

McMEEKIN PLACE

McMEEKIN – CURREY – EPISCOPAL CHURCH

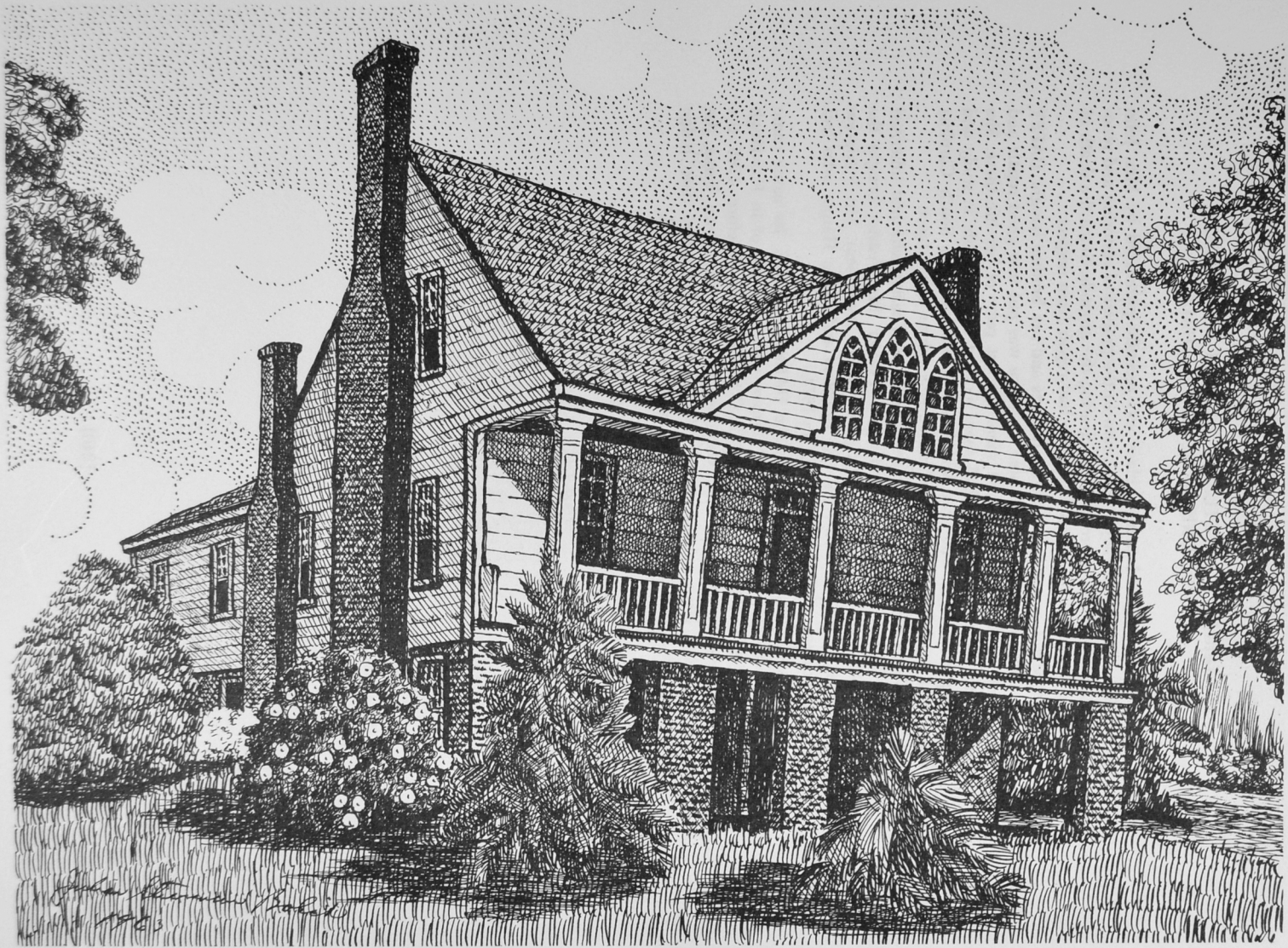
One of the most mysterious and historic old homes in Fairfield County is what for many years was known as the CURREY PLACE and is now called SAINT BARNABAS. It is located in the JENKINSVILLE–MONTICELLO section between the two settlements, an area that was known for its fine homes and culture from 1800 until the Confederate War. This and several other old plantation homes still bear a haunting witness to their days of affluence and gracious hospitality. Many others, among them the famous Allston plantation, whose lowcountry live oaks and tall, tapering granite shafts mark what was once a long avenue and gate-posts for the thirty-six mansion which rivaled Nicholas Peay's MELROSE; WHITE HALL, Colonel Hugh Stevenson's elegant home, and several others were in this neighborhood where beautiful women, fast horses, and fabulous parties were "the order of the day."

Very little of the early history of this place can be found but it must have been a McMeekin home. Near the house, in a small plot enclosed with a heavy wrought-iron fence, are two old graves. One is in memory of General Thomas McMeekin who died in 1847 in his 74th year. The other is the grave of his wife, Margaret, who died in 1822 in her 49th year, and their son, John, who died in 1836 in his 20th year, the last two mentioned were formerly interred in the churchyard at EBENEZER a few miles away, some time called the old BRICK CHURCH. They were brought from there to this spot in 1849 according to the inscriptions on the tomb.

Little information can be found on the General although he is an ancestor of some of the McMeekins in the community. He was evidently a general in the War of 1812 or a general in the state militia.

The house is unusual in design. The ground floor is constructed of thick, plantation-made brick walls. Massive brick chimneys, two on one side and one on the other, with several inside chimneys provide fireplaces for the rooms. The design of the front is dominated by an unusually large triple window in the gable overhanging the front porch which extends across the front of the building. A rear wing with a gallery-like porch on one side juts back from the main body of the structure. The front porch is supported by massive square wooden columns. Smaller wooden posts support the gallery on the rear. An old hand-dug well, enclosed with brick is still prominent. It is quite near the house, just off from the back porch. The house though empty and deserted still stands proudly and defiantly.

The Episcopal Church of South Carolina purchased this property and established a mission for Negroes here. It is called SAINT BARNABAS and is the community center for the Negro Episcopalians.



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