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The Hampton-Preston Tourist Home: A Furnishing and Interpretive Plan

Amy McKinney

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THE HAMPTON-PRESTON TOURIST HOME:
A FURNISHING AND INTERPRETIVE PLAN

By

Amy McKinney

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for
Graduation with Honors from the
South Carolina Honors College

May 2017

Approved:

__________________________
Robert Weyeneth
Director of Thesis

__________________________
John Sherrer
Second Reader

__________________________
Steve Lynn, Dean
For South Carolina Honors College
Table of Contents

Project Summary..............................................................................................................................................2

Part One: Research........................................................................................................................................4

1. History of the Hampton-Preston Mansion
2. Tourist Home Concept
3. Tourist Home Advertisement in Columbia
4. Hampton-Preston Tourist Home
5. Notable Individuals Associated with the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home
6. Community Development
7. Other White Tourist Homes in Columbia
8. African American Tourist Homes in Columbia

Part Two: Design...........................................................................................................................................24

9. Period Room Design Plans
10. Structural Elements
11. Wallpaper

Part Three: Collections...............................................................................................................................32

12. Objects to Purchase
13. Objects in Historic Columbia’s Collection
14. Television Retro-Fit

Part Four: Educational Material................................................................................................................34

15. Reader Rail Content
16. Tour Guide Manual Content
17. Relation to South Carolina Educational Standards

Conclusion/Reflections.............................................................................................................................41

Appendices..................................................................................................................................................43

Bibliography.................................................................................................................................................51
Project Summary

To culminate my undergraduate experience, this thesis was conceived out of the desire to produce history-based research that would benefit the community. Prompted by Dr. Robert Weyeneth, my Thesis Director, I reached out to John Sherrer, Director of Cultural Resources at Historic Columbia, to see if he was involved with any projects that could use my assistance. He told me that Historic Columbia had commissioned an assessment of the Hampton-Preston Mansion in February 2017 to address areas for potential improvement at the site and suggested that I work under his supervision to produce a period room for the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home, which was one of the major interpretive shortcomings at the historic house museum.

In reference to the tour and exhibits, the report noted, “No provision for interpreting the site’s usage as a tourist home exists presently.” It continued, “Current manual does not offer any coverage for the period in which the tourist home operated at the site.” ¹ My work amends the lack of interpretation for the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home with the development of a period room to interpret the 1950s, during which the mansion was used as a tourist home, to remedy this problem. The interpretation of this time period preserves the recent past and allows visitors to connect to the site, as they may have experienced similar rooms in their parent’s or grandparent’s homes. I also drafted content for inclusion in the Hampton-Preston Docent Handbook, which only included one sentence about the property after 1930, based upon my research. The manual mentioned that “bulldozers destroyed the estate’s plantings to make space for commercial development” in 1947, but my contribution discusses the tourist home concept, the use of the house as a tourist home, important

individuals from this period, and other tourist homes in Columbia. In regard to the overall interpretation at the site, the assessment critiqued, “There is not a good balance between sharing site specific stories while also providing broad information related to broader history.”

There were also several mentions about the lack of inclusion of the African-American experience in the home. In order to incorporate a holistic interpretation of the 1950s, I used the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room as an opportunity to discuss the tourist home phenomenon across the United States and in Columbia, as well as the differences between white and African American accommodations.

My work in this thesis is only a small part of a larger, ongoing initiative at Historic Columbia to provide capital improvements to the Hampton-Preston Mansion. In 2018, the entire site will be updated to include new interpretations, HVAC improvements, and garden renovations. John Sherrer and Katharine Allen, Research Associate at Historic Columbia, led the curatorial initiative and served as my on-site mentors for this project.

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3 “Hampton-Preston Mansion Tour and Exhibit Assessment.”
Part One: Research

History of the Hampton-Preston Mansion

The Hampton-Preston Mansion was constructed for Ainsley Hall, a wealthy merchant, in 1818 to exemplify “in every way the luxury and culture that was typical of the old South.” He quickly sold the house to Wade Hampton, a well-known and high-ranking military officer in the American Revolution and War of 1812. Upon his death, Hampton’s daughter, who was married to John S. Preston, acquired the property. The family was forced to sell the home after the Civil War, however, and the house changed hands several times before it was deeded to The South Carolina Presbyterian Institute for Young Ladies in 1890. The college for women combined with Chicora College in 1915, and the site became the home of the Chicora College for Women until 1930. The Hampton-Preston house then experienced interspersed periods of occupancy and disuse. A campaign to save the home and turn it into a museum was launched in 1940, and preservation efforts continued, unsuccessfully, until Thomas Hair purchased the estate in 1943 to operate it as a tourist home. The state ultimately acquired the property from Hair in 1966, and the mansion underwent extensive restoration to become the centerpiece of the South Carolina Tricentennial Exhibition in 1970. The property is currently owned by Richland County, and Historic Columbia operates the estate as a historic house museum.

5 “Museum Drive is Launched in Columbia,” The State, May 9, 1940. Hampton-Preston Home Bought By Thomas Hair,” The State, Nov. 19, 1943.
Tourist Home Concept

Tourist homes were a product of the 1930s and the need to supplement one’s income during difficult financial times. Most common in the South, they helped individuals survive their harsh realities during the aftermath of the Great Depression, and southern cities were “generally reluctant to adopt restrictive regulations governing the operation of tourist homes,” which made it simple to open a personal home to boarders under the name of a tourist home.7 Stereotypes existed for proprietors to either be widows in financial trouble or bankrupt businessmen trying to regain their status, which is not out of line with the owners of tourist homes in Columbia in the 1950s.8 “The typical tourist home was a private house, usually located near the downtown area on a major thoroughfare carrying a through highway, where one or more bedrooms were ‘let for the night.’”9 They also provided “a home-away-from-home atmosphere not found in more expensive hotels.”10 People often found this environment more comfortable, and Howard Lawrence Preston notes in the introduction to his book that his grandmother would insist on staying at tourist homes when travelling because the room would be “maintained in a way any self-respecting southern woman cared for the rest of her house.”11 These accommodations most often attracted travelling families and salesmen who had limited funds.12 Elizabeth Deschamps, whose mother ran a tourist home in their house, recalled “unforgettable evenings spent around a roaring fire, or, in summer, rocking on the wide front

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9 Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, The Motel in America, 35.
10 Preston, Dirt Roads to Dixie, 148.
11 Preston, Dirt Roads to Dixie, 2.
piazza, talking with travelers from Ohio, New York, Connecticut, even Canada. Their homes seemed light years away, and they were almost like foreigners. I am sure they found us equally as strange with our drawling Southern speech.”¹³ Tourist homes were spaces of colliding cultures that provided low-cost accommodations for travellers and expanded the horizons of their owners.

Tourist homes were the foundation for the current idea of a motel. They were very popular on the East Coast and functioned similarly to auto camps in the West. If tourist homes were successful financially, it was not uncommon for tourist home operators to build cabins on the property surrounding their home to expand their businesses. This process led to the development of cabin camps, which would then evolve into cottage courts and roadside motels.¹⁴ An advertisement in The State newspaper from 1943 about a tourist home for sale exemplifies this idea. It read, “Just out of the city limits on popular paved highway we offer very attractive and most modern tourist home. . . . Established clientele of traveling men and tourist . . . Additional ground and conveniences for a tourist court if so desired.”¹⁵

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¹⁴ Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, The Motel in America, 36-37.
¹⁵ The State, May 21, 1943.
Tourist homes are most closely related to current bed and breakfast (B&B) establishments. Rodney Warnick and Lawrence Klar distinguish between a bed and breakfast home, which “usually have only one to three rooms, are usually larger homes owned by couples or individuals who have converted their extra or children’s bedrooms into guest rooms,” and a bed and breakfast inns, which are “usually larger in size, with four to 20 rooms, and functions much like other lodging establishments.” These distinctions were also found in tourist homes, although they were not defined as such at the time. Bed and breakfast homes function much like typical tourist homes, where “the owners’ motivation is usually to supplement their personal incomes. However, many owners appear to be attracted to the concept of meeting new and interesting travelers or tourists through the ‘guest-host’ experience.” Modern popular culture has caused many people to associate bed and breakfast establishments with

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16 Airbnb is an online marketplace that offers accommodations similar to tourist homes as well.
wealthy individuals who want to escape for the hustle and bustle of city life for a quaint weekend in the country; however, for those who lived through the essential time of tourist homes, they “stir bittersweet memories for me of the stock market crash in 1929, bank failures and the ensuing Great Depression.”18

Tourist homes reached their peak popularity in the latter half of the 1940s. According to the American Automobile Association, inquiries about tourist homes and trailer camps exceeded those for hotels with luxury accommodations in 1946, with the end of World War II and the desire for the American people to explore their country and see the South and West.19 The popularity of tourist homes shifted quickly, however, with the development of other accommodations. In West Virginia, noted as a typical case study, visitor stops at tourist homes fell from 26% to 12% from 1949 to 1950, while tourist court usage rose from 39% to 48% over the same period. The increased popularity of tourist courts and motels “hits hardest at the old-fashioned tourist home” because travellers became more attracted to new tourist courts and motels. 20 The initial attraction to tourist homes was the southern hospitality that northerners would not be able to experience at home.21 Over time, however, perceptions of southern tourist homes shifted toward an ideal representative of an antiquated lifestyle. An article from The New York Times in 1973 offered a critical assessment of tourist homes with the statement, “that sub-memorable clapboard monstrosity you pass and immediately forget . . . The tourist

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18 Deschamps, “The Tourist Home.”
home is crucial Americana, as common as corn fritters, as time-proof as Main Street, and as much in evidence as the fruited plain.”

**Tourist Home Advertisements in Columbia**

Tourist homes in Columbia were advertised in the classified section of *The State* newspaper under the “Furnished Rooms” category. The advertisements were all similar with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the home; however, the tourist homes varied in the services they included. Common amenities to advertise were heating and air, food service, and bed size. Some even included maid services to maintain their tourist homes, such as the tourist home at 1706 Gervais Street. Soldiers were common clientele at tourist homes in Columbia, so these individuals were often targeted in advertisements. The tourist home at 1522 Blanding Street advertised, “Army couples welcomed, a place to park your car,” and another home advertised the location’s proximity to a bus line to Fort Jackson. Advertisements were short, but owners highlighted the services that set them apart from other accommodations in the area.

*The State* also featured advertisements about tourist homes, and potential tourist homes, for sale. Houses were marketed for their potential to be used as tourist homes that could provide “an investment plus an income.” This sentiment was echoed in a classified advertisement for a tourist home on North Main Street that stated, “Buy this Home. Live in it and make money at the same time.”

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provided assurance to individuals who wanted to purchase a home but were apprehensive about whether or not the financial investment would prove an asset. There was also a market for businessmen who were seeking tourist homes simply for the economic capital. The Dun Roamin Tourist Home, located just outside Columbia on Highway 1, was advertised for sale with all of its furniture, and the “wonderful reputation and goodwill of this place” was intended to spark interest in buyers who would be looking to purchase the property and start business quickly.\textsuperscript{27} Advertisements for tourist homes were common; however, it became more difficult to sell these homes in the 1950s when the market shifted toward motor courts and motels.

\textbf{Hampton-Preston Tourist Home}

Thomas Hair purchased the Hampton-Preston home on November 18, 1943 for an undisclosed price with the purpose to rent the rooms for profit. He told \textit{The State} that the property would be “maintained without destroying any of the historic connection with the past” and that the home and gardens would be “restored to their former beauty.”\textsuperscript{28} The Hampton-Preston Tourist Home opened at noon on March 11, 1944, at which point Hair commented that “25 of the rooms have been reconditioned and that the house is in good condition.”\textsuperscript{29} He wanted to restore the property to its former glory and reinstate the “‘Hospitality of the Old South.’”\textsuperscript{30} It is significant to note, however, that the grounds, including the gardens and brick wall surrounding

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
    \item \textsuperscript{27} \textit{The State}, Oct. 12, 1934.
    \item \textsuperscript{28} “Hampton-Preston Home Bought By Thomas Hair.”
    \item \textsuperscript{29} The exact number of rooms in the mansion at this time is unknown. The Preston family commissioned an addition to the home between 1848 and 1850, which was removed by Historic Columbia in 1969, and this addition with rooms in the attic and basement spaces likely accounts for the 25 rooms mentioned by Hair. “Hampton-Preston Mansion Opens as Tourist Home,” \textit{The State}, Mar. 11, 1944. “Saturday: From The State of March 11,” \textit{The State}, Mar. 13, 1944.
    \item \textsuperscript{30} Kristie DaFoe, “The Hampton-Preston Tourist Home Exhibit Plan Proposal,” (Internship Project, Historic Columbia, 2014).
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
the block were not part of the tourist home. Manuel Zorgias purchased this property in December 1943. He intended to develop two modern apartment buildings on the land; however, there is no evidence that his plan came to fruition.  

Little information is available about the house during the period in which it operated as a tourist home. The Hampton-Preston Tourist Home was advertised with rooms “by day, week, or month,” and later with “steam heat—clean—reduced rates.” This shift to advertising reduced rates in the 1950s demonstrates the declining popularity of tourist homes and the economic decline of the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home in particular. Former tenants recalled the tourist home as a place for “‘lower-class’ patrons; however, other accounts point out the clean and comfortable home maintained by the proprietress, Maggie Campbell. Typical patrons of the tourist home were mostly women, although soldiers and the occasional older man were not uncommon. Food was not provided at the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home, so boarders had to look to other local establishments for their meals. The tourist home received little press attention, but The State newspaper reported one incident of note in February 1958. The “window frame at a stairway landing was afire,” which caused $40 of damage to the building but no harm to the contents. Fires were fairly common in tourist homes, likely because visitors did not maintain the same standards of maintenance as they would at their private residences; however, this event of fire was well contained.

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There are four individuals known to have lived at the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home. Libby Cohen, who worked at Tapp’s department store in the cafeteria, lived in the tourist home from 1954-1959. There she met Private Alvin Cohen, and the two were eventually married, although his time at the home was short-lived after officers realized he was living off base without permission. Private David Sennema was in a similar situation. Sennema dated Shirley Stringer during his time at the tourist home; however, their relationship did not withstand the separation when he was forced to return to Fort Jackson.36

By 1958, the home had become only a vestige of a once grand mansion. Helen King wrote, “Inside the lovely old home one is struck by the former elegance of the place . . . the handsome mirrors, the faded wall-paper, and the priceless antiques in rented rooms, all affirm the grandeur of a period in Columbia and South Carolina that is no more.”37 Thomas Hair’s mission to restore the home to the opulence of past generations had failed. He requested a demolition permit for the house from Columbia’s Historic and Cultural Buildings Commission in 1965 because he could “no longer afford to maintain the land for non-commercial use.” The Commission withheld the permit for six months with the hope that he would be able to find an investor who would save the property.38 Hair ultimately sold the Hampton-Preston home to the Richland County Historical Preservation Commission for $80,000 in 1966.39

Notable Individuals Associated with the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home

Thomas Eugene Hair, a native of Prosperity, South Carolina, purchased the Hampton-Preston home in 1943 for an undisclosed price as a prominent real estate developer and local attorney in Columbia. He attended the University of South Carolina, as well as the University of Minnesota, and he earned his L. L. B. degree from the Chicago Law School. Hair became involved in public life at an early age; he was elected magistrate of Columbia at age 22 and had an unsuccessful run for the House of Representatives in 1958. He served in both world wars and ended his active service in 1955 with a rank of major. He was also a Mason, a Shriner, and an Elk in Columbia. In addition to his community involvement, Hair was the proprietor of his own real estate agency, Thomas E. Hair & Co., and later president of the Stomp Springs Realty and Investment Co. His most notable accomplishment was constructing Bangal’s Cafe (736 Harden Street) in 1922 and developing the surrounding area into Five Points, where he is considered the “grandfather” of development. By 1937, he was the largest property owner in Five Points and owned the most apartment buildings in Columbia. He also developed the Rosewood Gardens subdivision and owned “the modern colored subdivision located at Haskell avenue and Carolina Court.” Shortly after he purchased the Hampton-Preston property in 1943, he also acquired the Jones residence at the intersection of Hampton and Gregg Streets, which he intended to use as a home for registered nurses. Hair remained active in business and public life until he passed away in 1976.

40 “Hampton-Preston Home Bought By Thomas Hair.”
44 “Thomas E Hair Buys Another Large Home Here,” The State, Nov. 28, 1943.
Maggie Campbell served as the hostess at the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home and was responsible for overseeing the property and visitors’ needs. She lived in the house and was known for her strict rules and careful maintenance of the tourist home. My research revealed several associations that indicate the families had a personal relationship. Maggie Campbell’s husband, John C. Campbell, shared an office with Thomas Hair in Five Points, and Hair was an honorary pallbearer at his funeral in 1942. Thomas Hair was also an active pallbearer at the funeral of Maggie Campbell’s mother-in-law, Sarah H. Campbell, in 1936.

In January 1944, Campbell’s life became even more distressed when her son, John C. Campbell, Jr., was killed in action in World War II. Often called Johnny, he was a well-known figure in the Columbia community. He was a prominent athlete at the University of South Carolina and was recognized for his dancing skills. He was also partly responsible for the rise in popularity of the “Big Apple” dance as a member of the troupe that performed the dance at the Roxy Theater in New York City in 1937. Campbell received the Silver Star medal posthumously awarded to her son in December 1944. Given her personal situation at the time the tourist home opened, it is likely that Hair offered the position to Campbell as a gesture of sympathy and support and to afford her with a means to provide for herself during this difficult period.

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45 “Hampton-Preston Mansion Opens as Tourist Home.”
46 “Campbell Locates at Five Points: Real Estate Man Puts His Office on Harden Street,” The State, Feb. 28, 1937.
47 “Services Today For J. C. Campbell,” The State, Mar. 27, 1942.
48 “Last Rites Today For Mrs. Campbell,” The State, Feb. 21, 1936.
49 “Hero’s Mother Receives Award,” The State, Dec. 17, 1944.
Community Development

The end of the 1940s witnessed a shift in the neighborhood of the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home. Wilson Motors operated the land behind the mansion as a used car lot, and W. O. Blackston Plumbers was established at 1630 Blanding Street. The Miracle Apartments opened on the block in 1949 and offered run-down accommodations to more permanent tenants. The Hampton-Preston Grill and Hampton-Preston Drugette also opened on the block in 1950 to serve the residents of The Miracle Apartments and guests at the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home; however, the drugette lasted only a year before it became Lerich’s Wash-A-Matic, which provided laundry services to the area for 15 years. These commercial properties changed hands often throughout the 1950s, and by 1958, “the once-proud estate’s greatness had vanished amid a cluster of ugly buildings and a myriad of faceless strangers.”

Figure 2. Hampton-Preston Tourist Home flanked by commercial properties. (Historic Columbia Collection)

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The population dynamics of the neighborhood also shifted during this period. White flight caused many of the wealthier white residents in the area to move to the suburbs, and lower-income African Americans started to relocate to the inner-city neighborhood. By 1965, the Henderson neighborhood ranked highest in Columbia for juvenile crime and second for cases of syphilis. Residents in the area also suffered from overcrowding and neglected building maintenance. These considerations elucidate why the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home faced financial troubles; the neighborhood no longer attracted the clientele Hair hoped to appeal to in his unsuccessful mission to return the home to its former grandeur and stature.

Other White Tourist Homes in Columbia

The Hampton-Preston Tourist Home was one of many tourist homes in Columbia that served white patrons. The 1943 *South Carolina Magazine* featured the Blanding Tourist Home (1528 Blanding Street), Gilliam’s Tourist Home (1218 Bull Street), and Martha Washington Tourist Home (1615 Gervais Street) as some of the best tourist facilities in the area. A joint advertisement in *The State* for the Martha Washington and Blanding Tourist Homes from 1943 appealed directly to “members of the armed forces and their wives” and advertised below rent controlled prices with rooms from $1.50—$3.00 by the day, $8.00—$15.00 by the week, and $25.00—$60.00 by the month. This advertisement could indicate that the two properties were under the same ownership; however, this could not be confirmed. It is known, however, that Thomas E. Hair owned the Martha Washington Tourist Home, which operated out of the

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52 “Tourists Find Sufficient Facilities for Pleasant Visits to Columbia,” *South Carolina Magazine*, 1943.
53 (Columbia, SC), Aug. 6, 1943.
house that served as Sherman’s headquarters during his occupation of Columbia, and Maggie Campbell also served as the operator of the home for some period of time. The Martha Washington housed a member of the Southern Symphony Orchestra during the concert season of 1949, but it was sold to Post 3137 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to be their headquarters in 1950. The property later became the location of the Town House Motel, and William Albright, the president of Crown Inns of America, purchased the property in 1967. Albright also purchased an adjacent property that he hoped to turn into a convention center. In March 1975, however, the motel had defaulted on its mortgage and was acquired by Nationwide Real Estate Services of Columbus, Ohio, which renovated the entire property to make it more appealing to tourists. This example demonstrates the cycle of development from tourist home to motel, and it also shows how the neighborhood has struggled to develop.

56 “Convention Center Statement Expected,” The State, July 1, 1970.
57 “Motel Sold To Ohio Firm,” The State, July 26, 1975.
Figure 3. Gilliam’s Tourist Home, 1218 Bull Street. 
(South Carolina Magazine, 1943)

Figure 4. Martha Washington Tourist Home, 1615 Gervais Street. 
(South Carolina Magazine, 1943)
African American Tourist Homes in Columbia

Like cities across the United States during the mid-20th century, racial segregation was commonplace in Columbia, and there was a need for African American accommodations. “From the earliest days of automobility, overlapping and mutually sustaining racist laws, social codes, and commercial practices have attenuated the mobility of the black driver,” and travelling could be dangerous for African Americans who did not take the proper precautions. The Negro Motorist Green Book was a travel guide intended for use by African American travelers that provided information about businesses, including restaurants, tourist homes, and gas stations, that were hospitable to African American patrons. They were produced from 1936-1967 with the purpose “to give the Negro traveler information that will keep him from running into difficulties, embarrassments and to make his trips more enjoyable.” The publishers wanted to ensure “that we as a race might have something authentic to travel by and to make traveling better for the Negro.” The introduction to several editions of the Green Book also notes, “It will be a great day for us to suspend this publication for then we can go wherever we please, and without embarrassment. But until that time comes we shall continue to publish this information for your convenience each year.” The publication wanted to make African American travelers feel more at ease in unfamiliar communities, and the institutions listed in the guidebooks understood the difficulties for African Americans to find accommodations in new places. Production of the Green Books was terminated in 1967 following civil rights legislation that was passed in the mid-1960s.

58 Cotton Seiler, “’So That We as a Race Might Have Something Authentic to Travel By’: African American Automobility and Cold-War Liberalism,” 58.4 (2006): 1094.
There were a handful of African American tourist homes in Columbia that were consistently listed in the *Negro Motorist Green Books*. The homes of Mrs. H. Cornwell (1713 Wayne Street) and Mrs. W. D. Chappelle (1301 Pine Street) were listed in the *Green Books* from 1938-1964, with the only exception being the 1941 edition. Mrs. J. P. Wakefield also maintained a tourist home for the duration of this period; however, her address changed several times from 1323 Heidt Street (1938-1948) to 828 Oak Street (1951-1962) to 816 Oak Street (1963-1964). The home of Mrs. S. H. Smith (929 Pine Street) first appeared as a tourist home in the *Green Books* in 1939 and remained until 1964. The Beachum Tourist Home (2212 Gervais Street) was listed from 1947-1964, and the Mrs. Irene B. Evans Tourist Home (1106 Pine Street) was a fixture in the *Green Books* from 1953-1964. The shortest period of operation was a tourist home run by Mrs. B. Vincent (1712 Wayne Street) from 1938-1940. Each of these tourist homes was operated in the traditional form of women renting rooms out of a private home. The lack of official names for these tourist homes indicates the nonexistence of formal businesses and implies that these women were simply renting spare rooms for additional income or to provide a service to African Americans who did not have many options for rooms to rent.

The Mrs. W. D. Chappelle Tourist Home was located at the Chappelles’ home on Pine Street and operated from at least 1935-1964. Mrs. W. D. Chappelle was the wife of William D. Chappelle, Jr., who graduated from Leonard Medical College in Raleigh, North Carolina and started his own successful practice in Columbia called “Ideal Pharmacy and phys.”61 He also served as the Chair of the Biology and Chemistry Departments at Allen University, where his

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61 *Columbia City Directory* (1945).
family was highly regarded. His father was Bishop W. D. Chappelle, former President of Allen University and the namesake of Chappelle Hall on its campus. The exact dates of the house’s tenure as a tourist home remain unknown; however, the family accommodated guests from at least 1935. Census records for the household from 1940 listed William as the head and include Essie (Mrs. W. D. Chappelle) and three daughters. Three lodgers were also listed: Lucy Williams, Tommy Lane, and Codie Epps. Williams and Lane were public school teachers, and Epps was listed as a helper in a private home. The records also indicated that Williams and Epps had resided at this same home five years earlier in April 1935. This information indicates that the Chappelles operated their house as a tourist home since at least 1935 and that long-term boarders were not uncommon. One incident of note at the tourist home was reported in The State. A fire in the early morning of June 10, 1955, caused $4500 of damage to the building and $1800 of damage to its contents. The fire department recorded that there was smoke in the house and a small flame in an upstairs closet. “Dr. D. R. Dixon received first degree burns on both his left and right forearms” during the fire as well. William D. Chappelle, Jr. passed away two years later in 1957; however, Mrs. W. D. Chappelle continued to operate the tourist home and remained active in civic organizations like the YWCA until her death in 1970.

The Harriet M. Cornwell Tourist Home at 1713 Wayne Street in the Arsenal Hill neighborhood is one of the few remaining tourist home structures in Columbia. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places as a result of a nomination submitted by Lindsay

Crawford in 2007, and the home is still owned by the Cornwell family. Harriet Cornwell was a teacher at the Waverly Elementary School and South Carolina State College, and teachers were also common guests at the tourist home.\textsuperscript{66} Arsenal Hill was a middle-class African American neighborhood at the time, and the house did not have a sign to indicate it was a tourist home. Crawford notes that this was possibly to avoid regulations for business; however, another possibility is the desire to avoid attention in order to combat discrimination and provide for the safety of the family and the tourists who boarded with them.\textsuperscript{67}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{figure5.jpg}
\caption{Harriet M. Cornwell Tourist Home, 1713 Wayne Street. (Lindsay Crawford, “Cornwell, Harriet M., Tourist Home.”)}
\end{figure}

In addition to tourist homes run by women out of their homes, the College Inn was the one of the earliest tourist homes listed in the Columbia section of the \textit{Negro Motorist Green Books}. It appeared in the 1939 and 1940 editions as a tavern; however, it was the only entry for tourist homes in Columbia in 1941, and it continued to be listed as such through 1964.\textsuperscript{68}

\textsuperscript{67} Lindsay Crawford, “Cornwell, Harriet M., Tourist Home.”
\textsuperscript{68} \textit{The Negro Motorist Green Book} (New York: Victor H. Green, 1939-1964).
Evans was the proprietor of the tourist home, and it was located at 1609 Harden Street, which is right between the campuses of Allen University and Benedict College, two historically black institutions. The College Inn, which was also referred to as a dining room, included a restaurant and was a place where community members would often gather. The College Inn acted as a conference headquarters for the Sixth District Conference of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity in 1936, and it sold tickets to local events like concerts at The Township Auditorium and college basketball games. The proximity of the College Inn to downtown activities drew musicians and young people to the tourist home; however, the State newspaper reported a number of instances of violence and theft at the Inn. The sum of $34.50 in coins was stolen from the property when “a juke box and a cigaret machine were broken into” overnight in July 1950. An African American soldier from Fort Jackson entered the property with the intent of robbery in March 1955, but he was detained by two guests. Perhaps the most violent incident, however, was in November 1957 when a student from Benedict College was shot on Harden Street outside the College Inn after an altercation with the police. All things considered, the College Inn was more involved with the community than a typical tourist home; however, Evans likely chose to market his establishment in this manner to avoid stricter regulations placed on inns and motels. The title of tourist home also indicated to visitors that the accommodations would have reduced rates and the feel of home.

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71 Lindsay Crawford, “Cornwell, Harriet M., Tourist Home.”
72 “$34.50 in Coins Said Stolen From College Inn,” The State, July 16, 1950.
73 “Soldier Held For High Court in Entry Case,” The State, Mar. 9, 1955.
Part Two: Design

Period Room Design Plans

Due to limited exhibit space available in the current Hampton-Preston Mansion museum, the periods in which the house was the campus of Chicora College from 1890-1930 and used as a tourist home from 1944-1966 will be interpreted in the same room. The current tour includes two period rooms upstairs: a period bedroom from the mid-1800s used to discuss mourning and loss in HP2NW (Hampton-Preston, 2nd Floor, Northwest Room) and a dorm room from Chicora College in HP2NE. HP2SW is small object storage, and HP2SE is used as large object storage. To improve the visitor flow of the tour, the new period room will be installed in HP2SW, and small object storage will be moved to HP2NE. See Figures 6-7 for these changes.
Figure 7. Proposed future room layout of the second level of the Hampton-Preston Mansion.

The Chicora College side of the room will exhibit a small dorm room, and the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home side will display a 1950s sitting room. Several different layouts for the Chicora College/Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room are proposed in this thesis, as depicted in Figures 8-11. The final decision will be made during the installation process based upon the look and accessibility of the room, which is difficult to determine until the furniture is in place and the amount of space can be properly assessed in person.
Figure 8. Proposed Chicora College/Hampton-Preston Tourist Home room layout.

Figure 9. Proposed Chicora College/Hampton-Preston Tourist Home room layout.
Figure 10. Proposed Chicora College/Hampton-Preston Tourist Home room layout.

Figure 11. Proposed Chicora College/Hampton-Preston Tourist Home room layout.
**Structural Elements**

To separate the two periods of interpretation, a wall will be constructed in the middle of HP2SW. I consulted with Sean Stucker, Historic Columbia’s Director of Facilities, to determine the work that will be required to build this wall. He will construct the partition with 2 in. X 6 in. wood in order to have the proper thickness to make it appear as if the wall is real. He also intends to reproduce the wainscoting in the room with either woodwork or plaster. A support system will also be necessary, as the wall will be 14 feet in length; however, discussions are ongoing about how to create this wall with as few holes in the floor as possible in order to preserve the structural integrity of the room.

The current Chicora College dorm room features a pendant light with a bare bulb in the center of the room. This light fixture will be relocated to HP2SW; however, an electrician will need to be consulted to ensure the wiring is properly installed.

![Figure 12. Current Chicora College dormitory period room in HP2NE.](image)
Wallpaper

Photographs from Historic Columbia’s collection dated August 1968 show the hall and stairwell on the first and second levels before the house was restored. The walls were covered in patterned wallpaper, which was also present in HP1SW. The wallpaper pattern featured three images in a step-and-repeat configuration: a plantation house with architecture and colors reminiscent of George Washington’s Mount Vernon, a steamboat on a river, and a square gazebo beside a fence with a castle in the background. More images from this period show the various wallpaper styles that were in other rooms of the house. HP2SW had olive green wallpaper with oversized roses. HP2NE had red and white wallpaper with a diamond pattern. HP1SE had pink and blue wallpaper with a plaid pattern. These designs were all very bold and characteristic of the 1950s; however, the decision was made by John Sherrer to replicate the wallpaper that was in the hallway for the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room. The pattern will make a grand impression on visitors and reinforce Thomas Hair’s intent to revive the home to its former opulence. This wallpaper was in a common area of the house that all guests in the tourist home would have seen as well, so it is not inappropriate to assume that the pattern would have also been in the sitting room, which is how the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room will be interpreted.
Figure 13. Photograph of the stairwell in the Hampton-Preston house dated August 1968. Note the pattern on the wallpaper.
(Historic Columbia Collection)

Figure 14. Photograph of the Hiram Powers mantle in HP1SW. Note the pattern on the wallpaper.
(Historic Columbia Collection)
Online searches to find this wallpaper pattern for sale were unsuccessful; however, an expired eBay link provided me with a detailed image of the pattern. I used this image to consult with two different companies about reproducing the wallpaper. Paul Neuburger from ARC Document Solutions in Cayce, South Carolina said there are some options for him to print the design on paper to which wallpaper paste could be applied. Laura McCoy at Laura McCoy Designs, Inc. also told me that she would be able to reproduce the wallpaper, although “new properly scaled and rendered artwork” would have to be produced. Both individuals noted, however, that there was a small portion of the step-and-repeat pattern missing, which would prevent the sheets from properly aligning with one another if a graphic designer was not consulted to generate the lost portion of the pattern. Discussions are ongoing with both companies, and quotes are being prepared for consideration by Historic Columbia.

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Part Three: Collections

Objects to Purchase

I selected a variety of objects on eBay to purchase for the tourist home period room, which included magazines, postcards, and cigarette boxes from the 1950s. After revision and confirmation by John Sherrer, I completed the purchase requisition for the items on March 30, 2017. Robin Waites, Executive Director of Historic Columbia, approved the request, and the items were purchased on the same date. See Appendix A for descriptions and photographs of each of the objects that were purchased.

John Sherrer and I also visited Old Mill Antique Mall in West Columbia, South Carolina on March 22, 2017 and selected a few items for purchase. The purchase requisition for these objects was also completed and approved on March 30, 2017. Fielding Freed, Director of Historic House Museums at Historic Columbia, and I returned to Old Mill Antique Mall to purchase these items on April 5, 2017. See Appendix B for descriptions and photographs of each of the objects that were purchased.

Objects in Historic Columbia’s Collection

There are several items in Historic Columbia’s collection that will be used in the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room. Some are currently in poor condition and will need to be cleaned and restored before being placed on display. See Appendix C for descriptions and photographs of each of these objects.
Television Retro-Fit

Historic Columbia has a nonfunctioning RCA Victor television in its possession that will be used in the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room. John Sherrer conceived the idea to retro-fit the television in order to stream news footage from the 1950s, so I consulted with Dale Panning at Design and Production Inc. in Lorton, Virginia, who fabricated the “Price of Freedom” exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, which features antique televisions displaying news footage from the Vietnam War, to see if this would be possible. Mr. Panning told me that in order to retro-fit the television, the interior of the television would need to be removed, a new sound bar installed for audio, a Roku Brightsign video player and LCD monitor installed, a custom mask created, a power strip installed, and the equipment enclosed in the interior of the television. His firm quoted a price of $2500-$3500 dependent upon the amount of labor required. This estimate did not fall within Historic Columbia’s budget; however, alternative opinions for having the television retro-fitted are being discussed.
Part Four: Educational Materials

Reader Rail Content

My research was combined with other studies of the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home to produce the content for the reader rail that will be placed in the period room. Katharine Allen drafted the following language, with my feedback, under the title “Breathing New Life into the Old South” to be displayed on the reader rail alongside period photographs of the exterior of the house and other images to be determined:

- Playing upon popular stereotypes of southern hospitality, entrepreneur and developer Thomas Hair’s Hampton-Preston Tourist Home offered affordable accommodations to middle-class white travelers. Opened on March 11, 1944, the mansion featured 25 rooms furnished with “antiques” to enhance his visitors’ experience. From the late 1950s through 1968, the property operated as a segregated boarding house, where rooms were rented for longer stays.

- Commercial development encroached on the former mansion by 1950. Two businesses, the Hampton-Preston Grill and the Lerich Wash-O-Matic, opened in small structures built next to the house, on Blanding Street. Later, a car dealer, a drug store, and other businesses crowded the lot.

- Columbia featured many tourist homes during the late 1940s through mid-1960s. Some catered specifically to African American travelers barred from white-owned businesses. Safe, black-owned accommodations were listed in the Negro Motorist Green Book, published from 1947 until 1964. Among them were homes in Columbia run by Hattie Cornwell on Wayne Street and Mrs. W. D. Chappelle on Pine Street.
In addition to these points, I suggested the need to discuss the overall concept of tourist homes and their evolution into motels, so I wrote the following label to be included if space permits:

- Tourist homes were often run out of private homes by women who wanted to supplement their husband’s income or whose husbands were deceased. They were appealing to tourists because of their “home away from home” atmosphere. Many of these accommodations became more commercialized over time and developed into cottage courts and motor inns. Tourist homes then became viewed as simply remnants of the past.

Tour Guide Manual Content

To develop the content related to the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room for the tour guide manual, I synthesized my research and highlighted the overarching themes. The following is my text submission to the manual:

Tourist homes were an economic reaction to the financial struggles of many individuals after the Great Depression. They became thriving businesses in the mid 1940s; however, the rapid development of tourist courts and motels caused the downfall in desirability of tourist homes in the 1950s. This led to the mindset that tourist homes were a remnant of simpler times and that their visitors were missing out on the luxuries of modern accommodations.

There were a number of tourist homes throughout Columbia. They advertised different amenities, such as heating and air, food service, and proximity to the interstate or downtown areas. Soldiers were frequent tenants, and proximity to Fort Jackson was often included in advertisements as well. Tourist homes were considered an investment for homeowners and
seen as an opportunity to earn additional income. They provided affordable accommodations to tourists with the atmosphere of home.

Thomas Hair, a local entrepreneur, attorney, and real estate businessman, purchased the Hampton-Preston home in 1943, and The Hampton-Preston Tourist Home opened at noon on March 11, 1944; it welcomed visitors until 1966. Hair ensured the community that the home and gardens would be “restored to their former beauty.” Antiques were placed in all the rooms and visitors were greeted with the “hospitality of the Old South.” By 1950, however, the grandeur of the tourist home faded to comfortable accommodations for lower-class visitors.

Maggie Campbell, a capable widow and “no nonsense” landlady, provided clean and comfortable accommodations as operator of the tourist home. Campbell had a personal relationship with Thomas Hair because her husband, who died in 1942, worked in real estate and shared an office space with him. In January 1944, Campbell’s son, Johnny, was killed in action in World War II. He was a prominent athlete at the University of South Carolina and was partly responsible for the popularity of the “Big Apple” dance as a member of the troupe that performed the dance at the Roxy Theater in New York City. Given her personal situation at the time the tourist home opened, it is likely that Hair offered the position to Campbell in order to provide her with a means to support herself.

The neighborhood around the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home experienced a number of changes toward the end of the 1940s. White flight caused many of the wealthier residents in the area to move to the suburbs, and lower-income African Americans relocated to the inner-city neighborhood. Commercial businesses also developed on the block and provided services
to the residents of the tourist home and surrounding area. The “cannery row” feel of the block lowered its stature and contributed to the ultimate downfall of the tourist home.

Like the entire United States, racial segregation was commonplace in Columbia in the 1950s, and there was a need for African American accommodations. The *Negro Motorist Green Books* were published from 1936-1967, and they provided information to African American travelers about restaurants, motels, and other businesses that would welcome them. There were a handful of tourist homes in Columbia consistently listed in these *Green Books*, including those run by Hattie Cornwell on Wayne Street, Mrs. W. D. Chappelle on Pine Street, and the College Inn on Harden Street.

**Relation to South Carolina Educational Standards**

The content covered in the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room aligns with a number of the educational standards for students in South Carolina. The relevant indicators of understanding, as detailed in the South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards approved by the State Board of Education on August 18, 2011, are listed here:

- 2-1.4: Summarize changes that have occurred in the local community over time, including changes in the use of land and in the way people earn their living.
- 3-4.1: Compare the economic conditions for various classes of people in South Carolina, including the elite, the middle class, the lower class, the independent farmers, and the enslaved and free African Americans.
• 3-5.1: Summarize the social and economic impact of developments in agriculture, industry and technology, including the creation of Jim Crow laws, the rise and fall of textile markets, and the expansion of the railroad.

• 3-5.6: Describe the growth of tourism and its impact on the economy of South Carolina, including the development of historic sites, state parks, and resorts and the expanding transportation systems that allow for greater access to our state.

• 5-3.2: Explain the practice of discrimination and the passage of discriminatory laws in the United States and their impact on the rights of African Americans, including the Jim Crow laws and the ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson.

• 5-5.2: Summarize the social, cultural, and economic developments that took place in the United States during the Cold War, including consumerism, mass media, the growth of suburbs, expanding educational opportunities, new technologies, the expanding job market and service industries, and changing opportunities for women in the workforce.

• 7-4.3: Explain the causes and effects of the worldwide depression that took place in the 1930s, including the effects of the economic crash of 1929.

• 8-7.1: Compare the social and economic impact of World War II and the Cold War on South Carolina with its impact on the rest of the United States, including the increases in the birth rate; the emergence of the consumer culture; the expanding suburbanization, highway construction, tourism and economic development; the continuing growth of military bases and nuclear power facilities; and the increases in educational opportunities.
- **WG-4.3**: Compare the roles that cultural factors such as religious, linguistic, and ethnic differences play in cooperation and conflict within and among societies.

- **WG-4.4**: Explain the spatial processes of cultural convergence (e.g., American-based fast-food franchises in the developing world).

- **WG-4.5**: Explain how a blending of cultures can alter cultural solidarity (e.g., the blurring sense of nationality stemming from the creation of the European Union).

- **USHC-6.3**: Explain the causes and consequences of the Great Depression, including the disparities in income and wealth distribution; the collapse of the farm economy and the effects of the Dust Bowl; limited governmental regulation; taxes, investment; and stock market speculation; policies of the federal government and the Federal Reserve System; and the effects of the Depression on the people.

- **USHC-7.6**: Analyze the causes and consequences of social and cultural changes in postwar America, including educational programs, the consumer culture and expanding suburbanization, the advances in medical and agricultural technology that led to changes in the standard of living and demographic patterns, and the roles of women in American society.

The potential to discuss each of these criteria exists in the tourist home period room, and guided tours can be tailored to specific indicators based on the grade level of the students.

In addition to the information presented in the Hampton-Preston Mansion tour, there is a lesson plan created by Jerry T. Mitchell and Larianne Collins, professors in the Department of Geography at the University of South Carolina, entitled “The Green Book: ‘Safe Spaces’ from Place to Place” that uses the children’s book, *Ruth and the Green Book*, to teach students about
the *Negro Motorist Green Books* and the struggles of African American automobility in the 1950s. It is aimed at 5th grade students and teaches skills in history, language arts, and geography. This lesson plan would reinforce the information that students are presented with in the tourist home period room and allow them to apply it to their work in the classroom.
**Conclusion/Reflections**

The overall reinterpretation project at the Hampton-Preston Mansion will not be complete until 2018; however, my work provides a solid basis for the new period room that will interpret both Chicora College and the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home. The research is complete, interpretive texts have been drafted, collections have been purchased, and a rough design of the space is in order. The next phase of work for this room will focus on installation and working with contractors to create the wallpaper, retro-fit the television, and reupholster the sofa. I have started this process; however, consulting with outside organizations is a long process, and I expect these conversations to last several months before any decisions are made. The completion of new exhibit panels for the entire house is expected by June 30, 2017, and exhibit installation is still to be determined in 2018.

Overall, this project forced me to utilize a number of different skills, from primary source research to professional communication. I worked within several different disciplines, including curation, collections, and facilities management to experience the entire process of exhibition development. John Sherrer challenged me to use my previous experience and connections to work independently on this project, which pushed me out of my comfort zone but allowed me to develop content based upon my own creative ideas.

The opportunity to work with Historic Columbia in a professional environment exposed me to a number of organizational considerations that are not necessary in academic research projects. I was most surprised by the amount of time it took to compare and select objects for purchase based on condition, price, and period appropriateness. I also found it difficult to narrow down my research into concise points that will be easily understood by visitors, so this
process allowed me to gain a better appreciation for concise, yet thorough, text. Upon the completion of my work, I was most pleased with uncovering the personal connection between Thomas Hair and Maggie Campbell, which was previously unknown. This is valuable information for preserving the overall history of the Hampton-Preston property, but it also adds a personal story to the interpretation of the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home period room that I think visitors will be able to connect with. People are more likely to remember emotional stories like the loss of Campbell’s son than simply names and dates, and these kinds of stories allow individuals to better understand how people behaved in the past. The information in this applied thesis, therefore, becomes worthwhile because it will be presented to the public in a real exhibit that will allow people to be better informed about the history of their community.
### Appendix A

**Items Purchased from EBay for the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home Period Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Web Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Price: $145.00 + $41.12 Shipping = $186.12</td>
<td>Dimensions: 11 in. W X 26.5 in. HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description: Postcard of Main Street postmarked 1955.
Price: $7.99 + $2.50 Shipping = $10.49
Web Link: http://www.ebay.com/itm/pk15687-Postcard-Main-Street-Columbia-South-Carolina/361488011540?_trksid=p2047675.c100005.m1851&_trkparms=aid%3D222007%26algo%3DSIC.BE%26ao%3D2%26asc%3D41809%26meid%3Dad7fd3be38b14c41b5dd1db272c7236a%26pid%3D100005%26rk%3D6%26rkt%3D6%26sd%3D391018895206

Description: Old Gold Straights Long Size cigarette box from the 1950s.
Price: $9.99 + $2.50 Shipping = 12.49

Description: Parliament Cigarettes box from the 1950s.
Price: $7.99 + $3.00 Shipping = $10.99
## Appendix B

### Items Purchased from Old Mill Antique Mall for the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home Period Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description: Hull U.S.A. (Crooksville, Ohio; 1905-1986) dark green ashtray.</td>
<td>$12.00 + $0.96 Tax = $12.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: GE Model 405 AM radio from 1950-51 in working condition.</td>
<td>$85.00 + $6.80 Tax = $91.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: Link to digitized version of owner’s manual—

Description: Map of North Carolina and South Carolina produced by American Oil Company.

Price: $14.99 + $1.20 Tax = $16.19
**Appendix C**

**Items in Historic Columbia’s Collection for the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home Period Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floor lamp</td>
<td>9 in. W X 56 in. HT</td>
<td>Lamp will need to be rewired in order to be functional. A bulb and shade will also need to be purchased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 key fobs (3 with keys) from the Hampton-Preston Tourist Home.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Key fobs were found in the attic of the Hampton-Preston Mansion by John Sherrer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Sofa from Hampton-Preston Mansion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>82 in. L X 34 in. W X 38 in. HT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Sofa will need to be reupholstered.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>RCA Victor television.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>15 in. L X 17.5 in. W X 14.5 in. HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>See ‘Television Retro-Fit’ subsection for more details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Description | Mid-19th century stylized portrait reproduction. |
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