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## The Cline Home

*Maureen Drost*

Patti and John Cline's home at 421 Eustis Avenue was the last house Harvie P. Jones designed before his untimely death in early December 1998.

A Huntsville native, Patti didn't meet with Harvie until she, John, and the architect gathered to begin discussing the house they wanted him to design. "We didn't realize when we started this project that this was going to be the last house Harvie designed," John said. During the initial months of construction, Harvie came by to look at the house and told the Clines that the portico was nine inches too long for the design of the house. The Clines examined the porch and realized that Harvie was right, as Patti related. "The crew had to take the portico off and saw it" to fit the specifications from Harvie. After Harvie died, the couple realized the significance of doing the porch trim and the trim inside exactly as Harvie drew it.

According to John, "Carpenters custom-made the Federal-style columns on the front porch and the vents under the front windows." Harvie wanted the vents made of Honduran mahogany, but John and Patti decided to use redwood because of its lower cost. The Clines chose wooden lintels to top the front windows. The couple decided to use the brick and mortar style of the Horgan home on Greene Street.

The cornice work proved difficult for the workers, taking approximately three weeks to build. "Harvie had to come help. He knew proportions," John said. "that's what the Federal period is about."

The flooring in a number of rooms is heart pine cut from old beams that Patti and John found at American Hardwoods in Louisiana.

Patti and John's lengthy search for the front trim on their home finally led them to Birmingham. The trim was placed on the home two months after they moved in.

A double set of two columns divides the dining area from the living room. "Those columns are not Federal," said John, "Harvie was most concerned about the outside of the home."

Upstairs are an attic, a study, a large bathroom, the bedrooms of the Cline's two children, now grown. a utility room, and Patti and John's room.

Looking out of her bedroom window across Eustis, Patti could often see Harvie working in his study at his drawing board in the house. It was that study where Harvie drew many of the plans for the Cline home.

"The greatest compliment we receive about our home from others is 'You know your house does not look new.'" With Harvie's renowned talent for historic preservation, he probably would have appreciated that compliment as well.



*Maureen Drost works as a free-lance writer in Huntsville. She wrote two feature stories for the spring/summer issue of the Historic Huntsville Quarterly, which was also devoted to Harvie Jones.*

*Ms. Drost started her home-based writing business in December 1998. A 1977 Auburn University graduate, she worked previously as a journalist for the Huntsville Times and received many awards during her 18 years there. Her first professional writing was for the Decatur Daily.*

*Ms. Drost won her latest honor Sept. 26, 1999, from the state Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame for her collective journalism at the Times about senior citizens. In October, 1998 the state Alliance for the Mentally Ill recognized Ms. Drost for her collective writing at the newspaper on serious mental illness.*

## **Corrections & typographical errors**

Volume XXIV, No.3, Fall 1998, page15: The picture, identified as Wernher von Braun's Big Cove Road house, is of someone else's house.

Volume XXIV, No.3, Fall 1998, page55: The pictures for figures 2&3 are reversed.

Volume XXIV, No.4, Winter 1998, page 23: Billy Hauer's name is misspelled as Dilly. My apologies to Billy and his brother for the typographical error.

Volume XXV, Nos. 1&2, Spring/Summer 1999, page 6: Although Harvie is given credit for the design of the Huntsville/Madison County Library, Billy Herrin is the architect.