

This house was built in the 1850's by Mansell Hall, an architect and builder, for his second wife. After the Confederate War it became the property and home of the Creight family. At one time the grounds were beautifully landscaped in the formal tradition. Older residents of the town still recall them and the past elegance of the place.

After the passing of the last members of the Creight family the property fell into bad repair. It was later rented for several years. In 1937 Homer L. Sargent, an employee of the United States Rubber Company purchased the house site, including about ten acres. The grounds had attained a jungle-like appearance. He immediately had them cleared. Some of the shrubbery was salvaged and used in relandscaping along with other plantings which were done in the informal manner. At the same time he completely renovated the house which he later occupied and kept in excellent condition until his retirement. At this time he built a smaller house on the southern portion of the property and sold the old home and remaining acreage to the Order of the Moose. The old mansion now serves as a clubhouse and is quite an asset to the community.

FAIRFIELD INN

SHEDD — ERWIN — DOUGLAS — CLOWNEY — KILGORE

For almost four decades this charming old landmark has been known at home and abroad as the FAIRFIELD INN. Its accommodations, fine food, and atmosphere were highly praised and seldom surpassed.

The building was erected in 1861 by James N. Shedd, to be his private residence. It was constructed of brick. The outer walls, twenty-four inches thick, are plastered on the exterior with a weathered buff cement coating. The interior walls and partitions are also of brick and range from twelve to eighteen inches in thickness. They are covered with a thick lime plaster.

Originally the house was a two-story building with a square center hall. On either side of the hall, on both floors, were two large rooms, high-ceilinged and well lighted. The kitchen and service rooms were attached to the rear of the building.

Captain Shedd died about the time the house was completed. At the close of the war his estate was heavily encumbered, and by 1869 his widow had to sacrifice most of her property, her new home included. The house was sold at public auction and was bought by Thomas W. Erwin, the highest bidder at the sale, for only \$3,000.00. He held it for less than a year and sold it to S. B. Clowney, a county official, for \$6,500.00. Clowney occupied the place until 1878, at which time he moved to Texas and sold his house to Alexander S. Douglas.

The Douglas family made this their home for many years, and the old place became known as the DOUGLAS HOUSE, even after it was sold to Mary Kilgore in 1919, who, in turn, sold it to the United States Rubber Company in 1923.

The Rubber Company enlarged and completely renovated the place to serve the area as an exclusive inn. It was redecorated throughout and furnished



FAIRFIELD INN

in the most excellent taste, carrying out the motifs of the Colonial and Federal periods. Many of the handsome pieces of furniture were authentic antiques, selected with great care and expense. The smaller pieces and some of the adornments were all excellent reproductions and in perfect harmony with the period and atmosphere.

While operated as an Inn it became the social center of the town for entertainments of all kinds, including card parties, teas, receptions, luncheons, buffets, and drop-ins.

Recently this choice property was given to the Mount Zion Society by the United States Rubber Company. It was then leased by the Society to the Fairfield Country Club.

Now it is a most attractive and modern club with golf course and tennis courts, a large swimming pool, and other recreational facilities.

RION HOUSE

HALL — RION — RABB — STEPHENSON

Mansell Hall was a gentleman planter who had a flair for designing and building fine homes. Several of the houses that he designed, built, or helped with are still standing and bear witness to his talents and good taste.

Among his Negroes were several well-trained and highly skilled artisans. He used their talents and labor to execute his designs and plans, first for himself and later for friends and neighbors who desired his services.

The old mansion on Congress Street is one of his most impressive works. Originally it consisted of only two rooms and a hall on each floor, with a kitchen wing and outbuildings behind the main structure. It was designed so that it might be easily added to in the future. He built it in 1855 for his bride. She died shortly after they moved into the place, and in 1857 he sold it to Colonel James Henry Rion.

Colonel Rion was one of the most brilliant, interesting, and mysterious men ever to live in Winnsboro. He was foremost among the lawyers of the South, highly educated, a patron of the arts, and a philanthropist. He was a protegee and a disciple of the illustrious John C. Calhoun, in whose home he was reared, and was reputed to be the son of the Dauphin of France. At the outbreak of the Confederate War he was made one of the first South Carolina colonels and threw his fortune into the Southern effort.

Colonel Rion's wife was the lovely and talented Mary Catherine (Kitty) Wier of Columbia. Her distinguished father was Samuel Wier, a native of Wiertown, Pennsylvania, a member of the family for whom the place was named and by whom it was made famous. This family owned and controlled the mines and steel mills in that area.

Mr. Wier, a talented writer and musician, broke with his family and espoused and wrote vigorously in behalf of the Southern rights. He moved to Columbia, South Carolina, where he established a newspaper and directed the music at the First Presbyterian Church until his death.