

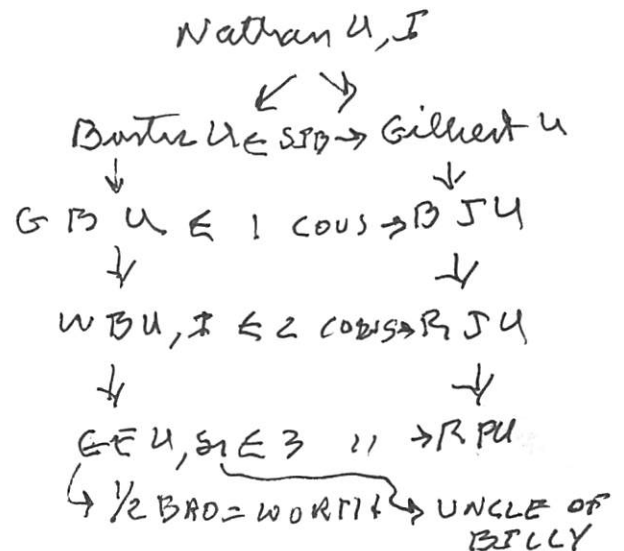
GEORGE EUGENE U, SR HOME - CARY, WAKE CO., NC

① JUN 20, 2013 Word began to reach RPU that the Capital Area Preservation entity is currently moving the GEU, SR across the street and into preservation mode. The photo below taken from the Internet on 24 JUN 2013 shows the house in transition. I commenced ongoing discussion about this project. More detail may be found in the file for CAP, reports ANDREW KENNEY, and other with GEU, SR



NOTE: ① As of 15 JUL 2013. Reporter Andrew Kenney is sympathetic of me writing an article for his newspaper when the dedication of the GEU, SR home takes place. see Profile of AK.

② my CARY, NC CITY HALL CONTACT = PHILIP SMITH



CaryNews.com

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Antique house goes nomadic in western Cary

Published: June 18, 2013



Virginia Wilkinson, bottom left, gathers with friends and neighbors to watch her family home cross the road.

AKENNEY@NEWSOBSERVER.COM — ANDREW KENNEY Buy Photo

By Andrew Kenney akenney@newsobserver.com

CARY — A century-old house trundled across Waldo Road Boulevard on 34 wheels last week, looking for refuge as construction crews set upon the family farm it left behind.

It was slow going for the old Victorian and the big red Mack truck through the heat. The entourage paused every few minutes, allowing men to hunker beneath the building and clear the path.

"What happened? It got stuck where you always did, cutting the grass?" Virginia Wilkinson, 65, asked a teenage neighbor.

She grew up in this house, formerly west of Cary, where her family raised tobacco, livestock and poultry.

The building with the A-shaped roof and the wraparound porch is a neighborhood icon, unmistakable

etween legions of stick-built homes and townhouses. After all those years, friends and neighbors found it a bit surreal to see the 3,000-square-foot house on the move.

"I was here before Wellsley, before Upchurch Farms. I remember driving past here and seeing the lights on," said Jesse Hooks, the neighborhood kid who used to cut the grass.

Lynn McCrary and his men had worked for weeks to lift the house, first digging tunnels, then sliding supports under the house and raising it with four 50-ton jacks.

The move would be only a few hundred yards, to a neighboring lot – but every move's a sweat for McCrary, whose family has been moving buildings for more than a century.

"I do a lot of praying," the mover said, taking a break from the cab of his truck. "Every day."

A rich history

Back in 1958, the Wilkinsons were the neighborhood newcomers, freshly moved from their rented farm a few miles south.

The family of six had picked a big first purchase, about 150 acres in all.

The place already had plenty of local history. George Upchurch had broken ground some 70 years earlier, then built the house up and out over the decades, bringing the twin brick chimneys inside and adding a new wing.

His brother, Rufus, set up just down the road around the same time, both buying land from their parents. The Upchurch brothers owned about 195 acres between the two of them, much of it dedicated to bright leaf tobacco.

Virginia Wilkinson and her family continued that business when they took over. But the tides of a changing society gradually slowed the farm. Virginia left her parents' place in the 1960s, never to return.

"I wasn't going to be a farmer's wife," said Wilkinson, now a Realtor.

Her mother, Reba, stayed on the land until 2005 – but all those acres were slowly sold off to developers, until the George Upchurch House was left by its lonesome on 16 acres near Davis Drive Elementary.

Rufus Upchurch's house already had been moved around the corner.

Preserving a rural past

It took about two hours to move the old building across the street and settle it onto its new spot – half an hour shorter than anyone had expected.

Until last year, the Wilkinsons hadn't expected the family homestead to survive at all. Termites would get the best of it, or it would be demolished when they sold the land, they figured.

A meeting at Town Hall changed that. The Cary planning and zoning board asked last year what would become of the structure, and suggested that developer StanPac try to preserve it, according to board member Brent Miller.

Town planner Philip Smith coordinated a plan: StanPac would donate the house, plus the 1.4-acre sliver of land at 1024 Waldo Road Boulevard. Capital Area Preservation would move the house, take possession of the land and establish legal documents preserving both.

The town of Cary is loaning up to \$99,000 to support the project; CAP will repay the debt upon sale of the land.

And whoever buys the place will own one of the last rural pieces of a fast-changing area.

...s history," said McCrary, the house mover. "You keep pushing them over, there ain't gonna be nothing left."

Kenney: 919-460-2608 or twitter.com/KenneyOnCary

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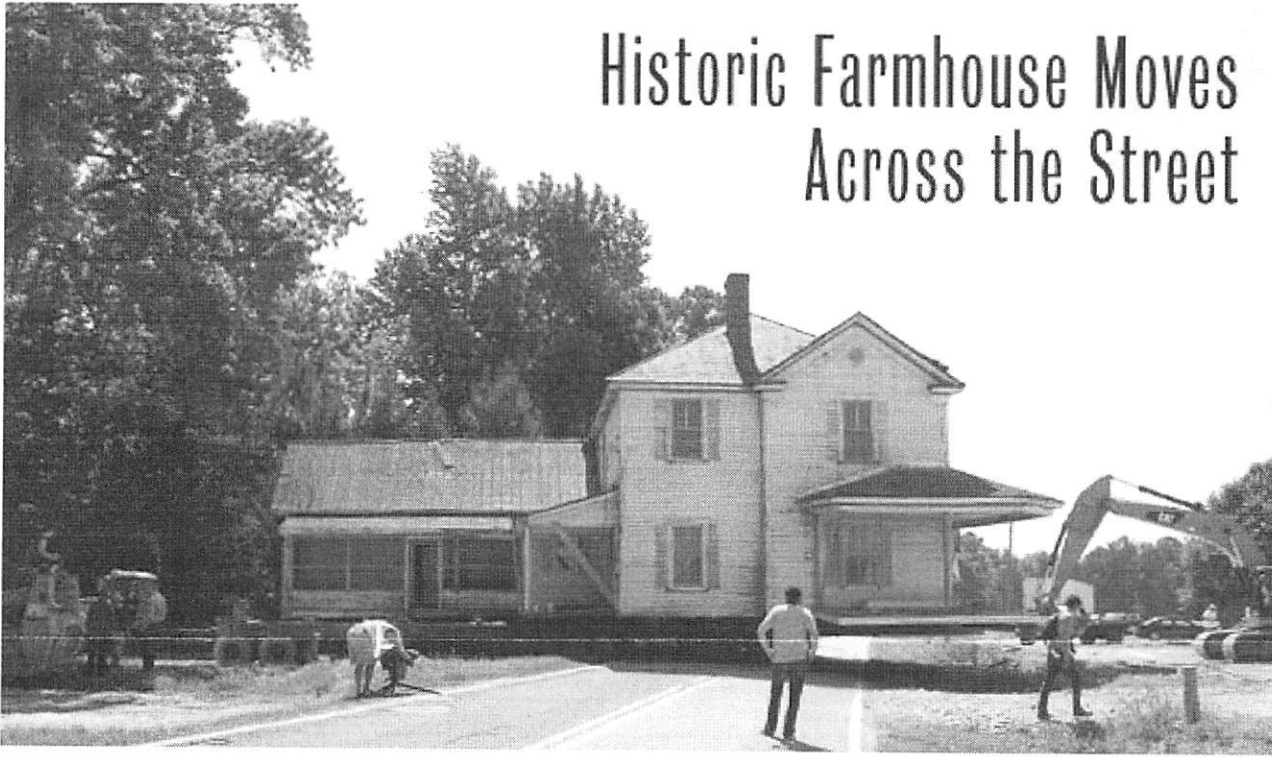
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Historic Farmhouse Moves Across the Street

June 16, 2013 | Story by: [Brent Miller](#) | Categories: [Featured](#), [History](#)

Historic Farmhouse Moves Across the Street



Story and photos by Brent Miller, President of the [Friends of Page-Walker](#).

Cary, NC – The historic George Upchurch farmhouse in Cary took a short trip last week. After standing at 6101 Collins Road (recently renamed Waldo Rood Boulevard) for more than 100 years, the house was moved across the road to a new site where it will be restored, offered for sale and assured of preservation.

George Upchurch Farmhouse

In the late 19th century, the George Upchurch farmhouse anchored one of two adjacent farms owned by brothers George Upchurch and Rufus Merrimon Upchurch.

The Rufus Merrimon Upchurch farmhouse was moved in the 1990s to make way for the Upchurch Farms subdivision; that house, now beautifully restored, stands at 1600 Jenks-Carpenter Road.

Collins Grove

Similarly, the George Upchurch house was moved to accommodate a modern development on the site, to be known as [Collins Grove](#).



During the rezoning process for Collins Grove, Town staff and citizen volunteers raised the possibility of preserving the farmhouse. The property owner and the developer collaborated with [Capitol Area Preservation](#), the [Town of Cary](#) and the [Friends of the Page-Walker](#) to develop the plan to move the house to an adjacent property. The house's initial move, a major step in accomplishing that plan, occurred today.

Preservation

Historic preservationists prefer to preserve structures in their original location, which maintains the historical integrity of the site. Saving a structure by moving it is generally considered a "last resort", but often is the only practical way to preserve it, and that was the case with the Upchurch house.

Because it was moved to adjacent property, the historical context is maintained and all of the parties involved in this project consider it a win for preservation in Cary.

Home to Cary Mayor Thomas Wilkinson

The house's long-time owner, Virginia Wilkinson, told *CaryCitizen* that her father, Richard Wilkinson, bought the house in 1959 from his uncle, John Wilkinson, who in turn had acquired the property in 1902 from Thomas Ferdinand Wilkinson, who was Cary's mayor in 1902.

Ms. Wilkinson shared a family story: "Daddy used to say that when the house crackled at night, that was George Upchurch walking on the stairs".



Moving the House

Prior to the move, Gary Roth, president and CEO of Capital Area Preservation, the lead agency in moving the Upchurch house, said, "I've got my fingers crossed that we'll move it across the road" and noted that the house was very large and very heavy, and was being moved completely intact, chimneys and all.

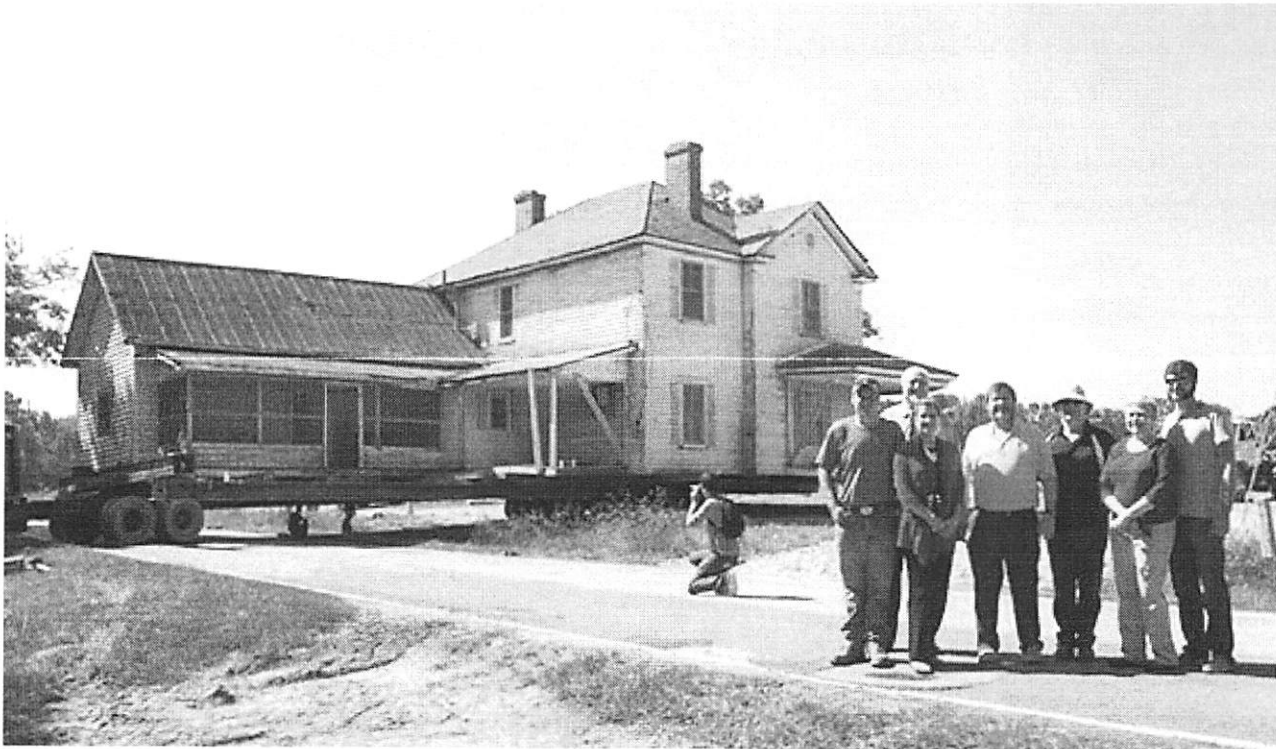
Once the house was successfully settled in its new, but temporary location, where it will be stabilized before being placed on a new foundation, Mr. Roth's reaction was "Fantastic!" He continued, "This was a great job by the movers. We have lots more work to do, but this was a big, big chapter in this story".

The mover, Lynn McCrary of [McCrary House Movers](#) of Lexington, NC, whose grandfather started that company in 1900, told *CaryCitizen* that he has moved about 15 houses in this area in the last year. He noted that the Upchurch house "was built better than people thought" and that preserving historic structures "is a benefit to everybody. It preserves history and it's the ultimate in going green".

The Town of Cary's Planning staff was instrumental in developing the plans to move and preserve the house. Phil Smith, long-range planner with the Town, stated, "I'm thrilled! This was a perfect situation. I'm glad that we could help make it

happen". Anna Readling, Town senior planner, stated that she was very happy and noted that the house "looks even prettier" in its bare-bones state that resulted from the move preparations because "you can see the elegance of the house and its design".

And Virginia Wilkinson, whose family has owned this historic structure for many decades, summed up her feelings in just one word: "Fabulous!"



Video of George Upchurch Farmhouse Move

Visit YouTube to see a [short video](#) of the George Upchurch farmhouse move across Waldo Road Blvd.

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