

PROPOSAL OF  
THE 1850 RHYNE STORE, DALLAS, N.C.  
TO THE GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
REGISTER  
APRIL 21, 1980



GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Mrs. Richard Penegar, Chrmn.  
Mr. Robert Carpenter  
Mrs. W.N. Craig  
Mr. J.C. Stewart  
Mr. Robert Whitt  
Mrs. H.O. Williams  
Mr. J.F. Love III, Inventory Chrmn.

Tom Davis  
12/15/58  
1-372-9320

1. Name and location of the property. The property known as the Rhyne Store is located on the court square at 130 & 132 North Gaston Street, Dallas, Gaston County, North Carolina
2. Name and address of the present owner of the property.

<i>Mrs. Katherine Cogley</i> 508 Talley Road Ave. Monroe, N.C. 28110 704/283-6726	Mrs. J.S. McDaniel Guardian Care Nursing Center Monroe, N.C. 28110
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3. Representative photographs of the property. Photographs are included with this report.
4. A map depicting the location of the property. This report contains a tax office map and a copy of the original plat for the court square locating the property.
5. Current deed reference of the property. This report contains a chain of title of the property.
6. Historical sketch of the property. This report contains a brief historical sketch prepared by Mr. Jim Love, Inventory Chairman to the Historic Properties Commission.
7. Architectural description of the property. This report contains a brief architectural description of the property prepared by Mr. J.C. Stewart, Architect.
8. Documentation of why and in what ways the property is of historical importance to the county. The Commission believes that the 1850 Rhyne Store is significant to the history of Gaston County for many reasons:  
Architecturally, it is a sound and beautiful example of early commercial construction.  
Historically and educationally, it is an important part of the original county seat of government having played an integral part in the early life of the county by serving a time as the post office and later providing space for court while the courthouse was being rebuilt. It is highlighted by the Gaston County Art & History Museum's walking tour of the historic square and adds to the overall picture of what life was like in the original county seat.  
Because of the listing of the square unit on the National Register of Historic Places, the Rhyne Store and entire area have the potential of being a regional attraction.

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR THE RHYNE STORE, DALLAS, N.C.

1. On February 20, 1847, Jessie Holland deeded a seventy-five acre tract to the County Court of Gaston County. The purchase price was fifty dollars (\$50.00). Land for the court house was laid out and the remainder was divided into half-acre lots for sale as homesites. Proceeds from these sales were applied to a building fund for a court house, jail, and stocks. See Deed Book 1, Page 19.
2. On November 26, 1849, Isaac Holland, Chrmn. of the County Court of Gaston, sold for the sum of two hundred and forty dollars (\$240.00) that parcel of land on the court square called Lot No. 17 to Moses H. Rhyne. The two story brick house-store was built shortly there after. Deed Book 13, Page 25.
3. At the death of Moses H. Rhyne, his son-in-law J.A. Abernethy became executor of his estate and through the will of Mr. Rhyne was required to offer for sale "the lot fronting on the public square in Dallas, bounded on the South by lot of Noah Alexander and on the North by lot of J. Froneberger, on which the two storey brick store house and dwelling house is situated" (and also 1/3 interest in the Duffie Gold Mine). This public sale took place on Nov. 4, 1889, and A.P. Rhyne became the purchaser of the house and lot at the price of \$550.00. The deed was recorded in January of 1891. See Deed Book 19, Page 225.
4. On October 12, 1901, A.P. Rhyne and wife Mattie J. Rhyne, deeded the property to F.O. Davis for one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) See Deed Book 51, Page 67.
5. On March 6, 1903, F.O. Davis and wife M.Alice Davis, deeded the property to P.M. Rhyne for one thousand dollars. See Deed Book 60, Page 297.
6. On March 1, 1938, Geo. W. Rhyne and wife Frances C. Rhyne, Thomas R. Eidson Jr., and wife Lena Rhyne Eidson, and Mary M. Rhyne, widow of P.M. Rhyne, deeded the property to Robt. F. Dorton and wife Eunice Rhyne Dorton ( $\frac{1}{2}$  interest) and Alena Clemmer Rhyne (wife of R. Esli Rhyne) the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest. See Deed Book 342, Page 452.
7. On Nov. 6, 1939, Robert F. Dorton and wife Eunice Rhyne Dorton deeded their  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest to Alena Clemmer Rhyne. See Deed Book 372, Page 15.
8. On May 3, 1947, Alena Clemmer Rhyne and husband R.E. Rhyne deeded the property to J.S. McDaniel. See Deed Book 504, Page 189. The property belongs to Mrs. McDaniel at this time.
9. On June 10, 1983, the estate of Mrs. J.S. McDaniel deeded the property to Richard M. Penegar and wife Lucy Penegar. See Deed Bk. 1438 at pp. 842-846.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE RHYNE STORE 1850

Moses H. Rhyne was a prominent and useful citizen of Gaston County. He was one of the pioneers in the cotton manufacturing industry, gold mining, and other industries.<sup>1</sup> His sons, Abel P. and Daniel. E. became very prosperous in the textile industry of Gaston County.<sup>2</sup>

A meeting was held June 4, 1842, at the Hoffman-Rhyne Store in Woodlawn (Mt. Holly) to consider the question of dividing the county of Lincoln. Moses H. Rhyne was present and was appointed to be one of seven delegates to the county convention to be held in Lincolnton Tuesday of Court.<sup>3</sup>

On February 20, 1847, the seventy five acre tract was deeded to the Gaston County Court for the purpose of establishing the county seat of the newly formed county.<sup>4</sup> Lots were marked off and offered for sale.

On November 26, 1849, Moses H. Rhyne purchased Lot # 17 for the sum of \$240.00 and began construction of the two story brick general store-residence. The Rhyne Store is so similar in form and detail to the Hoffman Hotel, it seems likely that both buildings were constructed by the same builder.<sup>5</sup>

The large front room on the first floor was at first used as a store room with the residential quarters on the second floor. It has been used to hold court while the courthouse was being rebuilt after the fire of 1874. In the 1890's

the depot agent lived in the Rhyne Store. <sup>6</sup> It was used for  
a time as the post office while the owner, P.M. Rhyne, serv-  
ed as the postmaster. <sup>7</sup> From this time till the present the  
building has continued to serve its original purpose as a  
store-residence.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Leban Miles Hoffman, Our Kin, published by the Baltimore Geneological Publishing Company, p.29.
2. Wm. L. Sherrill, Annals of Lincoln County, published 1937, p. 410.
3. Ibid. p. 127.
4. Gaston County Deed Book 1, p. 19 at Register of Deeds Office County Courthouse, Gastonia, N.C.
5. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.
6. Mrs. Evon Houser and Rudd Friday 1946 Gaston Centennial, p. 112.
7. Dalton Stowe, historian

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RHYNE STORE

The Rhyne Store, one of the original Dallas buildings still in existence, was originally constructed in 1850 to house a mercantile business on the first level with a residence on the upper level. The exterior brick work is all hand-made brick laid in running bond with a row of headers every fifth course for ties between the inner and outer wythes.

The original entrance used the entire front of the building on the first level and the stair to the upper floor was accessible from the inside of the first level.

The windows on the exterior are located on the upper level only, with two at the front and rear walls and three on the side walls. These windows are evenly spaced in the wall lengths to give a uniform appearance. They are nine-over-nine floor length sash set within architraves identical to that of the facade pediment windows. The windows have cut granite sills and flat brick arches one brick width below the cornice.

A wide molded wooden cornice caps the structure and is repeated on the end pediments. The gable ends are done in Greek Revival style covered with horizontal boards. The front gable is centered with a three part window set within a symmetrically molded architrave with roundel corner blocks. The rear pediment has casement windows flanking the central exterior brick chimney.

The structure is composed of brick load bearing walls and framed wood floor and roof system. The roof is of metal and fairly steep pitched.

The upper level was laid out with the sleeping quarters in the front of the store and the general living space at the rear with large windows that more than likely overlooked a landscaped yard area.