

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

William Milton Scott House

Local Historic Landmark #104

1941 Georgia Ave., Winston-Salem

Construction Date: 1925

Landmark Designation Date: 12/15/1997

William Milton Scott was born on May 8, 1875, in Surry County, North Carolina, where he spent his early life. As an adult he moved to Winston-Salem, where he was employed in the sales department of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. He served as sales manager in New Orleans, then in Mobile, and lastly in California, with headquarters in Los Angeles, where he met his wife, Charlotte Lund. Apparently, Scott prospered with the tobacco company, as he retired in 1916 at the age of 41 and returned to Winston-Salem. Here, he and Charlotte first lived on Piedmont Avenue; he became a member of First Presbyterian Church and various fraternal groups. In 1925, the Scotts were still listed in the city directory at their Piedmont Avenue address, but in 1926, they were listed on Georgia Avenue, suggesting that their house had been constructed during the previous year.

Design of the Scott House is attributed to C. Gilbert Humphreys, an English-born architect who maintained an office in Winston-Salem during the 1910s and 1920s. Humphreys graduated from Cornell University, studied art in Paris, and returned to the United States to work in New York. He remained there until 1914, when he moved to Winston-Salem. Locally, Humphreys designed an admirable collection of upper-income houses exhibiting primarily the Colonial and Georgian Revival, Italianate, and Craftsman styles.



The William Milton Scott House is associated with the amassing of large fortunes in Winston-Salem during the first quarter of the 20th century. The years between 1913 and 1930 became known as Winston-Salem's "era of success." In particular, the 1920s were boom years accompanied by great wealth in the city. This prosperity was reflected in the city's residential architecture; as Winston-Salem prospered, new neighborhoods developed and professional architects came to the city to design elaborate homes and other buildings. The hilly, curving, tree-lined streets of the new West Highlands development provided the ideal setting for the construction of a fine suburban country house by a man who had achieved great success in the tobacco industry.

The Scott House is a Georgian Revival style dwelling with Italianate influences. The property is significant for its rare retention of an unusually complete ensemble of components that together proclaim its 1920s birth and grandeur. Important features include the immense two-story brick house, the lush setting that comprises nearly an acre with a 200-foot frontage on Georgia Avenue, the two-story garage/servant's quarters with its Ludowici-Celadon tile roof matching that of the main house, the brick pumphouse, the glass, iron, and cypress greenhouse with its sunken floor, arched roof, and original window cranks, the 16-column classical pergola, and the "spitting dolphin" garden fountain. The composite effect of the house, landscape, and auxiliary structures represents the epitome of upper-income residential fashion of Winston-Salem's 1920s boom period.

Today the William Milton Scott house is privately occupied.





William Milton Scott House, 1997
Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's Files



William Milton Scott Pumphouse, 1997
Courtesy of Forsyth County
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This information is also available
at the Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's web site:
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>