

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

TO: Media

FROM: Kathryn Ferrari Bethune, Executive Director  
Preservation of Wilson  
252-234-7694 or 252-230-9189

DATE: July 20, 2010

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### **1913 Endangered property – the Oettinger House - Sold**

After sitting vacant for at least 20 years and falling into dilapidated condition, the Oettinger House located at 219 Broad Street, has been sold. The house was marketed by Preservation of Wilson and was featured in the March 2010 issue of This Old House magazine highlighted as an endangered property.

The Greek Revival Cottage, circa 1913, has been purchased by Percy and Veronica Kelley. Work has already begun to repair the roof and rebuild the deteriorated interior floors. It was originally built as a single family home and just over a decade later the family converted it into three apartments called the Joelda Terrace. The Kelley's plan to renovate the upstairs as two separate dwellings, one for themselves and the other for sale or lease. They have not yet made plans for the downstairs space.

According to the article in This Old House, "The house is an architectural knockout . . . and the new owner will be steps from downtown Wilson, which is seeing renewed investment with the opening of many locally owned shops and restaurants."

Veronica and Percy Kelley are no strangers to hard work and great vision. The Kelley's were awarded the Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit from Preservation North Carolina in 2008 for their preservation efforts in several North Carolina downtowns.

They have restored over 40 old homes including early houses dating from 1765 to vintage homes up to 1948. Homes have ranged in size from 1,800 sq. ft. to 8,000 sq. ft. Their work has spanned several states including Georgia, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina.

The Kelley's have been responsible for saving many North Carolina Landmarks that were near demolition, including The Mack Bass House in Wilson, and The Gregory House in Weldon, The Hoffman Mansion in Scotland Neck, The Archibald White House in Tarboro, the Robert Mann House in Whitakers, the Manor Hall home in Enfield, Crowell's Manor in South East Halifax and the Rich Square Hotel. They have restored homes in Goldsboro, Kenly, Littleton, Rocky Mount, Elm City, three houses in Weldon and three in Scotland Neck.

Preservation of Wilson is a nonprofit corporation that provides leadership in the revitalization efforts of Wilson County's unique architectural properties. For information about available properties or to become a restoration partner, call Kathy Bethune at (252) 234-7694 or visit [www.preservationofwilson.com](http://www.preservationofwilson.com).

Attached is article from This Old House.

# save this old house

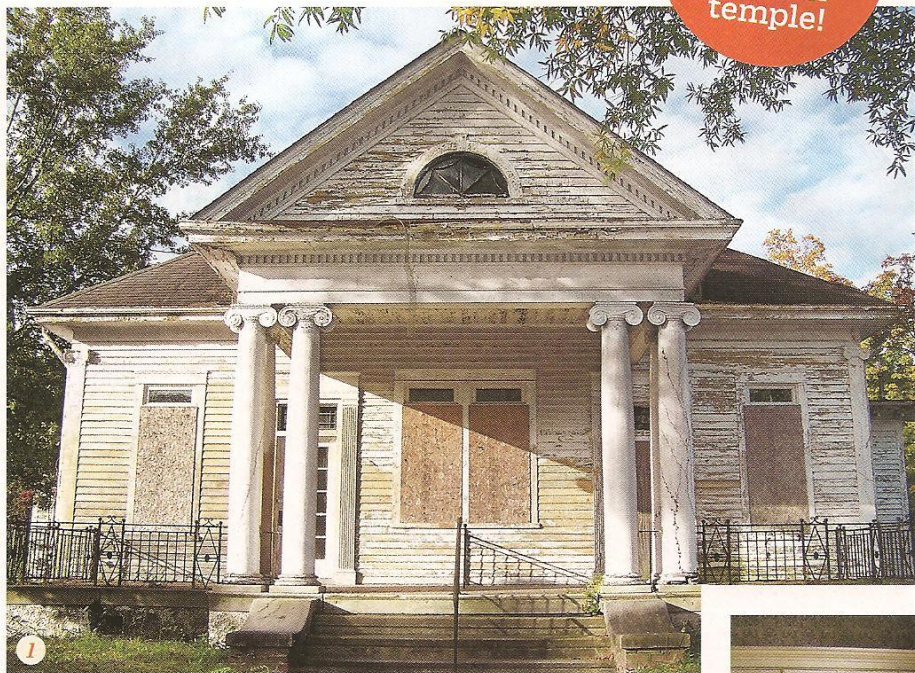
Own a house that looks like a Greek temple!

**Price:** \$35,000  
**Location:** Wilson, N.C.  
**Contact:** Kathryn Ferrari  
 Bethune, 252-234-7694

**The history:** Part of the rags-to-riches journey of two German-Jewish immigrants played out in this stately circa-1910 Greek Revival. It was here that Elmer and Pearl Oettinger watched their Oettinger's department store grow into a local institution during the first half of the 20th century. As the couple's fortunes grew, so too did their family. But they all had plenty of room, especially after Elmer, Pearl, and their three kids moved to an even bigger home on the other side of town. But after Elmer passed away, Pearl came back here to live out her golden years.

**Why save it?** The house is an architectural knockout, with a massive gabled pediment supported by paired Ionic columns. Inside, it's packed with original details. The new owner will be steps from downtown Wilson, which is seeing renewed investment with the opening of many locally owned shops and restaurants. This house is zoned for commercial or residential use, so how you use it is up to you.

**What it needs:** A new roof and new electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. It also requires some serious plaster and millwork restoration. The work will be eligible for a 30 percent state historic preservation tax credit, so the next owners won't find themselves going from riches to rags while restoring it. —KEITH PANDOLFI

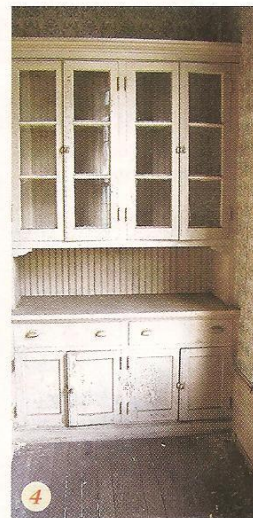
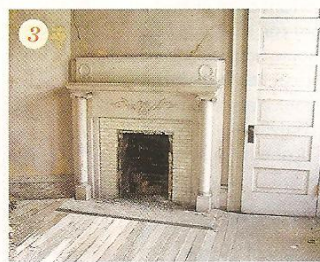


**1** The stout clapboard Greek Revival contains 5,488 square feet of living space. In the 1920s it was divided into three separate units, including a walk-out basement apartment.

**2** A close-up of the home's massive Ionic columns shows off the quality of their craftsmanship.

**3** The house is packed with eye-catching details, including six-panel doors and six original mantels.

**4** The butler's pantry still has all its original details, including glass-fronted cabinetry and a beadboard backsplash.



## Got a house?

If you know of an old house that should be saved and is for sale, write to This Old House, 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020 or [savethisoldhouse@timeinc.com](mailto:savethisoldhouse@timeinc.com).

## Get Free Paint!

Fixing up is hard to do. So as a Proud Preservation Partner of Save This Old House, Behr will help ease the way by providing up to 20 gallons of interior and/or exterior paint to the buyer of this house—at no charge. For more details, write to [toh\\_marketing@timeinc.com](mailto:toh_marketing@timeinc.com)