

It is furnished with a number of rare and interesting antiques and heirlooms. Doctor James H. Carlisle, aforementioned, married Margaret Brice but what her connection is with the present occupants of the home is not known.

CORNWALLIS HOUSE

BUCHANAN — HILLIARD — AIKEN & McCANTS — BOLICK
STEVENSON — ROBINSON

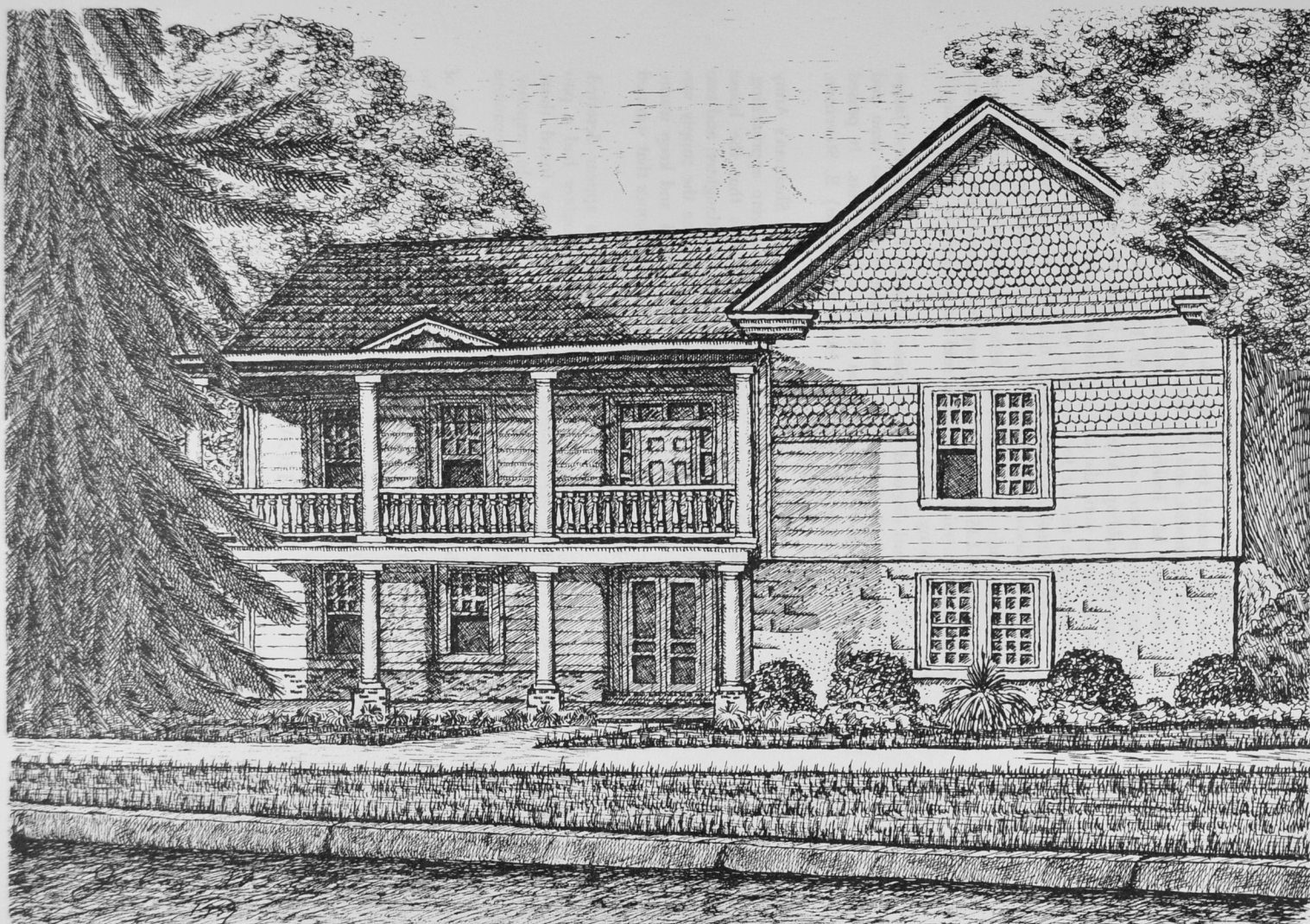
The CORNWALLIS HOUSE is one of the oldest and most historic buildings in Winnsboro. By whom it was built or to whom it originally belonged cannot be ascertained. However, it is known that it is one of the buildings that was occupied by the British when Lord Cornwallis established his headquarters in Winnsboro. It is a locally accepted fact that this is the house in which the famous general resided during the occupation.

The house is built on a lot shaded with large old trees. The original portion of the house was built on the ground level and was two stories high. A wing and the third floor were later additions. This older portion of the house is enclosed with massive masonry walls and partitions that are coated with a hard plaster. The timber used in the framing is all oversized, and it is joined with mortises and pegs. The few nails used in its construction are hand-made. Inside stairs lead from the basement floor to the two floors above. Outside steps lead from the yard to the second-story porch. The first- and second-story porches are supported by columns. The lower porch is open but the upper piazza is enclosed with beautifully turned wooden bannisters.

All records of Fairfield prior to 1785 were kept in Camden District. Some of the Camden records were either lost or destroyed during the War Between the States so that now it is extremely difficult to go back any further. The first official record of this house is in 1797. At that time William McMorries, sheriff of Fairfield, deeded the place to Captain John Buchanan. This was the result of a Court action vs. Minor Winn, 1794, by Hugh Milling and Alexander Caldwell, executors of the estate of Alexander Millar, to recover a debt owed Alexander Millar. The judgment granted forty-two pounds sterling, plus expenses of two pounds, five shillings and six pence. The lots (including this house) were sold at public auction, and Captain John Buchanan was the highest bidder.

Captain Buchanan and his wife later resided here. Captain Buchanan was a distinguished soldier of the Revolution and a leading citizen of Fairfield. He was one of the first Americans to greet General de la Fayette when he arrived to assist in the struggle for American independence. Captain Buchanan and the French general became close friends, and Buchanan gave him one of his servants, a man named Fortune, to serve him during the war. After the Revolution, when la Fayette visited in this country he saw the Captain and Fortune again while he was in Columbia.

Captain John Buchanan owned much property in the town and throughout the county. Among his holdings was a tavern that was located on Congress Street almost directly behind this house. In 1807 he conveyed the tavern and some lots to his brother, Creighton Buchanan, but reserved the use of the well that was located on one of the lots for his use.



CORNWALLIS HOUSE

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The Reverend James Jenkins was the first Methodist minister to preach in Winnsboro. While here he was entertained by Captain Buchanan and his wife. The Captain was not a church member but until that time he and Mrs. Buchanan had attended the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Buchanan had relatives who were Methodist, and she had leanings toward that denomination herself. The Reverend Mr. Jenkins first preached in the Courthouse where the Presbyterian services were also held. The Presbyterian minister objected to Jenkins using the building. After that, the Methodist services were held in the Buchanans' home until the new Methodist Church was built in 1809. Captain Buchanan gave the lot for this and was instrumental in the actual construction of this, Winnsboro's first church building. He and his wife were among the charter members of the Methodist Church in Winnsboro.

At Captain Buchanan's death (1823) he willed the house in which he was living (the CORNWALLIS HOUSE) to his nephew, General John Buchanan. In 1862 the heirs of General John Buchanan sold the property to A. D. Hilliard, who at the time was living in the house.

In 1865 A. D. Hilliard disposed of the place to James R. Aiken and James B. McCants. The Levi M. Bolick family was living here at the time and later, in 1869, purchased the property from Aiken and McCants. It passed from Bolick to his daughter and only child, Elizabeth (Lizzie) B. Stevenson, who in 1909 sold it to J. Leonard Robinson.

The Levi Bolick family was living in the old house when Sherman's Army was in Winnsboro. When it was learned that the Yankees were approaching, the shutters were fastened and the doors bolted in hopes that the house would appear deserted and not be molested. The mother, the daughter, and two old servants did not even venture out for firewood, and when the supply was exhausted, they began burning the furniture in order to cook and keep warm. Two fine four-poster beds, tables, and chairs went up in the flames that warmed the frightened household.

In spite of all the precautions taken to make the place appear deserted, the house was broken into by the looters. The young daughter had a pair of pet Cornish hens that she treasured. When the bummers found them, the little girl begged the looters not to take away her hens. In response, the little birds were thrown into the air and the soldier and his companions shot at them with their pistols and left them dead in the yard.

This historic and beautiful old house is now occupied by the family of J. Roy Robinson, who inherited it from his father, J. Leonard Robinson, who acquired it more than a half century ago. It is a well-kept old landmark and is furnished with many fine old heirlooms, some of which are perhaps as old as the ancient building that houses them.

CATHCART HOUSE

YONGUE — McCLENAGHAN — CRAFTS — BRICE — CATHCART

One of Winnsboro's more handsome old mansions is the CATHCART HOUSE on Zion Street. From its beginning it has been in kind hands, and its refined dignity has never been subjected to misuse or neglect.