

# Free: Historic Rogers Home Catch: Restoration Required

By MARK PRICE  
The Fayetteville Times

You would think giving away a house would be easy these days.

That's what Joann Barnette thought.

As Administrator of Grants for the Florence Rogers Charitable Trust, Mrs. Barnette has been trying to give away a house — and the acre lot it sits on — for the past six months.

Much to her dismay, no individual or group with the necessary tax-exempt status wants anything to do with the offer.

Of course there is a small catch. A little matter of some fixup work.

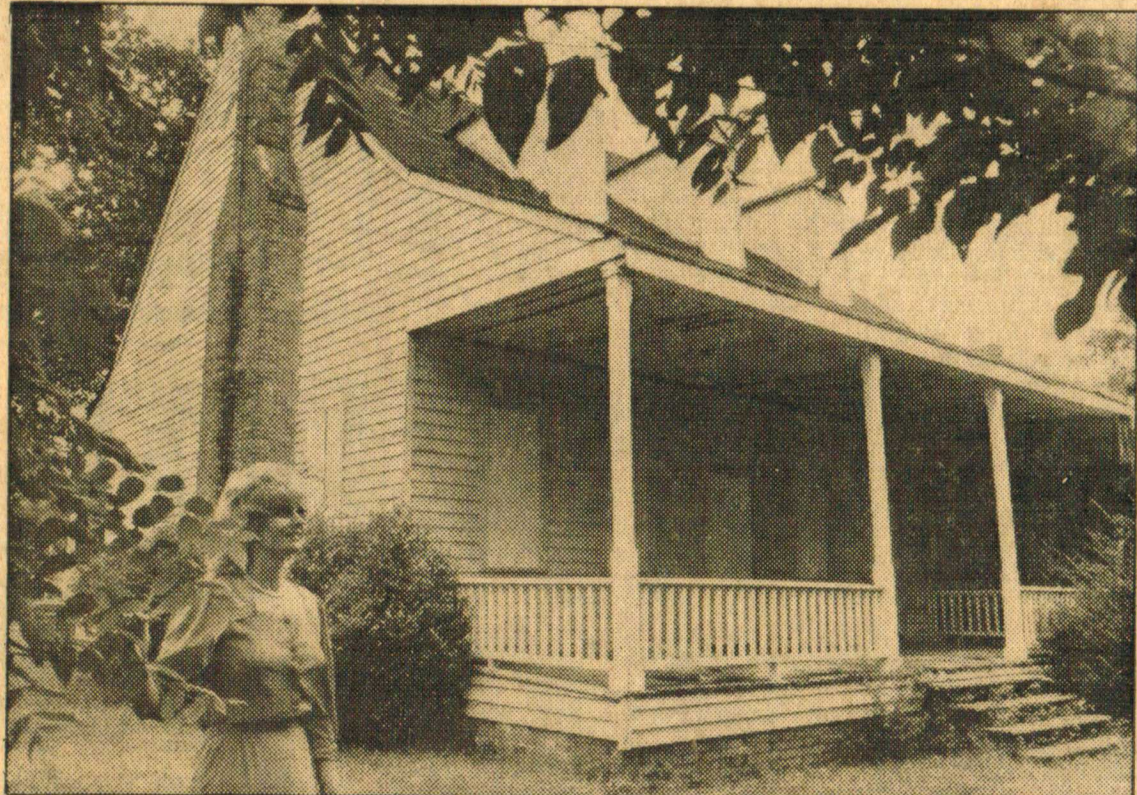
The giveaway in question is the historic Rogers House, which according to local historians was built about the time of the Revolution and moved to its present site in 1830. It's considered by many to be the oldest in the county. Taking the house means fixing it in keeping with National Historic Register standards, Mrs. Barnette said.

"We've been trying to find someone since about March. We can't seem to get anybody because estimates on the cost of fixing it up have been more than most could handle," she said, pointing out they have to give the house to a club or charity group with tax exempt status.

"We've had estimates of between \$50,000 and \$250,000 to do the job. I guess everybody's on a tight budget these days."

The home, which sits beside the Fayetteville Museum of Art on Stamper Road, belonged to the late Mrs. Florence Rogers, a wealthy Fayetteville woman who left an estate valued at more than \$1 million to charity when she died in 1961. The old Rogers home, which was put on the National Historic Register in 1983, is among several pieces of property that were part of the original estate.

The home is a rare example of a traditional North



Staff Photo By KEN COOKE

## Joanne Barnette Stands Outside The Historic Rogers House

Carolina Coastal Plain cottage. According to Nolan P. Clark, a co-trustee for the foundation, records show the home was dismantled and moved by wagon to its present site from a Gillespie Street location. It was originally known as the Mallett House, after Charles Peter Mallett, a prosperous antebellum merchant and textile mill owner.

It was purchased by Mrs. Rogers in 1923, and she

lived there with dozens of pets until she died in 1961, Clark said.

Clark estimates the total value of the home and property at between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

"That old house is not worth that much. This property, though, is pretty valuable. Right here behind the Eutaw Shopping Center is pretty high priced stuff," Clark said.