

## *The House's Owners*

George Washington Cornwell and his wife, Frances Lou (Lucinda) Smith, purchased the lot at 106 King Street in April 1876. They had just married and moved to the newly incorporated city of Kings Mountain.

George and Lucinda, built this house on their lot and raised seven children in it.

George and his brother, William (who lived next door) were wagon makers. It is believed their shop was between their homes.

Lucinda, a devoted Baptist, was a founding member of Kings Mountain Baptist Church (located next to the museum), which started in 1890. The original building was a wooden structure, though Lucinda lived to see the current building built in 1919.



*The house in its second location (1910-2005)*

## *Moving the House*

In 1910, George and Lucinda sold part of their lot to their oldest son, Clarence. This house was placed on logs and rolled to the far side of the lot so Clarence had space to build a new, fashionable house. When this move happened, the kitchen and back porch were detached from the house.

The house was moved again in 2005 to its current location, when Central United Methodist Church donated the structure to the Museum after purchasing the land.



*The house moved to its current location in 2005.*

## *Structure of the House*

The three-bay house consisted of a center hall, with front and back doors, front and back porches, and one room on either side. There was also originally a back kitchen behind the left room.

Inside:

- Original six-inch tongue and groove 1876 floor.
- Original plaster walls with repainted green wood work.
- The fire box and hearths in both rooms have been reconstructed.
- The fireplace in the right room has a CAHILL coal grate from Chattanooga, TN. Evidence of a main source of heating in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, delivered across the country by the railways.



## *Structure of the House, cont.*

Outside:

-Smooth cedar shingle roof, similar to the period, installed. One of the original shingles is marked Larson Lumber Co. Lincoln County, Michigan near the Chicago & Northwestern Railway.

-Molding added under the eaves

-Everything painted white, though the chimneys were not originally painted.

-Still missing the back kitchen and porch.



*The house sitting on its new brick mounts, before it had a back.*

## *Restoration Work*

The house, with the assistance of grants, donations, and fund raising, has and will undergo several changes to return it to its original design.

## Kings Mountain Historical Museum

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### Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 4

### Free Admission

Donations Appreciated

### Directions

Downtown Kings Mountain,

off Highway 74 Business

On the corner of East Mountain St.

& South Piedmont Ave

## *George Washington Cornwell House*



*Photo: Ron Stafford*

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