

Wallace Home Scene Of Stirring Events Of Reconstruction Period

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By ELIZABETH REED

Few York County homes are as beautiful or have as much historical interest as the old A. S. Wallace house in the Turkey Creek community near Sharon. Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McCarter bought the property in 1940 and live there now with their children.

The Wallace house was the scene of stirring activity and the focus of political interest in the county back in the Reconstruction period. While A. S. Wallace was Republican, and therefore differed violently in his political ideas with his neighbors, they all conceded that as a neighbor he was as fine as could be found.

When A. S. Wallace married shortly before the War Between The States, he first took his bride to live in a log house on Turkey Creek. Soon, however, he was able to take her to live in the handsome two story white house up on the hill which was erected for Wallace by an architect named Hefner.

Construction

The house must have had good care in the years since its construction in 1853, because it bears no marks of abuse and after nearly 100 years is today as perfect as when built. There is not a knot in the home. Where other builders used two by fours Wallace had four by sixes in his home.

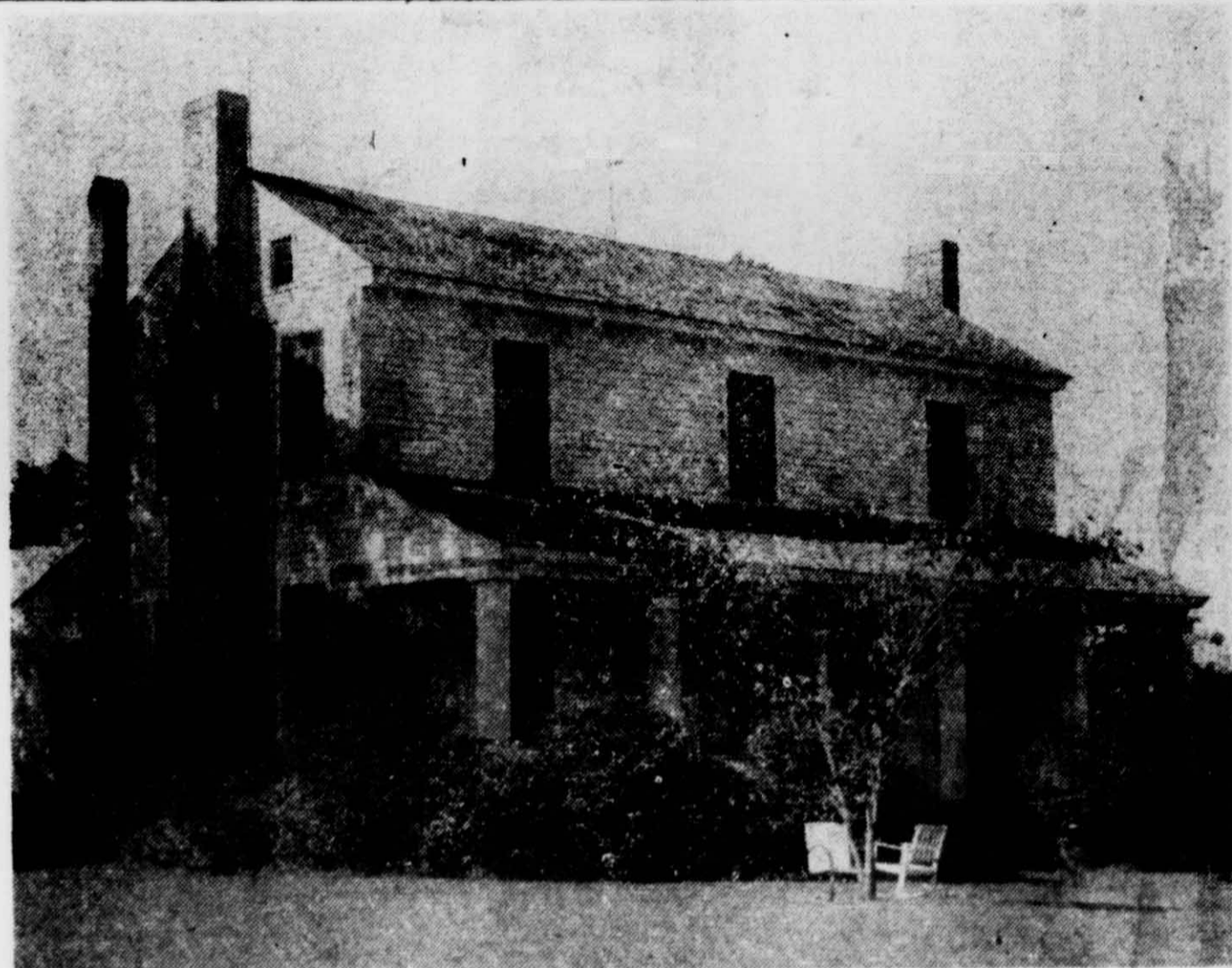
True to the style of the period the house has huge chimneys of handmade bricks on both sides furnishing heat to the 18 by 20 rooms.

A visitor steps up on a porch with the original flooring except in small areas. He enters a large hall through a double door flanked by glass panels. From the front hall a stairway with dark wood rails, probably of walnut leads to the upper floor. On either side of the hall are large rooms, each with its fireplace.

At the time the house was built it contained only one closet; this closet was built under the hall staircase and opened from the living room. The original hardware is still to be seen with unusual key covers in the shape of small figures.

An unusual feature of the house is the second stair that rises from the immense dining room. The present owners considered tearing this stairway away but have kept it for the purpose of safety in case of fire.

When Mr. and Mrs. McCarter painted the house a few years ago



THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME about seven miles from York in the Turkey Creek community is virtually unchanged from the year of its construction in the year 1853. (Herald Staff Photo).

they discarded the old kitchen and it now stands a few feet from the house. Their modern and up to date kitchen is in one of the smaller rooms nearer the front.

Stories

Many are the stories of the gay times in the house during the lifetime of "Squire" Wallace. Two groups of Negro musicians, one downstairs and one upstairs, were used to furnish music for social events. In the room on the right upstairs "Squire" Wallace held court.

Wallace was a well-known political figure of the Reconstruction days. Because he was a Republican there was naturally friction with the K.K.K. and Democratic forces of the county. He was known as "Buttermilk" Wallace.

At a Republican rally held in Spartanburg in the summer of 1876, Wallace charged that the low price of cotton was caused by a Democratic majority in the lower House

of Congress. Col. I. G. McKissick of Union declared that if trouble with the Negroes developed the blame would be on Wallace.

The house must have been the center of violent political activity in those days in the summer of 1876 when after a hot political campaign, Wade Hampton was elected governor and Republican rule in the state came to an end.

In Congress

Wallace served for many years in Congress as a representative from the fourth district and was also a state senator for a period.

He must have been present in Yorkville that Friday, October 13th in 1876 when Wade Hampton addressed more than 6,000 persons on his candidacy for the governorship. Wade Hampton had arrived in Rock Hill earlier in the day — riding his grey horse up the street that now bears his name. As Hampton rode through Yorkville, 1,300 citizens rode behind him and 2,000 more

walked behind him. When he spoke, he attacked Wallace violently.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Wallace had six children, one son, George, was killed by the Indians in the Black Hills of Dakota. At least one of his daughters taught school in York County. Owners of the home from 1920 to 1929 were Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brice. Mr. Brice was a grandson of A. S. Wallace. Mr. Brice is now dead but Mrs. Brice is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. McCarter, the present owners, bought the place from Mrs. J. H. Jones of Bolling Springs, N. C.

Squire Wallace died in the house in 1893 and is now buried in Rose Hill cemetery in York.