

## McCANTS HOUSE

CLARKE — ELDER — PHILLIPS — McCANTS

The McCANTS HOUSE originally occupied the lot on the corner of Congress and Moultrie Streets. The grounds were beautifully landscaped, and it enjoyed a refined seclusion behind boxwood hedges and an unusually pretty picket fence of square, graduated wooden panels attached to granite fenceposts. The entire site was elevated and was encompassed by a three-foot granite wall. All the stone used in the landscaping and for the house was quarried on the adjoining plantation.

An outstanding feature of the yard was the profusion of white and yellow Banksia roses that had entwined themselves high up into the giant cedars. When these roses were in bloom, the sight was breath-taking.

This house was built in the very early 1800's, by James Elder, who sold it to George E. Phillips in 1845. It was the home of James B. McCants, one of Winnsboro's first lawyers, in 1855. Some sources say that the house was designed by the famous Robert Mills. Mansell Hall resided here at one time, and other sources credit him as being the builder. However, the design, the use of materials, and the character of the building do not follow the usual Hall pattern, and it appears to be of a much earlier period.

The house was a part of the once-connected plantation of James B. McCants, and it is now owned by his descendant, C. S. McCants, M. D., having been in this family for well over a century. Its foundation is of granite and brick. The basement ceilings are eight feet high, and this portion of the building was used as quarters for the house-servants. All the joists are of sixteen-inch hewn-oak timbers. The rooms in the main body are large, and they open into a hall from which the stair leads to a long hall and room in the attic. A covered passageway led to the detached kitchen. Excellent woodwork trims and adorns the rooms.

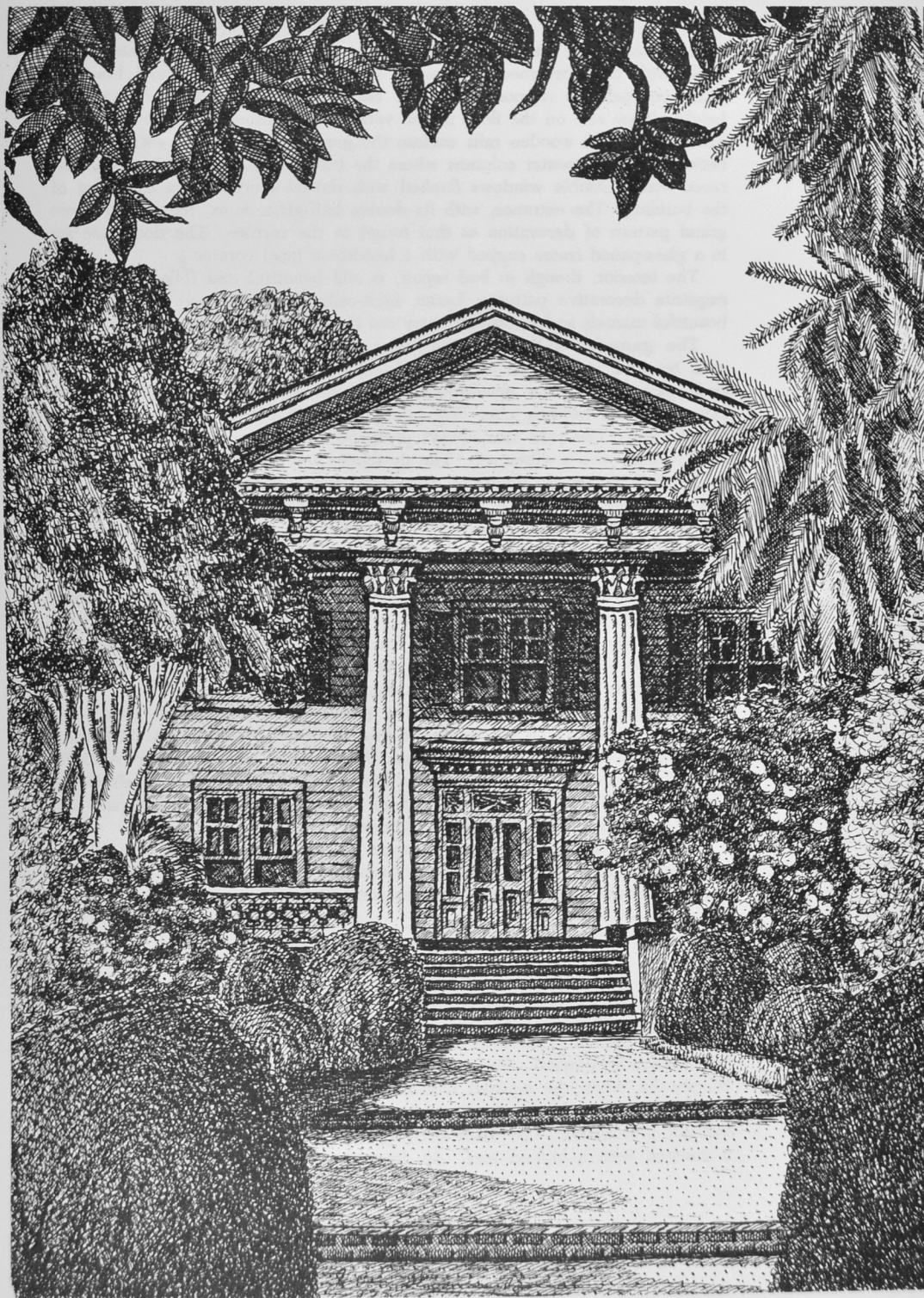
During the Confederate War several famous guests were entertained here; among them were General Beauregard and Governor Butler of North Carolina. General Beauregard, whose autographed protocol is in the hands of the McCants family, was on his way to rebuild the defenses of Charleston. General Kilpatrick, the Northern Cavalry leader, made this house his headquarters while he was in Winnsboro.

In 1954 the old house was moved to its present location on Moultrie Street by the "wheels of progress" to make room for the Winn-Dixie Supermarket. Ever since the building was moved, it has remained unoccupied, with boarded windows and no plantings or landscaping to show it off. Its pure lines and obscured beauty still show through to the lovers of old homes who pass by and dream wistfully of restoring the old place before it is too late.

## BOYLESTON HOUSE

BOYLESTON — COLONIAL INN — REFO — BUCHANAN

In its prime the BOYLESTON HOUSE might well have been Winnsboro's most elegant and imposing mansion. It is a large, spacious house, designed along classic lines. The main structure is a three-story, rectangular building,



BOYLESTON HOUSE

with a wing to the rear, and is covered by a gabled roof. It is fronted by a gable with deep ornamental cornices, dentil moldings, and carved brackets. The front gable is supported by four colossal Ionic columns, two stories in height. They rest on the floor of the veranda. Handsome, wrought-iron banisters fixed into wooden rails enclose the porch except for the entrance area between the two center columns where the broad steps lead up from the terraced walk. Double windows flanked with slatted shutters light the front of the building. The entrance, with its double half-glass doors, follows the same grand pattern of decoration as that found in the cornice. The doors are set in a glass-paned frame capped with a handsome head cornice.

The interior, though in bad repair, is still beautiful and follows the same exquisite decorative patterns. Large, high-ceilinged rooms and hallways, and beautiful mantels and woodwork carry out the theme of elegance.

The grounds of this mansion were carefully designed and landscaped with terraces, walks, and exotic shrubs and trees. Tales of its beauty have been passed down for generations but as far back as the older residents can remember, quoting one, "The place has always had quite a fascination for children. The yard was always overgrown with trees and shrubbery and until recently was a wilderness. The shrubbery was lovely in the spring!"

In 1853 Robert B. Boyleston purchased four acres (eight lots) including this house site from Henry H. Clark and Robert B. Clark. Four of the lots fronted on Congress Street and the four abutting them fronted on Vanderhorst Street. This handsome old mansion was built by Colonel Boyleston. It remained in his family until 1905 when Samuel S. Boyleston, of New York, and Augusta B. Campbell, of Boston (his children), sold the place to Sabritt Dunn. Dunn did not live in the house and a year later, in 1906, sold it to Virginia Reynolds and Josephine M. Vanderhoof. Miss Reynolds operated the place as the COLONIAL INN, a high level winter resort for Northern visitors and sportsmen who hunted in the vicinity.

In 1910 the above owners sold the property to Gertrude H. Refo, who lived here until 1914, at which time it was purchased by Minnie A. Buchanan, the wife of Doctor John C. Buchanan. They moved here from the WOLFE HOUSE, which they owned, and lived here until after Mrs. Buchanan's death. Since the family no longer resided here the place fell into bad repair and is now suffering from neglect and emptiness.

The grounds, however, are no longer "a wilderness." Practically all the overgrown shrubbery and trees have been removed, and the old house now has a rather naked and deserted appearance.

## BUCHANAN HOUSE

### WOODWARD - BUCHANAN

The BUCHANAN HOUSE on Congress Street was built in the early 1850's by Osmund Woodward. He gave the house to his daughter, Claudia Rebecca Woodward, when she married Doctor Robert Augustus Buchanan.

The house was built along pure but simple Colonial lines. It is dignified but not pretentious. The main body of the structure is almost square and is covered with a hipped roof. An attractive low gable covers the front of