

#1796

# S.C. - Homes, Historic - Winnsboro

## Bratton Home



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# Historic Home At Winnsboro Has Special Interest In York County

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### Editor's Note:

The following story of the Bratton house in Winnsboro, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cathcart, will be one of the historic homes on the tour of historic Fairfield county homes on May 13th.

Mrs. Cathcart is the former Miss Perry Whiteside, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Whiteside of Park avenue. The Bratton house should have special interest for York county people since it was the home of a branch of the York county Bratton family.

### THE BRATTON PLACE

"The Bratton Place" as it has been called for years, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cathcart, has long been a land mark in old Winnsborough. The land was originally granted by King George of England to Joseph Owen who came to Fairfield county from Pennsylvania in 1768, and surveyed by Richard Winn, a settler from Virginia.

In 1777 Winn purchased this land from Owen and shortly after the Revolution built the house. In 1805 he gave, as a wedding present, the house, lot and surrounding land, later known as Bratton Woods to his daughter, Christine Winn, and William Bratton, a descendant of the York county Bratton family.

Later it became the home of his son, General John Bratton, the leading general from Fairfield County during the Confederate War. John Bratton married Miss Betty DuBose of "Roseland Plantation" in 1860. During the war while the men were away the house became a refuge for women folk both the DuBose and Means families.

Sherman's troops, however, visited the premises raiding the pantry and taking other loot, and according to tradition his men completely destroyed the original stairway which ascended from the front hall. Today the base of the original old newel posts may still be seen in the floor of the front hall. The present stairway now ascends from the rear hall.

The house is surrounded by century old oaks and stands on a little knoll adjacent to historic old Mount Zion College Green. The land for the old College was given by Richard Winn, and was part of the original grant on which Bratton Place was built.

The house which has had three additions, was originally built in an L-shape. It boasts no particular beauty in style as it is definitely of the plain and simple type of the early provincial or colonial architecture before the elegance of the classic influence. It is probably one of the few old wooden houses of this period now standing with the old wooden walls of wide boards running horizontally instead of vertically with the dados.

The chimney pieces in the living and dining rooms with their hand carved mantels and paneling which reaches to the ceiling are beautiful in their simplicity of design. The one in the living room is of the old "Sunburst" pattern seen in so many Adams mantels.

The front doorway or entrance is of a special colonial design. The side lights alternating in circle and diamond shapes, while the large fan shaped glass over head is interspersed with small circles and arcs. The floors are of wide old mellow pine boards.

The three outside chimneys of the original part of the house are said to be built of handmade brick from England and laid in a special Welsh bond. The original old kitchen still stands in the yard. An interesting little story about the old kitchen is found in Miss Emily O'Bear's "Through The Years In Old Winnsborough." She tells of "Maum Sucky," the plantation cook, who while frying her batters, would often cogitate over the matter of their quick delivery to the family in the dining room—so near yet so far.

From her kitchen door she could see them, even hear them talk, but to reach them, she had to go through the yard, up the back steps into the back piazza, through the dining room door, then across the room to the table—Smiling, she got the step-ladder, and carefully adjusted it against the wall of the house.—Not a little startled was the family at breakfast next morning when they saw through the window, a bandana bound head slowly rising, then a beaming black face appear, then an out stretched hand, holding a plate of steaming hot batter cakes.

"Here, Marse Means, tek em!" she said to Means Davis, seated near the window.

The old well still stands in the yard and in the cellar is the cooling well where food was kept.

Bratton Place has changed hands many times. Dr. John Bratton sold it to Capt. James Beaty. The Beaty Estate sold it to Charles Stevenson, later purchased by Samuel C. Cathcart. Today it belongs to his son, Joe Cathcart.

\*Rock Hill, S.C.