

MARTIN PLACE

MARTIN

Before 1813 the plantation, of which this old house is the seat, belonged to Robert Martin of Charleston. During 1813 it was settled by his brother, William A. Martin, who brought with him slaves and who set up an orderly and prosperous plantation which he managed for his brother Robert. The house was built in 1816.

The building is in a beautiful setting on an elevation which affords a wonderful view of the surrounding country-side. It is encompassed with lush, green lawns, well-placed shrubs, and colorful flowerbeds. Two stone shafts partially covered with dwarf English ivy are on either side of the walk leading up to the front of the house. At one time these were gateposts for a fence which divided the yard from the cotton fields. Ancient outbuildings and the original old well are still in use. The kitchen, which was detached from the main dwelling, has been removed so as to give a more spacious aspect to the grounds at the rear of the house.

The house proper is a large rectangular building with a gable roof and fronted with a one story piazza supported by six large square columns on granite bases. Wide granite steps lead up to the porch. At either end of the house are enormous brick chimneys covered with a cement plaster. There are four large rooms on the first floor and a gracious entrance hall from which a beautiful stair ascends. The second floor consists of two very large rooms on the front and two smaller ones on the rear. Originally the back rooms were not connected with those in the front. They were used for the Negroes who were locked in each night to protect them from wandering off the plantation and being stolen by outlaws and smugglers. The men were locked in one room and the women in the other.

In the center of the upstairs hall, over the front entrance, is a small trap-door which was cut during the War Between the States. The family valuables were hidden here in the space between the floor and the hall ceiling. The upstairs hall was carefully carpeted so that the spot would not be noticed and when the invaders arrived the hiding place was not detected.

William Martin purchased the plantation from his brother Robert for the sum of \$10,000.00 and at his death it passed to his son, R. L. Martin, who was born in the old house on April 30, 1843. Robert L. and his brother David enlisted in the Confederate Army. David was killed at Boonesboro, Maryland and Robert was wounded at the same place. He recovered and returned for service to be wounded for the second time at Chancellorsville. After this recovery he went back to the front, where during the Battle of Chicamauga, he was shot again. Later, at Travillion Station he was wounded for the fourth time. This time he was badly mangled and chances for his recovery seemed dim. When he became stronger he asked his attending physician, Doctor Butler, if he might go home. The good doctor replied, "Martin, I'm giving you a furlough home but I know you will be dead when you get there." Robert Pleaded, "Doc, you just give it to me; I'll try it!" It was given and he did try it and made it. After a stay at home he became well and rejoined



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the army and was with Hampton's Cavalry at Smithfield, Virginia, at the time of the surrender.

When Sherman's troops came through the Monticello section some of his men took quarters in the Martin home. The handsome rosewood piano which is still in the drawing room of the old dwelling is said to have been responsible for the house being spared. Some of the officers were music lovers and songsters and a member of the family played for them by request during their stay. When they left they thanked the musician for entertaining them and stated that they would not burn the house.

The plantation passed from R. L. Martin to his son, Doctor D. H. Martin. Doctor Martin's sister, Mrs. Julia Martin Simms, who was on the staff of Winthrop College at Rock Hill, South Carolina for thirty years, restored and occupied the old place as her home and lived there until her death. The present owner, David H. Martin, bought the property from his uncle, Doctor D. H. Martin, and now resides here with his wife. They love the old homestead and care for it with pride and affection.

The building is in excellent condition, having been modernized and restored and completely redecorated. Large, handsome mantels adorn the main rooms. Though simple in design they are well proportioned and dignified. The rooms are wainscoted to chair-rail height and are either plastered or panelled above. The wide, naturally finished flooring boards and the simple but well designed stair add to the charm of the interior which is furnished with antiques and heirlooms acquired through the generations by the family. One unusual piece is an elegant English-made press that came with the Martins to America, as did the two graceful canopy beds. The dining room is furnished with a unique suite that dates back to the prosperous days "before the war." In one corner of this room is an enormous corner cupboard of unusual design and filled with cut glass, silver, and old china. Above the table in the center of the room is a beautiful brass and glass kerosene lamp chandelier. There is not a room in the old house that does not have some furnishings that were used by former occupants of the bygone days.

FURMAN INSTITUTION

The FURMAN INSTITUTION was chartered and established in 1825. This was an academical school and a theological seminary for the education of youth sponsored by the Baptist of South Carolina. Doctor James Furman, the spiritual father of the school, was the son of Richard Furman who came to South Carolina as a surveyor before the Revolutionary War from New England. The family was interested in education. Their school was first opened in Edgefield, South Carolina, in 1827 but due to financial difficulties and other reasons it was moved to the High Hills of the Santee at Statesburg. It operated there for a few years and was moved again, this time to Fairfield County.

After the Reverend Doctor Jonathan Davis of Fairfield County was made Chairman of the Board of Trustees a tract of land consisting of 557 acres was purchased in his county and the school was opened there. The location