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S. C. Counties - York - Homes, Historic



Southern Belles Grace Lawn Of Home Of Mr. And Mrs. S. K. Lowry
This York Home Was Constructed In The 1840s

Evening Herald, Rock Hill Saturday, April 2, 1960



GOAT CART WITH WHICH THE LOWRYS' THREE CHILDREN PLAYED
... is filled with pictures and used as table in basement.

Basement 'Museum' Tells Family History

By BARBARA BRAWLEY

Observer Home Furnishings Editor

YORK, S. C.—"I'm a hoarder," Mrs. S. K. Lowry says happily.

And her home's unusual basement, "Down Yonder" is the result of her reluctance to discard family mementos.

The basement, filled with a wide assort-

ment of Americana, is a personal family museum for the Lowrys.

Here 11 grandchildren can romp and explore to their hearts' content. And here are tangible memories of the Lowrys' early years of marriage and souvenirs that trace the development of their own three children.

THREE GLASS-TOPPED drug store tables (from Mr. Lowry's drug store) are filled

with youthful letters, report cards, school pictures and other childhood treasures.

The Lowrys' first ax and a special horseshoe are embedded in the fireplace. "Years ago people wrapped a horseshoe in satin and ribbon and put it at the end of a pew for good-luck at a wedding," Mrs. Lowry recalls. "This is one our children played with when they were little."

The first skillet the Lowrys had when they started housekeeping is here. So are two old-timey telephones. A pine mantel over the

fireplace is one Mrs. Lowry bought from Winthrop College for \$4 when the college was re-decorating dormitories.

A coffee table is made from a green billy goat cart the Lowry children played with when they were small.

There are hand-crocheted rugs all over the basement, 37 pillows in gingham and plaids and hand-painted trays, all made by Mrs. Lowry.

A plantation pine desk that belonged to Mr. Lowry's family is in one corner with old costumes. One is an 1827 dress that was part of a friend's grandmother's trousseau. There are hats that Mr. Lowry wore in college and a top hat that belonged to his great-grandfather. Old medicine bottles line the top shelves of the room.

THE GREEK Revival home was built in the 1840s, but the basement was added only two years ago. The windows then were ground-level and plans were to dig a shallow basement.

"As we dug out, we could see how much nicer it was becoming, so we dug deeper," Mrs. Lowry says. "We were afraid to dig out against the foundations of the house, so we came out 18 inches and put bricks there."

The brick shelving, padded with pillows, extends around the large basement and provides spacious seating for big parties.

The Lowrys often have large parties here, inviting their guests to come in Early American costumes. Mrs. Lowry has a supply of bonnets for everyone, and old hats are distributed to the men. Mrs. Lowry supplies music on a rollicking piano.

The Lowry's children are Mrs. J. H. Riddle of Salisbury, Mrs. W. Ed Hall of Statesville and S. K. Lowry Jr., who lives here.

The two top floors of the home are decorated with antiques, but there are no "hands off" regions for young grandchildren. "I give them anything to play with to make them quit crying," Mrs. Lowry says gaily.



MAY 19, 1960

The Charlotte Observer

GREEK REVIVAL HOME WAS BUILT IN 1840s
 ... the Lowrys have lived here for 44 years.

'DOWN YONDER', HOUSE'S BASEMENT IS FILLED WITH FAMILY SOUVENIRS AND AMERICANA
 ... Mrs. Lowry, left, has coffee with Miss Frank Clawson at drugstore table.



PICTORIAL TRAY PAINTED BY MRS. LOWRY
 ... matches fabric of a living room chair.

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S. K. Lowrys' Charming Home And Gardens

The interesting home of Dr. and Mrs. S. K. Lowry, 5 Wright Ave., York, will be open to the public Wednesday during the tour of homes and gardens through Rock Hill and York. The house with its fabulous basement and lovely gardens will be one of the highlights of the tour through York. The house is placed well back on the lawn and has a formal planting decor with boxwoods bordering the walk. These were rooted by Mrs. Lowry. On the

left side of the yard are many blooming flowers and shrubs. The inside of the house has been remodeled in traditional pieces and many antiques. Mrs. Lowry also displays her handiwork in a recently remodeled basement which is used for entertaining and relaxing. The Lowry garden is enclosed by an old brick wall which leads from an enclosed porch.

Evening Herald, Rock Hill

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