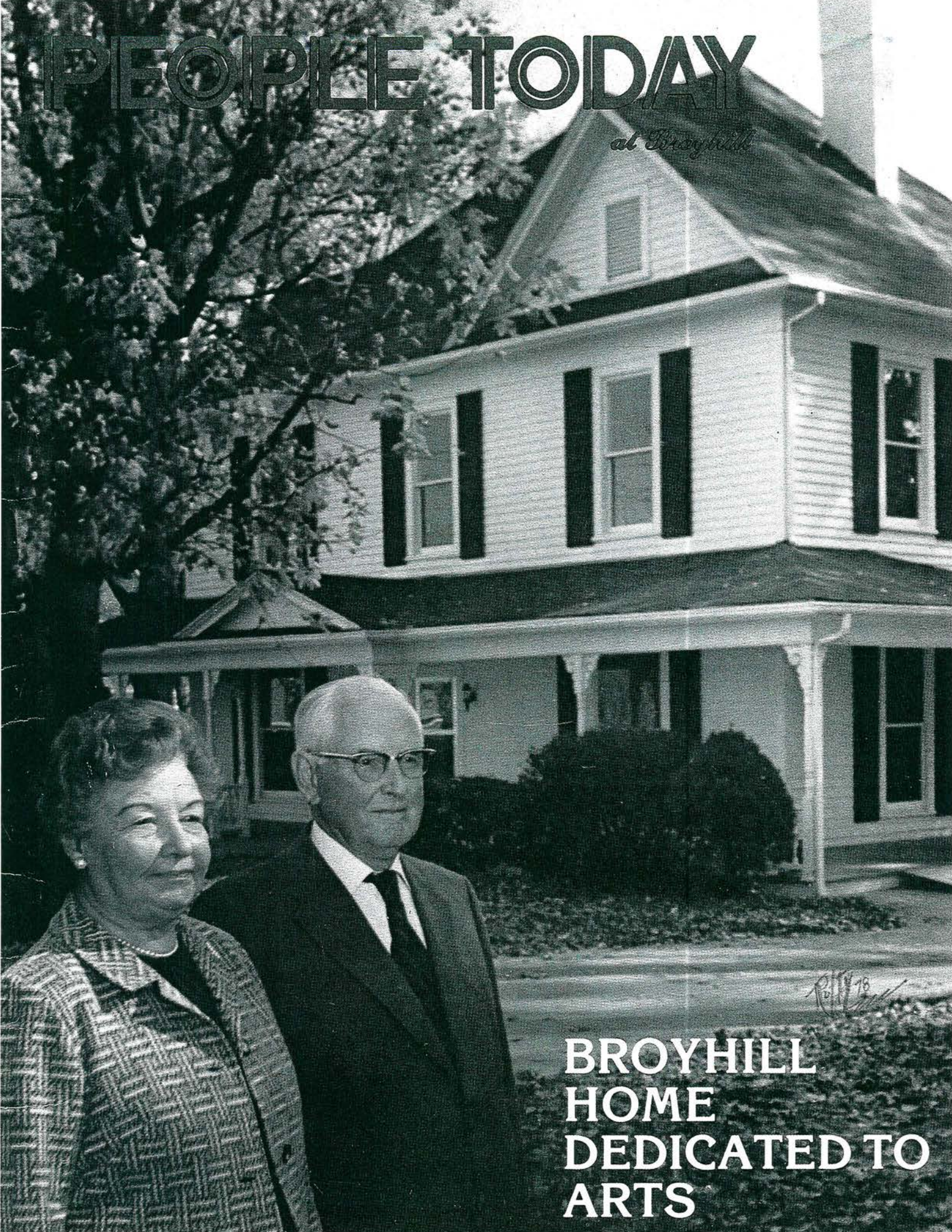
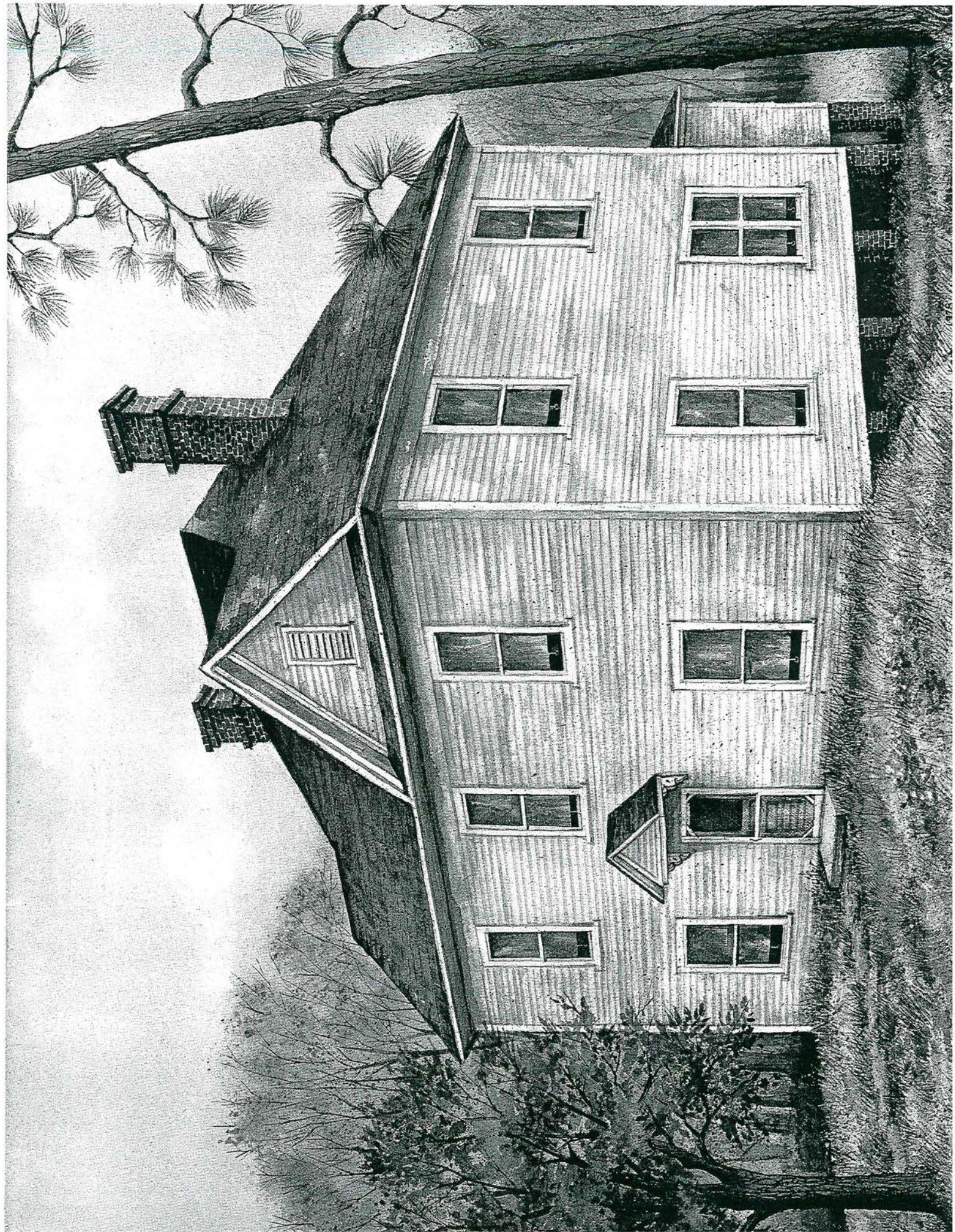


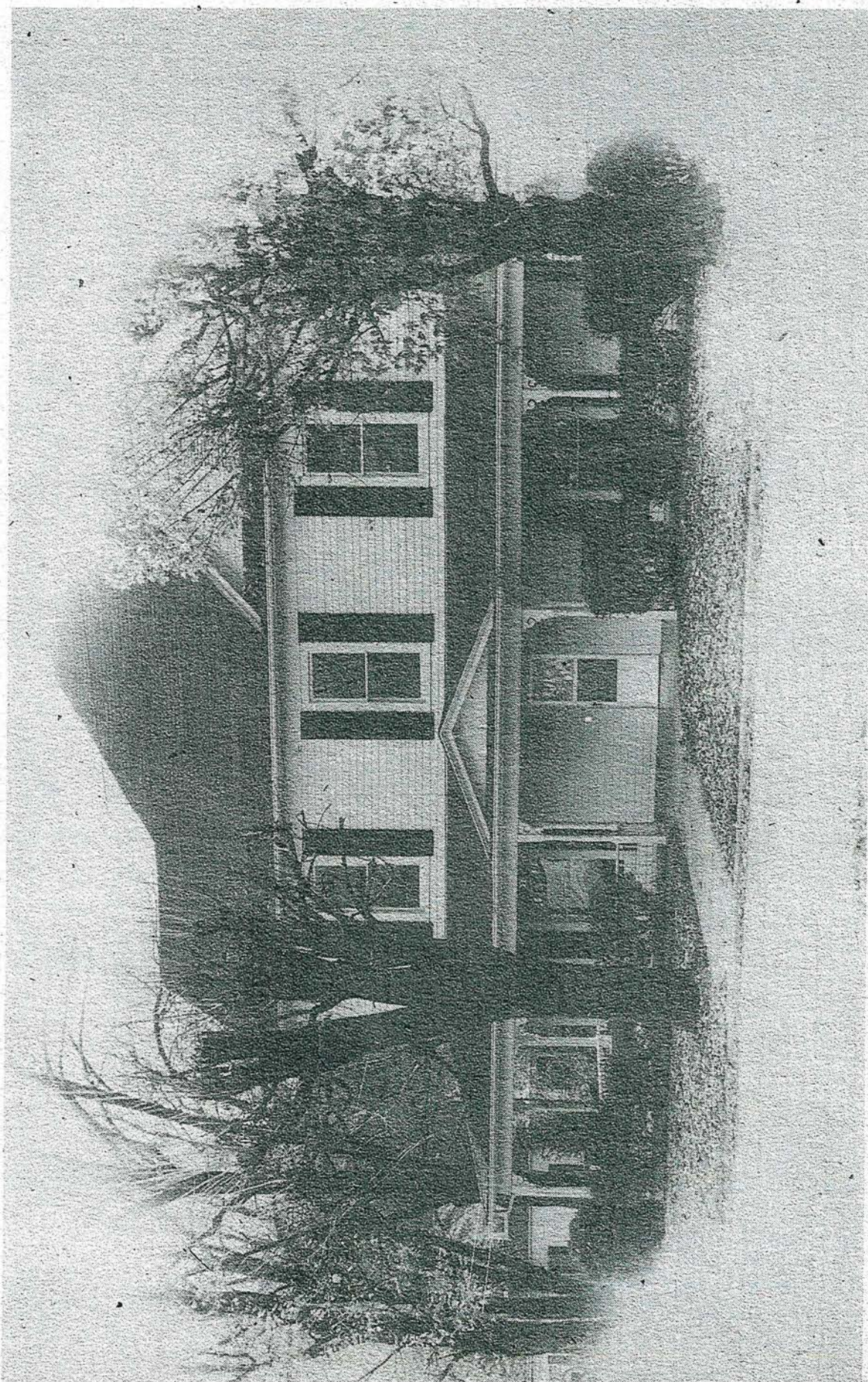
PEOPLE TODAY

at Broyhill



**BROYHILL
HOME
DEDICATED TO
ARTS**





BROYHILL HOME RESTORED

Former Residence Dedicated to the Arts

For nearly a century, the white frame house on East College Avenue in Lenoir was a family residence. For nearly a half century it housed Broyhills and their offspring.

On December 3, the former residence was dedicated to public service as the new home of the Caldwell Arts Council. It will house the headquarters of the Council, several exhibition rooms and classrooms plus a small auditorium. Thus it will be able to accommodate, in addition to the day-to-day management of the business affairs of the Arts Council, exhibitions of art, classes of instruction and group meetings.

Congressman James T. Broyhill, who grew up in the residence, was master of ceremonies. He said, "This is a very special occasion for my brother and sisters and me, because we have so many memories of this home. It's also a special occasion for my mother and father, who shared so many hopes and dreams in this place; and, of course, it's a special occasion for the community, because finally the Arts Council has a home."

James Pritchett of "The Doctors" television fame was guest of honor.

Jim grew up in the neighborhood as a contemporary of the older Broyhill children. After receiving his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he entered legal practice in Lenoir. But the lure of the stage, which had beckoned him for years, became irresistible. In 1954 he migrated to New York, where he began what was to become a highly successful dramatic career. In the current year he received TV's highest accolade, the Emmy Award, for his role as Dr. Matt Powers in "The Doctors".

"Dr. Matt" said, "I have a great many fond memories of this house, having lived just up the hill as I was growing up. With all the changes that have taken place around here, this house and Hibriten Mountain are a couple of landmarks I can still recognize.

"I used to whistle at this house when I walked back and forth to school," he continued. "I'm very pleased for this house, my old friend. It has now sheltered many happy families, certainly three generations of one family, which include some of the outstanding people in the country in business, government,

science and the arts. It must be very proud, this house, to have served its domestic duties so well and now, at a mature time of life, having seen some of its neighbors in the community retiring, to be launched after a facelift on a whole new career in the arts and public service."

Mayor Robert Gibbons said, "On behalf of the mayor's office, the Lenoir City Council, and all of the people of Lenoir, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Broyhill and the other members of the Broyhill family for their generosity in providing this building for our Arts Council. Having a permanent building and a good location is a real plus for the arts activity in our community. It is my opinion that future generations will look back to this occasion and recognize today as a milestone in the development of the finer things in their lives."

The Mayor then presented to "Dr. Matt Powers" a key to the city with congratulations upon his TV success.

Congressman Broyhill then introduced Satie Broyhill, who said, "I can think of no more fitting use for this house now than in the promotion and preservation of the arts. When Ed and I moved into this house with Allene in 1923, there was little diversion from house work. What little there was for me came in the form of membership in the Mozart Music Club. I remember going to meetings of the music club with Allene in a baby carriage and appreciating just that little bit of exposure to the arts. From that time on, I have followed with great interest the development of various aspects of the arts in Lenoir, and I'm happy to join with my husband, Ed, in this further promotion of the development of the arts in our community."

Where It All Came From

Until just recently — the day after the dedication, as a matter of fact — it was not known exactly when the original structure was built. However, the publicity regarding the dedication caused Mrs. Carl Hanes of Granite Falls to come forward with information that was previously unknown to anyone in the Broyhill family.

It had previously been determined from courthouse records that in 1896 the property on East College Avenue was sold by A. W. Abernethy to J. W. Abernethy for \$150. At that price, even in pre-inflation days, it was assumed that the transaction consisted of the transfer of the lot only.

Not so, affirms Mrs. Hanes, who grew up with Ethel Abernethy, daughter of J. W. Abernethy and later Mrs. H. C. Cobb. She says there were two other children, James and Lucy. Mrs. Hanes remembers visiting the site with Mrs. Cobb and hearing her recite many times the family events involving the house.

It seems that in 1889, A. W. Abernethy, a livery stable operator, bought the property on East College Avenue from the heirs of a Day family, who lived in a two-room house located behind the present structure. During the year 1889, A. W. Abernethy occupied the two-room house and built the new structure in front of it, moving into it in December of that year. That was the same year that the Harper plant, first known as the Lenoir Furniture Company, was built in Lenoir. The small house continued to stand behind the larger house for a number of years, because Mrs. Cobb and Mrs. Hanes remember vividly playing in the old house when Mrs. Hanes visited Mrs. Cobb in the new house.

In 1896 A. W. Abernethy decided to move to Birmingham, Alabama, so he sold the property to J. W. Abernethy, his son. That is the transaction that is on record in the Caldwell County Courthouse. As it turns out, the transaction was for the two houses and lot at \$150, rather than the lot alone as originally assumed.

The first structure was saltbox style on pilasters (see back cover), which was typical of the architecture and construction of that day. It had four rooms downstairs and four rooms stacked exactly above them on the second floor. There was an open fireplace in each of the four lower rooms but no heat in the upper rooms. Presumably the four rooms on the lower floor were used as a living room, a dining room, a kitchen and a master bedroom. The four upstairs rooms were evidently bedrooms.

Since there was no water system in Lenoir at that time, the first structure had no interior plumbing. Sometime after the first city water system was installed in 1908, the saltbox rectangle was expanded by the addition of a kitchen with plumbing and an inside bath, both modern for that day, plus a screened back porch. The addition can be seen peeking from behind the right hand corner of the painting on the back cover.

J. W. Abernethy was an employee of Courtney's Clothing Company, as well as a deputy sheriff. He died in 1913. His widow continued to live in the home and operate it as a rooming house until 1919, when the Baptist church bought it for \$3,500 for use as a parsonage. It was occupied for about four years by Dr. William Tyree, the minister. In 1922, Dr. Tyree built a home of his own on an extension of East College Avenue, which is known as Hibriten Street and moved into it in 1923.

Since their marriage in 1921, Satie and Ed Broyhill had lived in a two-room apartment on West College Avenue in a house which is now used as a rectory for the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Allene had been born in 1922, and Paul was but an ambition in the back of the young couple's minds. No thought had been given to the possibility of James and Betty coming along later.

However, Ed Broyhill vaguely thought in terms of a growing family and realized even then that his wife and

baby daughter needed quarters roomier than a two-room apartment. As he cast about for possibilities, his eye fell on the vacated parsonage on East College Avenue. Inquiring as to price, he was shocked to learn that it was \$3,000. He was at that time working for his brother, Tom, at the Lenoir Furniture Corporation at roughly \$2,000 a year. The purchase price of \$3,000 was a year and a half's salary. Whereas today the rule of thumb on indebtedness for home purchase is three times yearly income, in those days few people thought of going into debt one and a half times yearly income. However, as he was to do many times in the future, Ed Broyhill set his jaw in grim determination and made the decision to buy the house.

"I didn't have the cash at the time," recalls Ed Broyhill, "so I had to give the church a note for \$3,000." That \$3,000 has worked many times over for the Broyhill family. When Ed Broyhill went into business for himself in 1926, he mortgaged the house for \$5,000 to raise his initial capital.

After a generation of use, the house was run down. It needed modernizing and beautifying. Ed Broyhill didn't have the money to do it all at once, but little by little he and Satie put the house in comfortable, livable shape.

In the meantime they moved into the house as it stood. Satie remembers installing a Franklin stove in the back bedroom on the lower floor and sealing the flue into the chimney to keep their baby daughter warm. The first order of business in the modernization of the house was to provide central heating, so Ed Broyhill dug out a half basement among the pilasters and bricked up the exterior walls, thus creating an area where a coal furnace for central steam heat could be installed.

Satie remembers that for the first few years they didn't use the upstairs rooms at all. They didn't even furnish them. However, as the children came along, it was necessary to develop the upper rooms. In order to provide space for a bath, one of the bedrooms was simply partitioned off and the proper plumbing installed with an entrance from the hall.

When Satie and Ed Broyhill moved into the house, there was a simple stoop as a front entrance. The more gracious homes of that day had wide, columned verandas. Satie and Ed wanted one, not only for the looks of it, but also for a cool place to sit out in the evenings. They first built a porch without railings. "But we got to worrying about the children falling off," says Satie, "so we put a railing around it." The columned, wrap-around veranda with the railing has become the identifying feature of the house to both the residents and passers-by.

In the meantime Satie little by little furnished and decorated the house. As the children now remember, it seemed to them a very respectable, comfortable, upper middle-class dwelling.



(Above) James Pritchett of TV's "The Doctors" dedicates the Broyhill home for the use of the arts as Satie Broyhill and other members of the family look on.

(Left) More than 400 people stood through a light drizzle waiting for the doors of the new Arts Center to be opened.

By the time the Great Depression ended with the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, Ed Broyhill had established himself well enough in business that he and Satie could aspire to a modern home of their own creation. Consequently, in 1940 they began building their present home on a hill that rose above what was then simply the road to Wilkesboro, which Ed Broyhill had traveled so many times. The hill now overlooks the busiest intersection in Lenoir at what is now known as Smith Crossroads.

After Satie and Ed moved into their new home in 1941, the old home was rented to various families during World War II and several post-war years. In 1948, with two of their eventual six children already on the scene, Allene and Bill Stevens moved into the house for what would become a 16 year stay. The house was painted and papered, and a few changes in wiring were made. Somewhere about the middle of their stay, it was again painted and papered, but other than that it continued to serve with much of its original structure and decoration undisturbed.

When Allene and Bill moved to a new home in 1963, the house was again refurbished for renting, and it housed several families until its last renter moved out in 1975. By that time, the structure was so outmoded that it did not seem justifiable to put it into first-class condition to serve as a residence of equal status with others in the community. Consequently, it stood unoccupied for several years, deteriorating further from neglect. By 1978, the family was discussing whether to raze the house or to restore it for sentimental reasons, if not for actual occupancy.

At that time the infant Arts Council, begun in 1976 with small grants from the state and later from the city of Lenoir and the county of Caldwell, had outgrown its tiny headquarters in a downtown office building. It needed more work room. It needed exhibition space, teaching facilities and a meeting area. The few exhibitions they could stage were displayed in a reading room of the Caldwell County Library. Meetings were held wherever space could be found.

Allene Stevens, like her mother before her, had been a supporter of the arts in Lenoir for a number of years and more recently had served as a director of the newly formed Arts Council. In one of their deliberations concerning their need for new quarters, it occurred to Allene that the home on East College Avenue might be made available for the purpose. She suggested it to her parents who promptly and enthusiastically agreed.

Thereupon, there was begun a renovation of the home much more thorough than any since Ed Broyhill's renovation in 1923. In order to make it suitable for public occupancy, it was necessary that various supports be strengthened, particularly where floors were sagging or where the conformation of rooms was changed. The roof was stripped, repaired, caulked and reshingled. The porch, which was sunken in places and falling through in others, was leveled and refloored. The window openings on the first floor were boarded

over to provide an uninterrupted wall hanging space on the interior. The floors were sanded and refinished, and the walls and ceilings were repainted or papered. The exterior got two gleaming white coats of fresh paint.

All the while passers-by viewed the proceedings with considerable interest as queries arose as to who was going to live in the house. It was speculated that perhaps some of the grandchildren were ready to take up residence there. Actually there was no valid basis for such speculation, because, while several of the grandchildren are married, the only one who has started a family is Betty's daughter, Jan, and her husband, Glenn Gordon, who live in Florida.



The four Broyhill children who grew up in the house on East College Avenue from left to right: James, Allene, Bettie, Paul. Altogether they have produced 16 grandchildren for Satie and Ed Broyhill and, to date, one great grandchild.

While it was certainly no secret what the renovation was intended for, the public announcement took citizens of Lenoir generally by surprise. However, the turnout of more than 400 citizens in the rain on December 3 was ample evidence of their appreciation. Dr. Ben Edwards, president of the Caldwell Arts Council, summed it all up when he said, "It is very impressive to see all of you standing out there with cold feet and wet heads. This day marks the opening of a new era in the history of the Arts Council. We hope to expand our programs to bring many more things to the community. We hope you will enjoy coming to the gallery, participating in our program and really getting involved with the arts in Caldwell County."

DEDICATION CEREMONY 12-3-78

Past-Present-Future

Very seldom does a homeplace become a historical monument in less than a century. The charming Victorian frame structure on East College Avenue had its beginnings in 1905 when J. W. Abernethy built his home site on College Avenue. In later years, Mr. Abernethy sold his home to the First Baptist Church of Lenoir for a parsonage. Sometime around 1922, Mr. J. E. Broyhill bought the home from the Church, and three of their four children were born while living there. After eighteen years of residing in this home, the Broyhills moved to a new home in 1940. The house was then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Coffey from 1940 to 1942. After their departure, the H. Wiley Sholar family lived there during the 1942-1949 period. The first married daughter of the Broyhill's, Allene and her husband, Bill Stevens, lived in the home from 1949-1963. Mr. and Mrs. Lester Teal occupied the home until 1973. The last known occupants were Dr. and Mrs. John D. Scroggin, who resided at the East College Avenue home in 1975.

And so there must be countless memories for many citizens of Lenoir who have some attachment to this lovely home through many personal and family relationships.

The first exhibition at the gallery is a representation of visual art by artists who live and work in Caldwell County. The opening show is entitled: "Caldwell Artists: Paintings, Graphics and Sculpture." An additional highlight will be an exhibit including all the purchase award winners from Bernhardt Industries' First and Second Annual Sofa Exchange Art Competition.

Continued on the next page . . .

Past-Present-Future Continued

Thus, the former home of the James E. Broyhill family officially becomes the headquarters for the Caldwell Arts Council, as well as a facility for teaching, exhibitions, group meetings, and symposiums for artists, writers, and musicians. The future monthly exhibitions in the arts, sciences, and history will include traveling exhibits, variety shows, and one-man shows. The upstairs will be used for lectures, slide presentations, and special interest group meetings, all with the aim of increasing community participation. The sales gallery or shop will be developed by a small group to serve as an outlet for local artists, and to provide an additional attraction to the Center. The Caldwell Arts Council will also continue to attempt to answer voiced and unvoiced needs for arts programs in other locations.

Concluding the ceremony, the Broyhill house becomes a "blaze of light", as the switches are turned on, and the doors are opened for the first exhibition. This blaze of light will be but one of many candles that will burn even brighter for the people of Caldwell County, as continued efforts are made toward obtaining additional space suitable for the performing arts and for arts and crafts teaching programs.