

**The Hickory Landmark's Society's**  
**25th Annual**  
***Romance of the Home and Garden Tour***  
**Hickory, North Carolina**

**Friday, May 17, 2019 – Featured Speaker**  
**John Gidding: Designer, Architect**  
**from *Trading Spaces***  
**7:00 pm**

**Saturday, May 18, 2019 – Home & Garden Tour**  
**9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Featuring Self-Guided Tours of 7 Homes and Gardens.**

**Cost: \$50 per person for Speaker and Tour**  
**\$25 per person for tour only, in advance**  
**\$30.00 per person on May 18**

Tickets Are on Sale Now @ [www.hickorylandmarks.org](http://www.hickorylandmarks.org)  
Maple Grove (542 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE)

**Other Tickets Sales Locations: (Beginning April 23)**  
Bottega (262 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NW)  
Jenny's Gifts and Accessories (436 Main Ave., NW)  
Lowe's Foods -Viewmont (260 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE)  
Lowe's Foods – Belle Hollow (3010 N. Center Street)  
The Sally Company (323 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW)

**The Sites:**

**Dr. Charles Hunsucker Office (1952)**  
**421 3<sup>rd</sup> St., NE**  
**Owner: Leslie Ferrell**



This one-and-one-half-story brick-veneered structure is characterized by front and side gables and a three-bay façade with a central, gabled entrance. Porches have been added to both sides of the building – the south porch is screened and the north porch is enclosed and framed in a manner

similar to the framed ell addition projecting from the rear. The rear also contains three gabled dormers.

Dr. Charles Hunsucker constructed this building as his medical office in 1952. It was built on the rear of his large house lot where there was once an extensive rose garden. The office was converted to a single-family dwelling, possibly in the late 1960s. Family lore says that Dr. Hunsucker and his wife Fleta downsized to this home from their larger house next door.

A series of owners have remodeled the interior of the house, A sunroom and porch were enclosed, and a fireplace concealed. The chimney is visible from the exterior and artist Bud Caywood, a former owner, left a stained-glass panel that used to be beside the fireplace. The master suite may have been exam rooms at one time, as both rooms have exits to a porch. The second floor was converted to living space and now boasts two bedrooms, bathroom and a laundry room. Leslie Ferrell has lived here for five years. She purchased from flippers who had opened up the floor plan for better flow and has created a lovely home. Leslie loves that the house is close to Hickory's downtown amenities.

**Kennedy-Setzer House (1921)**  
**306 Third Ave. Drive SE**  
**Owners: Jan and Jeff Vierra**



The Kennedy-Setzer House is a two-story, three-bay, Colonial Revival-style dwelling capped by a low-hipped roof. The façade features a hip-roofed center dormer and a central entrance porch. A larger, balcony porch is attached to the east elevation. The central entrance is bordered by wide multipane sidelights and is flanked by triple sets of double-hung sash. The south elevation has a curved bay window and a rear entrance porch with a pergola supported by Tuscan columns connected to a simple balustrade.

K.K. Kennedy and his wife, Mildred, purchased this lot from the Hickory Land and Development Company in 1921. The house was built that year. The August 30, 1921 *Hickory Daily Record* informed its readers: "Mr. and Mrs. K.K. Kennedy and family are moving into their handsome new home in Kenworth." In 1922 the Kennedys sold the house to P.C. (Ceph) Setzer, who had come to Hickory in 1890. Claude Herman Setzer, son of Ceph and his wife Fannie Herman Setzer, lived in the house until November 17, 1958. There followed

multiple owners and decline of the structure. On September 14, 1992, this house was purchased at auction by Jan Robbins Vierra and thus began a slow rehabilitation of the home.

Care has been taken over the years to maintain as much of the original fabric as possible. By 2001 major projects had been undertaken with the help and supervision of Jeff Vierra. The house was lifted to build a basement. A spiral staircase to the basement was installed in the butler's pantry and the same room was reduced to add a ground floor powder room. The interior walls were taken back to the studs to install all new electrical and plumbing, sound board and insulation. The kitchen was expanded with the removal of a back staircase. Pocket doors were created to save space. Changes have adhered to the style of the era. The windows, front door, all oak flooring, mantels and built-in corner cabinets in the dining room are original to the house.

Jan has a passion for gardening that shows in the landscaping of the grounds and the use of colorful planters on the porches. Beds of vegetation line the driveway and surround the house, with changing seasons of color. Hanging baskets benefit from an ingenious irrigation system devised by Jeff. The east porch is a welcoming oasis for guests. The rear garden is overlooked by a rounded portico that echoes that of the front entrance.

### **John Bohannon House (1923)**

**311 Third Ave. Drive, SE**

**Owners: George Misoyianis and Chuck Shepherd**



The John N. Bohannon House is a one-story, five-bay cottage covered with German siding. The façade is symmetrically composed around the center entrance and features a large triangular attic dormer. Narrow, multipane sidelights border the door, and the whole is sheltered by a narrow hood supported by triangular braces. Ten-pane casement windows have been employed in the bays which flank the entrance.

On August 9, 1921, John N. Bohannon and his wife Mary Wynne Bohannon purchased the land on which this house was built from Hickory Land and Development Company. He later recalled that the house was built in 1923 and was based on a design taken from a magazine and altered to suit his needs. In 1925, the Bohannon family moved to Asheville permanently. This house was rented to tenants during the rest of the time the Bohannon family owned it. John N. Bohannon died in 1992 and in August 1993, the family sold the house. Current owners George Misoyianis and Chuck Shepherd bought the property in September 2015.

Misoyianis and Shepherd have worked to maintain the historical integrity of the

building while creating a comfortable place to live. Original cabinets in the kitchen have been resurfaced with beadboard and the dining room table finish is inspired by the kitchen counters. A new cork floor in the kitchen provides comfort and durability. The house is compact yet roomy and the décor has been chosen to make the house feel larger. The furnishings are period styles and the eclectic collection of accents adds a touch of whimsy.

The house sits on three and one half lots of the original Kenworth plat, providing plentiful acreage. However, much of the land slopes down to a creek, giving the house a great deal of privacy. Fill dirt has been used to extend the yard in front of the house. The brick path was constructed of materials reclaimed from an old patio. A pergola with classical posts is attached to the north elevation. Necessary structural work has been done to the pergola using heart of pine railing saved from another house in the neighborhood. Recent additions to the exterior of the house include window boxes, corbels, awnings and a picket fence and arbor. The back porch has been completely weatherized and is used to store kitchen supplies and equipment. All changes are made with a view to maintaining the historical integrity of the home.

## **Sarah Frisbey**

### **Loft**

### **Blackwelder Commercial Building (1913)**

**42 Second St., NW**

**Owner: Sarah Frisbey**



The Blackwelder Commercial Building was built in 1915 on a lot with an unusual history. Around 1890 the lot was sold to Corinth Reformed Church and shortly thereafter the 2<sup>nd</sup> sanctuary of Corinth was built here. By 1910 Corinth had constructed a new church one block away. The 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Hickory showed the old church building being used as a “garage,” auto service station and gasoline supplier. The church/garage building was torn down in July 1914. The Blackwelder family had the current building constructed in 1915, as evidenced by an inscription on a stone wall in the basement: “Oct. 29, 1915 H.C.C.” (Hickory Construction Company). The

commercial building is a typical, two-story brick structure with a storefront façade. Over the years the building has housed a variety of businesses: Wholesale Flour & Feed, an auto display hall, jewelers, clothing store, dance studio, hair salon and a Masonic Lodge upstairs. In 2007-08 Young Lyons Properties, LLC had the building completely renovated, creating an upstairs residential loft and continuing the tradition of commercial space downstairs.

Since September 2017, Trade Alley Arts, an artist co-operative has occupied the ground floor of the building. Twenty-two (at last count) local artists display their work in the attractive gallery and the business is staffed by volunteers. Ticket holders are encouraged to visit.

The second story loft that Sarah Frisbey calls home is anything but typical. It is one of only eight lofts over the commercial buildings in downtown Hickory. The residence is a true loft with 3600 square feet of mostly open living space. The only walls define a small kitchen and a luxurious bathroom. The bedrooms are defined by fabric partitions and other areas are delineated by furniture and art placement. Sarah's former residences have been an enormous hit on past tours, showcasing her artistic nature and eclectic collections. The loft is brightly lit and colorfully decorated.

### **Charles Henry Geitner House (1929)**

**420 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., NW**

**Owners: Clement and Mary Elizabeth Geitner**



The Geitner house and grounds were created by Charles Henry and Suehonor Shuford Geitner. Clement Geitner, father of Charles, moved to Hickory from Lititz, Pennsylvania in 1883. In 1888 he built his home along the railroad tracks and the structure, now Jenny's Gift Shop, still stands as the oldest brick house in Hickory. The

Charles Henry Geitner house was constructed in 1928 and is currently home to the third generation of Geitners to occupy the property.



The main house has been expanded twice. In the 1970's a first-floor master bedroom and bath were constructed. A major renovation in 2003 added a spacious family room with a window seat overlooking the gardens, a solarium with a custom octagonal skylight, and a completely updated kitchen based on the original 1928 configuration. A second-floor studio as well as many upgrades were also included at this time. Where feasible original materials remain in place and design details of the new construction directly reflect the original. Of particular note are the original tile floor in the front hall and the oak paneling in the front hall and living room. Both the 1970's and the 2003 additions expanded the north (or rear) side of the house, respecting the view from the street of the historic district.

Originally constructed as the garage for the main house, the Geitner guest house was moved in the 1950's from its original site (just behind the main house) to its present

location when a back porch with a garage underneath was added to the main house. The move was carried out by rolling the structure on telephone poles. The building was used for storage until 1964 when it was converted into the guest house as it exists today.

The guest house project was undertaken by Crouch Lumber Company, based on a sketch. The two entry doors reflect the Geitners' Moravian heritage. Inside, the guest house is one room up and down with a kitchen area and a full bathroom downstairs. The chimney and fireplace are constructed of Boren handmade brick, the downstairs flooring is brick pavers, and the interior walls are western cedar paneling. The greenhouse was also added at that time.

**Mahaffey House (1957)**  
**1069 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Court, NW**  
**Owners: Michael Judd & Evita Smith**



This unique home originated with a mix up in an order of glass. In 1956 Vernon Mahaffey, owner and operator of Standard Glass Company, received the wrong size glass for an order. Making the best of the situation, he called his good friend, architect Jim Sherrill and asked him to design a new house for the Mahaffey family specifically to fit the glass.

Sherrill's project list for 1958 shows the completion of the project. The *Hickory Daily Record* for November 15, 1958 features an article on the new "contemporary solar house," explaining that the overhanging butterfly roof "keeps the sun out and protects the ventilating." The house was glazed with thermopane insulating glass to help modulate the temperature. Windows lined the north and south sides of the building so that the east and west ends avoided the sun.



As it was built, the house featured a living room left of the entrance with a wall of glass, looking out onto an open porch. Eventually the clear glass was replaced with frosted glass to provide a semblance of privacy. At some point the porch was enclosed, becoming the den it is today, and the room used by the Mahaffey's as a den became the dining room. Original woodwork in the house was done by

Crouch Lumber Company, including the wooden accordion pleated closed door and the storage/desk nook in the den. The mirrored closet doors are original. Mr. Mahaffey sold glass and mirrors.

The property remained with the Mahaffey family until 2008. Subsequent owners closed

in the glass wall overlooking the den with tongue and groove and installed swinging doors into the kitchen. They also painted the walls a more neutral shade for display of art. The current owners bought the house in 2017 and consider it a work in progress. They longed for a Modernist-style house and found the perfect home to love for many years to come. Evita Smith and Michael Judd are the perfect combination of artist and engineer for this house. They consider themselves fortunate that the house remains so intact and are able to do much of the necessary work themselves. They plan to leave as much original material in place as possible and add color to bring warmth to the house and display their art and furnishings.

### **John and Juliana Berry Garden 1095 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. Drive NW**



Nestled in a cul-de-sac at the end of 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. Dr. NW is a lovely oasis of just under one acre of lakefront property. A modern house, built in 1965, is completely surrounded by this showcase of a garden. The Berry's purchased the property from its second owner and have spent two decades rescuing an old garden from severe overgrowth. The result is a peaceful landscape that perfectly complements the house, moving from wild at the edges to more structured and formal near the house. Long low horizontal lines of hedges and walkways featuring mature trees, such as an original magnolia, and boxwoods along with beds of perennials, heirloom roses and pops of color in pots. Paths of natural materials such as pebble, brick and stone lead to shaded nooks with seating to enjoy the surroundings. The sloping lot is terraced and has paths and seating areas at multiple levels, all the way down to a dock on the lake. The plantings are a beautiful variety of hues and textures and planned to provide year-round visual interest. By August the garden has a wilder appearance.

The Berry's are working to move the garden toward a lower maintenance undertaking. Since the last time the garden was on the tour in 2015, they have removed all areas of grass, replacing them with walkways. There is also a new pond and a building that started as a "cabana" and evolved into a "she shed." There is no irrigation system throughout the extensive garden and Mrs. Berry only waters plants for their first year in the garden. The result is a lovely garden of thriving hardy survivors.

**Featured Speaker: John Gidding**  
**Topic: Living in Art: How to Position Art in the Home**



**Designer, Architect, Artist from TLC's Trading Spaces**

**Location: 74 South at Moretz Mill**

**Presentation: 7:00 pm**

**(Reception 6:30 pm)**

John Gidding was born in Istanbul to a Greek mother and an American father and has been splitting time between Asia, Europe and the USA ever since. Drawing, music and art were his earliest passions and he spent his formative years pursuing all three, finally majoring in Architecture at Yale. Upon receiving a master's degree in Architecture from the Harvard School of Design, John embarked upon a career that encompassed design, illustration, architecture, television, and public speaking. Today, John concentrates on the applications of art in interior design on TLC's "Trading Spaces", taking on private commissions for residential and furniture design, art in situ, and continues to play the piano.

Best known for his television appearances, Gidding hosted *Curb Appeal* (HGTV) for 6 seasons providing makeovers that made the entryways of homes showplace ready. He also created sleek and interesting rooms on *Designed to Sell* (HGTV) from 2006-2011. Most recently he is one of the designers on the reboot of *Trading Spaces* on TLC and a frequent guest on *The Rachael Ray Show*. He also travels the country speaking at events and home shows.



For more information call (828)322-4731 or e-mail [info@hickorylandmarks.org](mailto:info@hickorylandmarks.org).

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