

## POMARIA - THE SUMMER PLANTATION

This house was built in 1825 for Captain John Summer (1778-1855) and his wife, Mary Margaret (Houseal) Summer (1787-1871). Captain Summer was a grandson of Pioneer Johannes Adam Summer who arrived in Philadelphia in 1743, and came to the fork between the Broad and Saluda Rivers several years later. (Original grant of 300 acres in 1752.)

Mary Margaret Summer was a daughter of Captain William Frederick Houseal, of Revolutionary fame.

This edifice, the third built by the Summer family on these lands, was constructed by two brothers named Shull. The timbers are local heart pine, the bricks were made on the plantation and the nails and hardware forged in the family blacksmith shop. One exception, the locks, brass door knobs were imported from England. Originally there was a back portico with four columns, similar to the front portico. Before the war, the kitchens, two storied building for cooking and weaving, were in a separate wing connected with the main house by a covered walkway. Later, dining room and kitchen, pantry and dairy were connected with the house directly. The only other changes have been enclosing and enlarging back porches, adding four bathrooms and installing electricity and central heating.

There are 10 fireplaces with mantels, forty-four large eighteen pane windows, many with original Early American Glass panes. Eight rooms have thirty-three inch (33") wainscoting, with black baseboards, typical of many Early American houses. The house exterior and heavy inside woodwork is modelled after a Charleston house, with wide halls and arched hallway. The solid walnut stair rail and much of the furniture was made on the plantation. Most of the original furniture has dissapeared, some being lost in a fire in an outhouse. Gone are the original carpets, andirons (with exception of one pair), hand woven comforts.

PLANTATION BUILDINGS: There were two areas set apart for slave quarters. Clustered around the main house were about 19 barns, corn cribs, smoke houses, chicken houses, bake oven, etc. The plantation was self-sufficient.

POST OFFICE: The stage coaches, on way from Charleston to North Carolina, stopped at the Summer Place to change horses and rest passengers. The first Dutch Fork Post Office was established here, and William Summer was the first Postmaster. The Post Office building can be seen today.

POMARIA NURSERIES: William Summer, well known horticulturist, established a large nursery sending plants throughout the south. Several of his sales books and copies of the catalog of the Pomaria Nurseries from 1860-1878 may be seen on this tour. "Pomaria", the Latin word for fruit gardens, was given to the nurseries as well as the plantation. When the railroad was built the nearby station was called Pomaria.

CIVIL WAR DEVESTATION: The Summer Place was ravaged by Union Soldiers after burning Columbia. All useful animals were taken or destroyed. Our great-great aunt told of her distress as she saw soldiers cut the heads off her turkeys with their swords, and burn those which they could not carry away. All silver and valuables were stolen. Raphael's engravings and family paintings were slashed by knives and swords. The house was set ablaze several times, kerosene rags being thrown about. Negro slaves put out each blaze.

THE FAMILY CEMETERY: Located about 500 yards south of the house are five acres set apart for the family burying ground. Originally, the driveway was bordered by pink Japanese Magnolias and Chinese Magnolias (Grandiflora), Cedars, imported from Lebanon, and many other foreign trees and shrubs surrounded the cemetery. A beautiful cast iron fence set on granite boulders was erected in 1856. The gate has symbolic decorations of a wreath of Roses of Sharon, for peace; a torch for everlasting life. The panels of the fence are decorated with weeping willows. The tomb stones of early family members are engraved with symbols indicating professions. For example, horticulturist William Summer's stone has a rose carving, while Henry Summer, lawyer and Adam Summer, newspaper editor, have open books on their stones. Several generations of the family rest in this cemetery.