

The Zachary-Tolbert House Museum Tour, May 2009

North – Towards Cashiers

South – Towards Walhalla

East – Towards Brevard

West – Towards Highlands

GUIDELINES

- All **Tour Groups** should be small, no more than 12 people
- All tours must be **escorted** & all visitors accompanied while in the house
- **Restrooms** are inside the Dowden Pavilion
- **No food or drink** inside the House Museum or Kitchen Dependency
- **Smoking is not allowed** in the House Museum or anywhere on the Grounds
- **Gloves** to remind folks **NOT TO TOUCH** and **flashlights** to see graffiti are available
- **No touching** of furniture or walls – only door handles & stair rails
- **Only one Tour at a time**; Groups should stay together
- Recommended: **Doors** to each room will be closed during its tour
- Tours **are tailored** to each group but 30 minutes is the goal
- Tour cost: **recommended donation** of \$5 per adult

KNOWLEDGE

- **1842-1852** – House under construction.
- **Trees** on property cut into lumber. **Wood pegs** were used in lieu of nails.
- The Highway was not in sight of the house. Present day location of **Highway 107** was changed in the late 1930s.

- The **two original chimneys** were constructed of Zachary hand-made bricks.
- The **original roof** was wood shakes, similar to the current roof which was added in 2007.
- The Zachary -Tolbert House is a rare example of vernacular **Greek Revival Architecture**, a style that flourished in the mid 1800's. Hallmarks of the style include the distinctive front facade with columns on the porch and side windows and transoms above the entrance door.
- From the beginning, there was a **strong connection between the SC Lowcountry and Cashiers Valley**; prominent citizens like John C. Calhoun and General Wade Hampton III visited to enjoy the temperate summers – thus many dwellings in Cashiers were not just simple, stereotypical, crude log cabins.

FAMILIES WHO OWNED AND OCCUPIED THE HOUSE

- **Mordecai Zachary & Elvira Keener Zachary** – builder and first owners – 12 children born to them in this house – only family who lived in house year around – sold house in 1873 to:
- **Armistead Burt** – Prominent 19th century lawyer & politician from Abbeville, SC – had no children – his name is written on downstairs hall wall – sold house in 1881 to:
- **William Henry Parker** – Mayor of Abbeville, SC – large family – his brother, Dr. Francis Parker later took over use of the house and sold out in 1909 to:
- **Tolbert Family of SC**, who owned the house through four generations and continued to visit and occupy the House up until the 1980s. In 1997, Bubba & Norma Tolbert sold house to:
- **Tom and Wendy Dowden**, who donated the house to the Cashiers Historical Society

THE ZACHARY-TOLBERT HOUSE MUSEUM TOUR TOUR SEQUENCE

1. Begin Tour Outside
2. Enter Front Porch & Front Door
& Hallway Entrance
3. Parlor
4. Dining Room
5. Hallway
6. Upstairs
7. South Bedroom Up
8. North Bedroom Up
9. Downstairs
10. South Bedroom Down
11. New Room
12. Exit out Back Door
13. Kitchen Dependency
14. End Tour Outside

ZACHARY-TOLBERT HOUSE MUSEUM TOUR TALKING POINTS

1. Begin Outside

- **Introduce yourself** and tell the visitors why this House is so unique.
- It has never had **plumbing, heat, or electricity** - except for recently added wiring for security.
- It has never been **altered or remodeled**.
- The interior **has never been painted** and the walls throughout are covered with **graffiti**.
- Much of the **plain-style furniture**, handmade by the builder and first resident, MORDECAI ZACHARY, remains in the house. This is an unequalled collection. It is the largest collection of Southern Plain Style Furniture in one place made by one person.
- Many of the rooms have had **various uses** throughout the years; the current designations are but one interpretation.
- Note the position of the Highway, the **giant pines, the rhododendrons**.

- Note the original, **wavy glass** on some of the windows.
- Note that the **front steps** are made from original Zachary property stones.

2. Enter Front Porch & Front Door & Hallway Entrance

- **Hand out** flashlights & gloves

3. Parlor

- **Enter & close** both doors
- Black **India ink** splattered on walls by Parker children “for fun”
- **Tables** are Zachary made as well as most of the chairs
- **3 small shelves** on the walls are by Zachary; there were 4, 1 is missing
- **Period books** donated by “Else Young”, a rare book expert in Cashiers. The **bookcase** is Zachary made
- **White thumbtacks** with numbers on them on the walls designate graffiti
See #4 on South wall, right of door which says “The Pendleton Mountain Party” – possibly a political group from South Carolina
- **Pegs** on wall Zachary made to hang your clothes on
- Most **door knobs and latches** throughout the house are from the original construction
- **Little table** between the 2 windows with spool used as a pull has the initials F. L. P. on the side of the drawer – Francis L. Parker, a doctor and one of the House owners
- Note that the **spool drawer pull** reads “Barbours Linen Thread” which dates to the 1860s and was probably used for sewing leather
- Tolberts hung lanterns from **metal hangers** on walls

- Framed cut out pieces of **wallpaper** date to Tolbert time
- **Hook in middle of ceiling** once held a hanging rose colored glass lamp which was probably from the Zachary or Parker era
- **Hole on right side of front wall** was caused when a musket rifle was leaned on the wall and a Tolbert uncle bumped it and it discharged
- The **Spinning Wheel** was donated and is not original to the House; however, it is typical of the time period
- Note the freestanding **floorlamps** – obviously not period

4. Dining Room

- The **original dining room** was located in the detached kitchen out back
- Point out the window panes of original, **wavy glass** with bubbles in the glass
- Dining room table from Zachary era is set with **Whiteware and Blue Shell Edged Pearlware** – shards (pieces) of this dinnerware were found in the yard during the archeology dig and date to the Zachary time
- On another table you'll see a **platter** which is an example of Transfer Printed ceramic pieces found during the dig
- Note **wood pegs** instead of nails to make furniture
- **Blue Willow plates** are from the Abbeville Hotel sale when it closed in Abbeville, SC. The plates were made by John Madlock and Sons, Ltd. in England and only sold for commercial use. The 3-section plates were inspiration for the term “Blue Plate Special” The Blue Willow plates are sitting on the dining room table leaf and were purchased by the Tolberts
- **Child's booster seat** hand made by Tolberts
- **Pie Safe** – Zachary made
- On the wall right of the Pie Safe see **Graffiti numbers 43-45** with arithmetic/addition written

- **Mantel** – Greek Revival style made by Zachary
- **Large cooking pots** on hearth from Zachary time
- **Cupboard** – Zachary – note half-moon carvings at bottom of side panels – items inside cupboard are from both the Parker and Tolbert eras

5. Hallway

- Note there are **transoms** over front door, back door and at top of little hallway closet.
- **Pegs** on wall for coats or for sporting gear like fishing rods
- **2 shelves** on the wall by Zachary – Zachary mirror on one shelf
- Two important pieces of **graffiti** – both on wall below steps:
 - o #86 – the signature, “A. Burt”
 - o #80 - “Charlie Zachary took his first step the 10th day of April 1870”
Charlie was one of the sons of Mordecai Zachary.
- **Table** at front door by Zachary

6. Upstairs

- Folks **not wishing to go upstairs** may wait in the New Room and rejoin the tour when it returns downstairs
- Mention **Processing & Archive Rooms** at top of stairs where Curatorial Activity and Artifact Storage take place
- Bubba Tolbert’s **Lowcountry Style baby bed** is in the upstairs hallway. His mother also used this bed as a baby.

7. South Bedroom Up

- **Two large Zachary beds** which show that slats and not ropes were used. Note half-moon carvings.
- Metal “**chamber pots**” are under each bed
- **Zachary wash stand** with 2 circles cut into top to hold the wash basins
- **Hand towels** made from flour sacks
- Two small Zachary **tables**; Several groups of **shelving** on walls from Zachary
- **Lanterns or lamps** probably from Parker or Tolbert times
- Crescent cut into bottom of door, used as a “**cat door**” – not Zachary (the rough cut is evidence it was not Zachary made)- likely Parker era
- **Small ladder** was built for young Bubba Tolbert as a toy.

8. North Bedroom Up

- Note the **single bed**.
- Note the built-in, single, **wash basin**

9. Downstairs

- Mention sturdy, but smooth-as-glass **banister**

10. South Bedroom Down

- Note that **location of bedrooms** were primarily up stairs in Zachary era, but every room in the house has probably been a bedroom at one time or another – but we do know this room was Elvira’s bedroom. (Mention room changes again)
- **Large slat beds** made by Zachary – again note half-moon carvings
- No **textiles** from Zachary era have survived, likely removed when house was sold
- **Chamber pots** under beds

- **Mattresses** originally filled each year with corn husks – probably also had feather mattresses - bed linens were donated to the house
- **Small table** – Zachary – India Ink Well and plume pen donated – writing box Parker or Tolbert
- **Wash-stand** – Zachary – **Wash bowl & pitcher & soap dish** probably from Tolbert era
- **Pegs** on walls – Zachary
- **Low chair** – perhaps for nursing or use as child’s chair or used to sit on in the back of a wagon
- **Adult “Necessary Chair”** – used by Grandfather John Robert Tolbert, Confederate Veteran, when he got too feeble to use privy
- **Oil lamp** – Bubba Tolbert’s morning task was to clean chimneys on all oil lamps, raise and cut wicks evenly for a clean burn – then refill with oil

11. New Room

- Ask everyone to **sign the guest book**, and mention the **donation jar** and recommended donation of \$5
- All **old boards** taken from this room to replace damaged boards in other parts of house
- The **original house interior** probably looked like this when it was finished in the 1840s

12. Exit Out Back Door

- Point out **detached kitchen**. Original Zachary kitchen burned in the 1920s and this building was moved here from Whiteside Cove
- Tolbert family used one room for **a kitchen** and one room for the **dining room**

- Point out the **two chimneys**. Original chimneys were similar looking and constructed of hand made bricks which over time crumbled. The chimneys were reconstructed when the house was restored.

13. Enter Kitchen Dependency

- **First room** was the dining room
- **Back room** with fireplace was the cooking kitchen
- Note **photos** of how the kitchen looked

14. Exit Kitchen Dependency & End Tour Outside

- **Close Tour** noting Grounds, Paths, Privy, Springs, and Nature Walk; Mention what life must have been like on this very spot 150 years ago

Additional Tour Talking-Point Information

Mordecai Zachary era – 1840s – 1873

- -Narrow bed with half-moon shaped carvings
- -Carved mantel
- -2-door storage cupboard
- -Small table
- -Pegs for hanging clothes
- -A pegged beam from original construction
- -Original outside shutter behind door

Armistead Burt era – 1873-1881

- In 1876, neighbor General Wade Hampton III, was sitting, likely on this very front porch when a messenger, on horseback, rode in from South Carolina to let him know he had been elected Governor

Parkers owned house from 1881-1909

- Wicker rocking chair – circa 1900

Tolbert family – 1909 – 1997

- small metal child's wheelbarrow [Bubba's toy]
- hand made metal fireplace tools
- toy ladder

