

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

TO: Media

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### **Preservation of Wilson sells Landmark**

210 Tarboro Street  
The Connor Lucas House  
Old Wilson Historic District

The Connor Lucas House, circa 1893, has new owners, Nancy and Otto Baron and their daughter Ariel. The family comes to us from California and has had a long time love affair with Victorian houses, antiques, hearses and classic horror films. This includes a 1959 Hearse which works out well with the Hispanic Community Funeral Home next door. Otto has been a life-long fan of funeral coaches, horror and history. He and his wife are antique dealers and owned a shop while in Temecula, California.

Otto has been a life-long fan of Victorian homes, going back to his reading a book called "Bunker Hill, Los Angeles" by Leo Politi in sixth grade. The book described an area of large stately Victorian homes in California that were leveled in the name of progress. This led Otto to a life time interest in history and historic preservation.

What led to the Baron family choosing the Lucas Connor House, was not just how much they loved the house, but the community of Wilson being one which had a real commitment to encouraging the preservation of historic buildings. "Preservation of Wilson is a perfect representation of making an effort to preserve local history, and that Wilson certainly has a lot of." Otto stated.

Otto's strong interest in Victorian homes came about in the mid sixties. At that time, Victorian homes were considered scary places and would typically be only seen in horror films and shows such as "Psycho", "The Munsters", "The Addams Family", and the like. According to Otto "It also bothered me a great deal when on shows like the Munsters you'd have characters in the series looking eagerly to destroying these homes because they weren't "up to date" and "stylish". Then in 1969, you had the Haunted Mansion opening at Disneyland, and that was a ride where the appeal to me may have been more the way the house you rode through looked, then all the special effects to be found there. So, you might consider Alfred Hitchcock, Disney, and Charles Addams as my tutors when it came to the aesthetics of what made an attractive home."

The Connor-Lucas House is one of ten properties sold through the partnership efforts of Preservation of Wilson which 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).