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## **Scott residence built by congressman who owned Stone Mountain**

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The Dent-Scott home, built in 1851, has stood through many changes in Newnan and will be one of the featured sites on the Christmas Tour of Homes on Dec. 7.

Photo by Barbara Kookokey

Built by a U.S. congressman who once owned Stone Mountain, the Dent-Scott home at 43 Temple Ave. is among the sites on the upcoming Christmas Tour of Homes.

Built by William Barton Wade Dent in 1851, 43 Temple Ave. originally sat on a 7-acre tract. Dent's brother, Joseph Ephraim Dent, constructed a nearly identical house around the corner on College Street at about the same time. The Strain family now lives in the College Street home.

W.B.W. Dent died at age 49, six years after the completion of the house. Dent owned 60,000 acres of land in Georgia and Alabama, including Stone Mountain. A plaque

commemorating Dent's ownership sits at the base of the Stone Mountain hiking trail.

Dent served in the U.S. Congress from 1853-1855. According to the "Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress," Dent "engaged in mercantile pursuits at Bullsboro," Coweta County's original county seat, in 1827 and "took an active part in founding the city of Newnan" the following year.

At least one of Dent's sons was a Confederate soldier. Ironically, W.B.W. and Joseph Dent shared an ancestor with Julia Dent Grant – the wife of Union General Ulysses S. Grant – who was later the 18th president of the United States.

The Dent-Scott home reportedly was used as a hospital during the Civil War.

In 1901, Joseph T. Kirby, who was married to William Dent's sister, purchased the home from the estate, thus keeping it in the family. In 1905, Joseph Kirby's wife, Lillian Dent Kirby, enlarged the house by adding a downstairs sun porch and an upstairs sleeping

porch, which provided the overhead for the porte-cochere for horses and buggies.

Lillian Dent also replaced the stairwell, the front door, windows and hearths. The original detached kitchen is no more, but the antebellum smokehouse and barn remain.

There are photos of the house from the early 1900s showing the additions of the porches and a wooden railing, now gone, that spanned the entire front porch. As late as the

1960s, the original iron fence that encircled the property was present. Today, only a section of the fence remains.

At one time, the expanse of the front yard was a garden, and it is reported that fragrant rose bushes lined the iron fence along the road.

Over the years, the home has entertained thousands with weddings, parties and family gatherings. The yard and garden continue to serve as home to many birds, squirrels and other creatures that have considered it a peaceful sanctuary within the busy city limits.

At almost 170 years old, the house is full of the stories within it and has the feel of a place with a sleepy, if not tranquil, Southern past.

The house at 43 Temple remained within the Dent-Kirby family until 1963, when it was auctioned to Carl A. Robertson. Unfortunately, some of the hardware and accents of the home were sold at antique markets, but many charming features remain, including the light fixtures, the stained-glass windows at the top of the stairs and the intricately designed mantles.

The Ballard family lived in the house for a time before its purchase by Michael Scott in 1986. In the past 30 years, the house sheltered three children raised in an active household and underwent several structural repairs and updates. It hosted a wedding as recently as May 2018.

The 2018 Christmas Tour of Homes is hosted by Newnan Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten.

The tour will be Dec. 7 from 4-9 p.m. in the College-Temple Historic Neighborhood. Tickets can be ordered until Dec. 6 at midnight from [www.newnantourofhomes.com](http://www.newnantourofhomes.com)

Tickets also can be purchased at Gillyweed and the Coweta County Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitor Center at the historic Coweta County Courthouse from November 1-Dec. 6.

Tickets can only be purchased the day of the tour at Christy's Café, starting at 3:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 the day of the tour.

“A portion of the proceeds will go to the Newnan-Coweta Humane Society,” said Barbara Kookogey of NPPK.

During the tour, Newnan Presbyterian Church will hold a Parent's Night Out from 5-9 p.m. in the Newnan Presbyterian Preschool building. Children ages 3-12 will enjoy an evening of age-appropriate, Christian-based fun, games, music and crafts.

Cost is \$15 per child or \$25 per family. A light dinner and snacks will be provided. For more information visit [www.newnanpres.org](http://www.newnanpres.org) or call the church office at 770-253-4405.