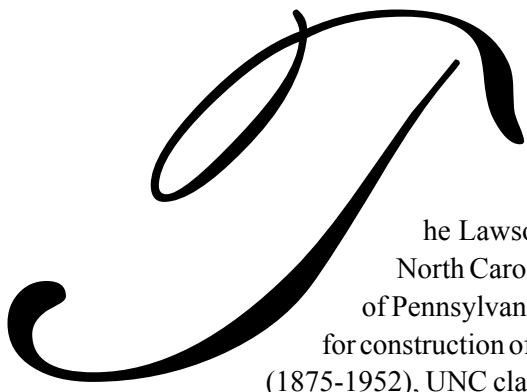




THE LAWSON HOUSE
604 EAST FRANKLIN STREET
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA





The Lawson House was most likely constructed in the late nineteenth century by University of North Carolina Professor of Greek Francis Kingsley Ball. Ball was a Harvard graduate and a native of Pennsylvania. He leased the land for \$12 a year from the University and obtained a loan for \$2,500 for construction of the house. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Baker Lawson purchased the house in 1907. Dr. Lawson (1875-1952), UNC class of 1900, was a physician and athlete who returned to the University in 1905 to serve as the baseball coach, Director of the Gymnasium, and Assistant Professor of Anatomy in the Medical School. During his 43 year career Dr. Lawson served at various times as baseball coach, track coach, and football coach. His obituary referred to him as “a father of basketball in the University.” His daughter, Estelle Lawson Page (1907-1983), was an accomplished amateur golfer who in 1935 won her first of seven North and South Women’s Amateur Golf Championships. She was among the first group to be inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. Dr. and Mrs. Woodrow Burns purchased the property from a later owner and painstakingly restored the house to its original beauty. In a continuation of the sensitive care the house has received, the current owners installed a new kitchen and half bath and created a functional and appealing kitchen and family dining space. A small screened porch was also enclosed to create an intimate television and music space. The house is beautifully situated on an almost one acre corner lot in Chapel Hill’s Franklin Street Historic District. Among the specimen plants are a spectacular magnolia that is one of the largest examples in the area and a sycamore grown from a seed taken from a tree that shades Susan B. Anthony’s grave in Rochester New York.

Stylistically, the Lawson House is a large Shingle Style bungalow. It is one of the finest examples of the bungalow style in Chapel Hill. According to M. Ruth Little author of The Town and Gown Architecture of Chapel Hill, it is likely that an architect designed this impressive bungalow. The Shingle Style was popular between 1880 and 1900. The style began and reached its highest expression in seaside resorts of the northeastern states. Fashionable summer destinations such as Newport, Cape Cod, eastern Long Island and coastal Maine had numerous architect-designed cottages in the style. From this fashionable base, well publicized in contemporary architectural magazines, the style spread throughout the country. It never gained the wide popularity of its contemporary, the Queen Anne style, and thus Shingle houses are relatively uncommon except in coastal New England (Source: Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf 2005). The Lawson House has among the most remaining original architectural details of any turn of the century house in Chapel Hill.





ALMOST ONE ACRE LOCATED
IN THE FRANKLIN STREET
HISTORIC DISTRICT

POTENTIAL FOR SUBDIVISION
SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENTAL
APPROVAL

WALK TO UNC AND DOWNTOWN
CHAPEL HILL

ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT
NINETEENTH CENTURY SHINGLE
STYLE BUNGALOW

PAINSTAKING RESTORATIONS

ORIGINAL LEADED GLASS WINDOWS

WONDERFUL FIRST FLOOR LIBRARY
WITH ORIGINAL POCKET DOORS

PROFESSIONALLY LANDSCAPED
WITH IRRIGATION SYSTEM

BRICK SIDEWALKS

DELIGHTFUL FRONT PORCH

NINE FIREPLACES (SOME
NON-FUNCTIONAL)

SCREENED SLEEPING PORCH
OFF MASTER BEDROOM

LARGE ENTRANCE FOYER WITH
FIREPLACE (NON-WORKING)

SCREENED PORCH OFF LIVING
ROOM

LARGE DINING ROOM WITH
ORIGINAL WAINSCOTING AND
FIREPLACE (NON-WORKING)

PROFESSIONALLY DESIGNED
KITCHEN

SECURITY SYSTEM

TANKLESS HOT WATER HEATER

FAMILY DINING AREA WITH
FIREPLACE

ORIGINAL HEART PINE FLOORS AND
PLASTER WALLS IN MOST ROOMS

PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION
AVAILABLE

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OFFERED BY
THE HOME TEAM
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