

# Century-Old Smith Home Replica Of 'Wyoming'

By Elizabeth Reed

The fine old Smith home in the Rowells community closely resembles "Wyoming," ancestral home of the Pride family.

Its similarity to "Wyoming" and the fact that it stands not more than a mile from Wyoming, indicates that they were built at about the same time.

Older residents of the Rowells community understand that the home is fully a century old. In all likelihood the house was constructed in the 1850's. It is variously known as the Reeves, Smith or Cross home.

The position of the windows and chimneys are the only major differences in the two old homes. Chimneys in the Smith home extend in the inside offering opportunities for closets which few homes of its day possesses. The large windows extending from the ceilings almost to the floors are in pairs.

The house itself is not as elaborate as "Wyoming" on the inside, although fully as fine looking on the outside. Smooth wide boards are used for ceilings downstairs. In some of the upstairs rooms the walls have rough pine boarding as if they were never quite completed.

A double portico, massive double doors, oval fan lights above the doors and in the third floor characterize the house. Inside a few of the delicately etched door knobs are left. The door facings, window facings and mantels are finished in a zig-zag pattern that is repeated in each room.

## History

A history of the house for more than 60 years has been obtained from Mrs. B. N. Craig whose uncle, Harvey Smith, owned the home as long as 60 years ago.

In fact Mrs. Craig, herself, was born in the house at the time her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Cross lived there.

Mrs. Craig recalls the many visits made to her grandparents as a little girl (Her own parents lived in Tennessee). She recalls that in the winter the big back hallway served as a refrigerator for the many partridge killed in the neighborhood. It was the boast of many a man that during cold weather he ate a quail a day for a month or longer at a time.

## The Grounds

But it is the beauty of the grounds that Mrs. Craig recalls most vividly. Plans are understood to have been laid out by an English architect and even today the English and Dutch tulips



HAND HEWN AND PEGGED TIMBERS characterize this old home in Eastern Chester county. It is in the Rowells section and not more than 16 miles from Rock Hill. (Staff Photo.)

lift their heads in the early spring.

The house was approached by a long row of cedars that formed a circle around the building. The circle was inside a square of cedars. Rare English holly and some of the massive cedars still grow around the house. Georgia and John D. Cherry, the colored residents of the home, have kept up the traditional plantings by placing small cedars as a base planting.

Mrs. Craig recalls the many crepe myrtles that stood near the house and the many blooming plants. She remembers that a kitchen formerly stood near the house, a custom of the days of plentiful kitchen help.

Mr. Smith owned the house from about 1891 to about 1910. It then passed from him to his daughter, Mrs. Robert Gage of Chester. She owned the house until it was sold to the Duke Power Company. For a number of years the spacious house has been rented to Negroes.

Joe Farris of Rock Hill, who has lived in the Rowells community most of his life, recalls that at one time Jim Hough lived in the home.

## OLD WYOMING HOME ON HISTORICAL TOUR

Editor's Note—It has been learned that "Old Wyoming" has been removed from the homes included in the May 17th tour.

The handsome, old, colonial home, "Wyoming" was built about 1813 by Frederick Lafayette Jones Pride. It is in the Landsford Community of Chester County.

The name "Wyoming" came from the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania. The French and Indian War raging fiercely there in the early 1800's caused many families to leave and come South.

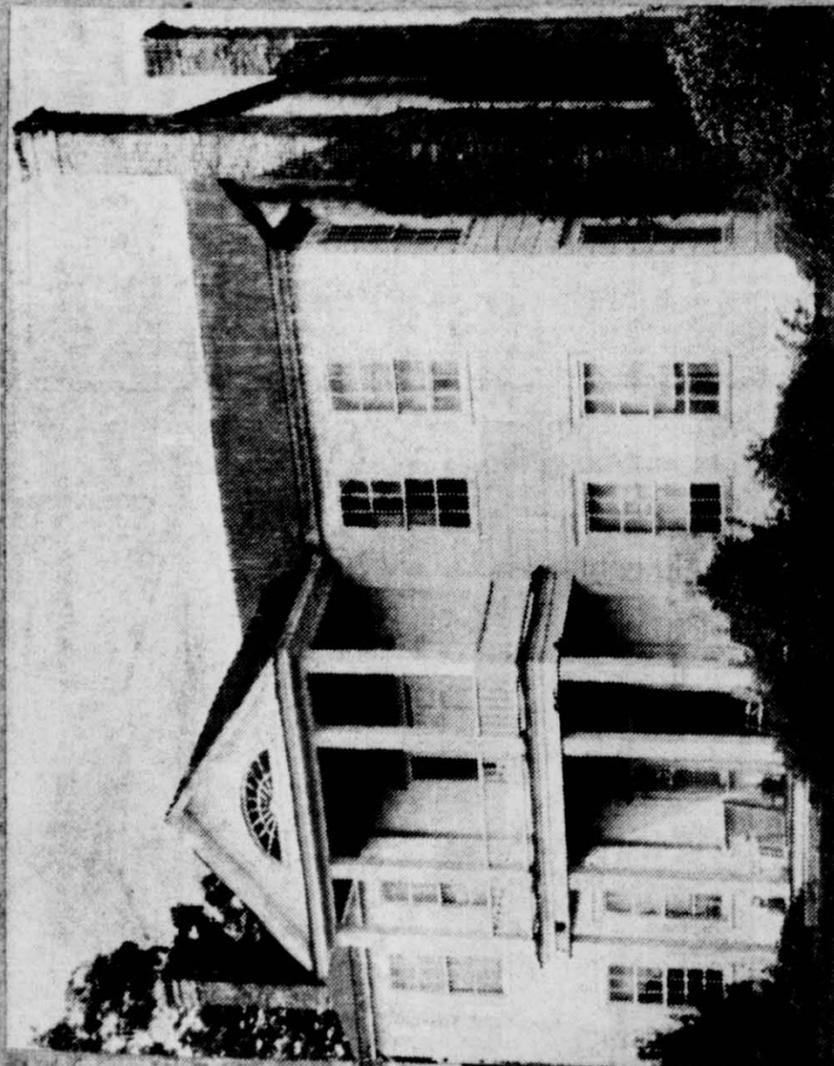
Frederick Lafayette Jones added the name Pride to his name at the request of his uncle, Halcott Briggs Pride. He settled on The Catawba River where he became a wealthy planter. He built his home in Chester County and named it Wyoming. On June 27, 1812, he married Amaryllis Sit-

greaves at Halifax.

Wyoming is a very large house with three stories. From the top floor one can get a commanding view of the country side for miles around due to the high location.

Wyoming was once the meeting place of aristocracy up and down the River. Dances, dinners and other social functions of that day were numerous and were attended by landed gentry that included the Cadwallader Joneses of Mt. Gallant Plantation in York County, the Gen. William R. Davie family, the Cadwallader Rives family, and the Col. John Sitgreaves family as well as many people from Rock Hill.

This old home at one time had beautiful Boxwood from the front steps to the entrance, but through he indifference of someone who lived there much later, they were dug up and sold. Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Simpson own and live in the home now.



FIREPLACE IN "OLD WYOMING"

\* House built in 1850's by Col. Cadwalader Rives (pronounced Reeves) - son of John Rives and Mary (nee) Rives - Chester Co., S.C.

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