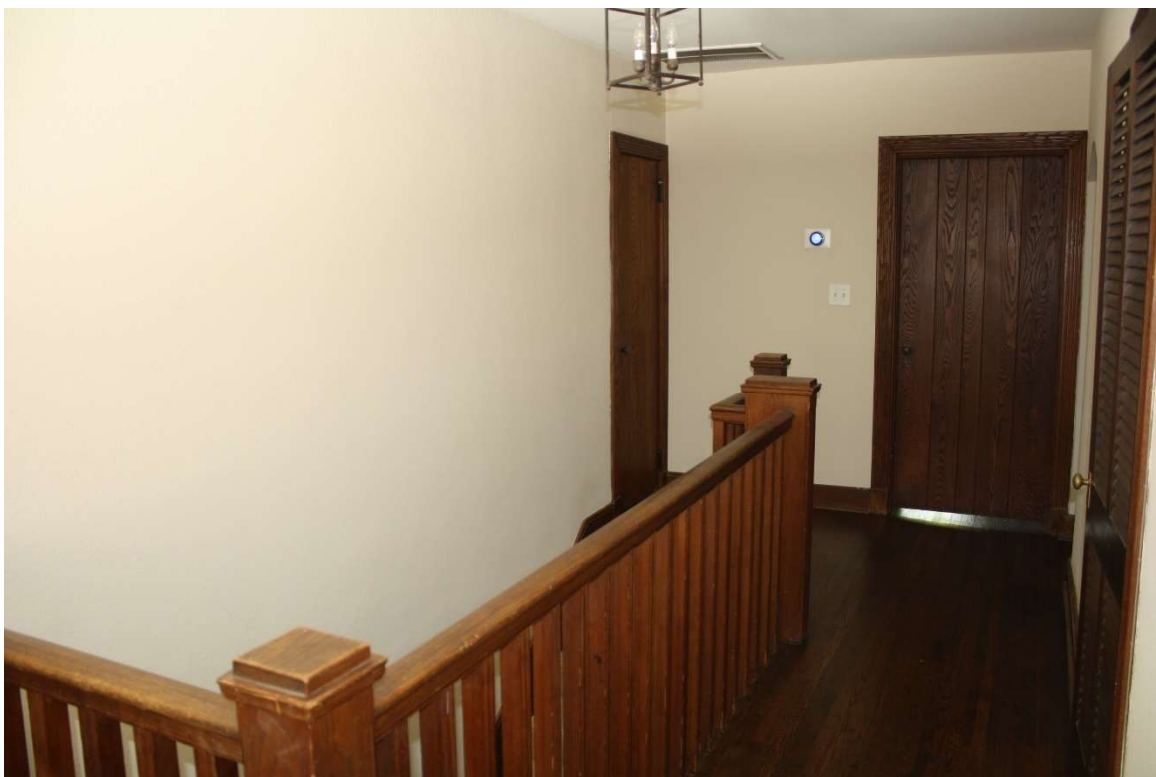


Plate 22: View of the second-floor landing looking north.



Plate 23: View of the main bedroom on the second floor with its fireplace looking north.



Plate 24: View of the main bedroom on the second floor looking west.





Plate 25: View of second floor bedroom looking east.



Plate 26: View of second floor bathroom looking east.





Plate 27: View of 201 North Central Avenue.



Plate 28: View of 302 North Central Avenue.





Plate 29: View of 303 North Central Avenue.



Plate 30: View of 124 North Central Avenue.