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*Preservation of Wilson benefits from Available Landmark*

When Preservation of Wilson agreed to market the landmark house that has served as the home of Barnes & Flippin Interiors, the local preservation nonprofit got a bonus: thousands of yards of designer upholstery fabric, wallpaper and other decorative items. Interior designer Robert Flippin donated the fabric short roll ends to Preservation of Wilson, which will sell the items in an upcoming fundraiser to benefit preservation.

The 1898 Queen Anne-style Williams-Woodard-Banks House, 501 Broad Street in the Broad-Kenan Historic District, is available for restoration through Preservation of Wilson. The house designed by nationally known architect George Barber is a local register historic landmark that has housed Barnes & Flippin Interiors Inc. for 39 years. Barnes & Flippin is downsizing and will continue to operate but no longer needs the 2,500-square-foot historic property.

“When we meet with Mr. Flippin about marketing the property, it was apparent that he was going to have a lot of work to clear out almost 40 years of materials and inventory,” said Kathy Bethune, executive director of Preservation of Wilson. “Mr. Flippin has been very generous. A donation of this magnitude, both in the quality of the materials and the superior reputation of the design firm, will allow Preservation of Wilson to develop an outstanding fundraising opportunity. Right now we are working out the details for that event.”

Dennis Mallory, a Barton College student intern with Preservation of Wilson, worked with Flippin, a member of the American Society of Interior Designers, to remove the leftover fabrics from the Broad Street house, filling a 196-square-foot storage room. Wooden cornices and cutting tables are still to be removed.

Preservation of Wilson is a nonprofit corporation that provides leadership in the revitalization efforts of Wilson County's unique architectural properties. It actively promotes historically, architecturally and culturally significant properties. For information about available properties or to become a restoration partner, call Kathy Bethune at (252) 234-7694.