

BETTY SLOWE'S BLOG: Oct. 23, 2017 | Guild-Verner House nearly demolished

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Fifty years ago this week, an architectural treasure was almost lost. The beautiful old Guild-Verner House on University Boulevard was almost demolished.

Built about 1822 by Dr. James Guild, the Guild-Verner House was the first brick residence in Tuscaloosa. The interior walls are 12 inches thick and are of slave-made brick.

Guild was a trustee of the University of Alabama and the Alabama Insane (now Bryce) Hospital, a member of the state Legislature, and a practicing physician. His son, Dr. Lafayette Guild, who spent his boyhood days in the house, later became chief medical officer for Gen. Robert E. Lee during the Civil War.

The house was sold to John Snow in 1881 and two years later to his brother, Dr. Charles Snow. The Snows were double first cousins of President John Quincy Adams.


The C.B. Verners acquired the house in 1911 and added the columns, side porch and other classic details. The house was originally Georgian style, but currently is Greek Revival style architecture. After Mr. Verner died in 1937, the house was left to his daughter who was married to John Weaver, treasurer of Allen and Jemison Co. After the Weavers moved out, the house was used as a funeral home and later by an insurance company office building.



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Afterward, it went through many owners and suffered a fire and vandalism. While used as a restaurant and lounge, the lower floor and staircase were severely damaged by fire.

In 1967, the house received a death sentence from the city and demolition work had begun until concerned citizens prevailed upon the Tuscaloosa City Commission to save the landmark. In 1977, the Home Builders Association of Tuscaloosa Inc. restored the house and the staffs of the Home Builders and the Tuscaloosa Board of Realtors moved into it.

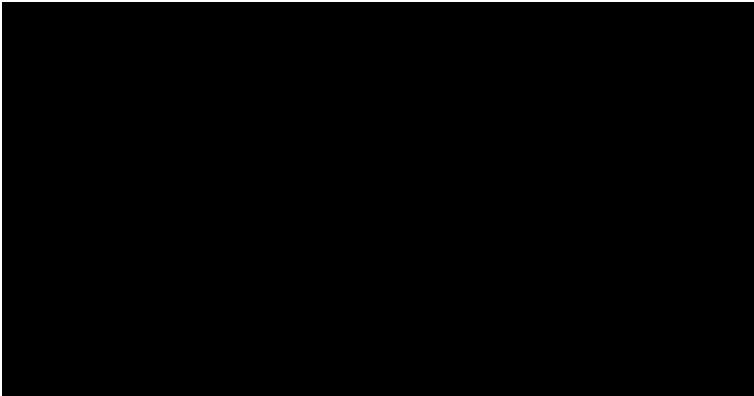
Currently, the historic home still stands, though its dignity is diminished by an adjacent apartment building, and is used as the office of S.T. Bunn Construction Co. Inc.



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