



The Born House - Circa 1886

53 Born Street, Norcross Georgia

This stately Farmhouse style Queen Anne Victorian sits quietly tucked into the lush private corner at Born and Wingo Streets just steps away from downtown Norcross. For many decades it was home to two prominent Norcross families.

It may be hard to believe, but this grand house started life as a two room cottage, with no indoor plumbing or electricity, likely built in the early 1870s. Its front porch, which is now the pantry, overlooked the tracks of the Air Line Railroad. It sat on four acres of land. The original owner, Eli J. McDaniel, sold it in 1887 to Dilmus Lyle Born and Amanda Caroline "Carrie" Early Born for \$1200.

The Born family built the Victorian house around 1886 and incorporated the original house as the kitchen. When standing behind the house, you can still distinguish original 2-room house by noting the original front and back porches, and the roof-line. The remodeled house was still rather simple, with no "gingerbread" adornments typical for a Victorian. The Born family added some modest detail in keeping with Victorian vogue. All eight fireplaces had ornate carved mantles with a botanical theme, yet only the parlor fireplace was tiled. The Born family added a few other period accents such as stained glass windows in two of the front rooms, and a small upstairs porch. Impressive large urn styled finials adorn the staircase's massive newel posts, a theme which they continued with smaller urn styled finials on the staircase's second floor.

In 1900, the Borns' son, Early Winn, was elected Mayor of Norcross. He was also a Gwinnett County Judge, City of Lawrenceville Judge, a State Senator, and a distinguished lawyer in Atlanta. He would catch the commuter train to Atlanta daily and returning to Norcross each evening. The Born family occupied this house until 1930 when Amanda C. "Carrie" Born passed away. Tom

and Lessie Lawson Ivy bought the house in 1940 and it remained in the Ivy family until 1987. Some Norcross locals still refer to the house as the "Ivy House."

The current owners purchased this outstanding example of late nineteenth century American architecture in 2006. They spent years lovingly restoring the historic charm and character while adding modern style and amenities. Some examples of their work include:

- Refurbishing the original hardwood heart-pine flooring, mantles, wood trim, staircase railings and finials
- Removing aluminum siding and restoring the removed architectural details
- Fully renovating the kitchen and pantry with custom cabinets, granite counter tops and professional stainless appliances
- Opening up the wall between the kitchen and dining room
- Creating a large master bath and walk-in closet including a vintage claw-foot tub facing the fireplace
- Completing the much needed tiling all of the fireplaces
- Rebuilding the chimneys, relining, restoring all 8 fireplaces to working order
- Updating electrical, plumbing, plumbing fixtures, and appliances

Being the stewards of an antique home is a journey. It takes, love, vision, dedication, and patience to restore and remodel. Although the current owners' journey with the Born House is coming to an end, this house has many many loving years and memories to offer a new family. The renovations and updates in the house now make it move-in-ready with no additional work necessary. There is, however, plenty of room to add your own vision and become a part of the history and life of this beautiful timeless historic Victorian house of Norcross.

Here are some notable highlights from the recent history of The Born House:

- Inside Gwinnett Magazine Cover and Historical Home Tour feature – 1986
- Fast Food movie – 1989 (1:05:22)
- Resurrection TV series – 2013
- Historic Norcross Holiday Tour of Homes – 2014
- Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership Progressive Dinner Benefit – 2014
- Original mural on the barn/workshop by mural artist Addison Karl - 2016
- Greenleaf TV series - 2018
- Various TV commercials including Home Depot & Publix
- Private wedding venue – 2024
- Professional family portrait photography location – ongoing