

Florence Kidder Memorial Scholarship - Jaxon Self

Historic Preservation in North Carolina

Located in the heart of Fallston, North Carolina, a small close knit community, is the historic commercial building, Stamey Stores, Inc.

The Stamey family business started in February, 1890 when brothers, Thomas and Charles Stamey leased a storefront on Fallston Road from a local friend, John Falls. The Stamey brothers were first class entrepreneurs realizing the needs in their own community. Their history in the trade world and the increased demands for goods not produced on the individual farms generated \$1,500 of revenue their first year in business and averaged over \$100,000 of profit from sales in 1909. ("Stamey Company Store") The mercantile had a variety of departments within the building; dry goods, groceries, butcher, telephone exchange and funeral services. The community loved to shop and socialize at Stamey Stores where all their needs were supplied from the cradle to the grave. In 1911 and 1925 Stamey Stores experienced destructive fires. The renovation after the second fire was completed in 1927 resulting in the current fire-resistant brick commercial building. (*Stamey Company Store*) The exterior of the restored building included decorative masonry, large display windows and recessed entrance doors, noticeable distinctions compared to other businesses. The Stamey family continued the successful business until 1994. The closing was due to the death of Thomas and Charles Stamey and no interest from other family members in the general store. A sad time for the community that left a vacant spot in Fallston, North Carolina. Yet, while the store closed a new chapter was in the making for the building.

From 1995 to 2013 the Stamey Store building was home to several different businesses. One business in particular was a furniture company that did custom work for the local community and also famous individuals. The location and design of the building was perfect for the upholstery company. The layout featuring the open floor space allowed for perfect

production processing on the first floor, design work on the mezzanine level and storage on the third. Also giving directions to furniture customers was easy - the Stamey Store, Inc. also known as the Stamey Mansion, located at the only stoplight in Fallston. My visits to the Stamey Store building during this time the atmosphere still felt like the general store and I could visualize the setup of the different departments. Many people would drop by just to reminisce of the bygone days.

New life opened in the Stamey Stores, Inc building in 2018. A descendant of the Stamey brothers opened The Historic Stamey Store Event Center. ("Home") The historic building is the perfect venue for hosting weddings and special occasions. The ground floor of the venue was completely restored to reflect and preserve the architecture's history. Flooring, woodwork, tin ceilings and the storefront windows were restored to the original features. The restored grand staircase from the mezzanine level is the perfect grand entrance for a bride, speaker or special guest. The event center once again offers a place for the community of Fallston to gather with family and friends as they did since opening in 1890.

In January, 2019 the Stamey Store, Inc. building was listed on The National Register of Historic Places in recognition of their historical significance. ("Stamey Company Store") Preserving the historic building is a huge asset to the town of Fallston. Not only to their future planning and development but to maintain the community's character. The building is an attractive place to visit, entertain or attend a business event leaving with a sense of the heritage through the Stamey family. The building is also evidence that their goal and vision was to prolong the existence of the property and prevent loss of the heritage.

In closing, the historic Stamey's Stores, Inc. building is the landmark of Fallston, North Carolina. Everytime you drive through the town with one stoplight, you can not miss the marvelous building with its artistic value. Without the history of the most sophisticated Stamey Store building Fallston, North Carolina would not be recognized at the same high level of integrity.

Works Cited:

"Home." *The Historic Stamey Event Center*, stameyeventcenter.com/. Accessed 9 Feb. 2025.

"Stamey Company Store." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 Dec. 2024, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamey_Company_Store.

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