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S.C. - Homes, Historic - York County

Mickle House Was Once Log Church

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Old Home Was Built In 1785

By Elizabeth Reed

It is believed that a part of the old Mickle house in Ebenezer was built before 1785 and that the front two rooms were originally used as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian church. The church stood across and up the road from its present location.

Dr. J. C. Bailey refers to the old Associate Reformed Presbyterian church in his history of Ebenezer Presbyterian church "There is a well established tradition that this house was formerly an old log church which was later moved and converted into a home. It is understood that the house was used by the Ebenezer congregation until a building was constructed." The first Ebenezer church was organized in 1785.

J. B. Mickle bought the house from J. A. Williford and moved his family from McConnellsville in 1919. Since Mr. Mickle's death in 1946 Mrs. Mickle has rented the house. George Clark lives in the house today.

Old Barron Home

Earliest known owner of the house was Billy Barron. The Barron family (Elizabeth Ingram and Archibald Barron) came from Ireland in 1776 and settled in York district near Newport. They had one daughter and four sons, the youngest of whom was William, believed to be the Billy Barron who first owned the house. Billy Barron married Fanny Stewart.

Other Barron generations who lived in the old home included Margaret Barron who was born in 1799 and married Alexander Faulkner Fewell (1797-1882). She died in 1878. Their children were William, John, Sam, Alexander Faulkner, Eliza Jane, Margaret Rebecca, Matilda,



NOW MODERNIZED—The modern appearance of the front of the old Mickle house in Ebenezer belies its age. Within the home the ancient fireplace and interior arrangement hark back to the days when the house was an A. R. P. church, probably the first church in the Ebenezer area. (Herald Staff Photo).

and Mary Ann Fewell.

Mary Ann Fewell married John Rooker Shurley and lived in the house. Their children were Margaret Shurley who married N. J. N. Bowen; Minnie who married Lucien Gill; Willie, and John Alexander Shurley, and others who died in infancy.

John Alexander Shurley married Mary Josephine (Mollie) Fewell and they spent their married life in the house. Their children were Anger Shurley Frissell, Annie Leitner Shurley London, William Thornwell, John R. Shurley, and Mrs. Bessie Shurley Salters who now lives in Ebenezer.

The Shurley family moved from the house in 1908, marking the re-

moval of the fourth generation of the family from the old home.

No one would recognize the old home today as the Associate Reformed Presbyterian log church of so many years ago. In the many years since, the logs have been weatherboarded and a number of rooms have been added. At one time the house had 14 rooms and was built in two sections.

The house as it stands today has three rooms on each side of a hall. The ceilings are plastered and the walls are of wide boards.

In John Rooker Shurley's day the house was used as a dining room for the boys who attended the old Ebenezer Academy. That was in the

day when the house was a 14-room building. Boys took their meals in the old house and lived in cabins nearby. The Academy burned in 1861 from a chemical explosion. John Rooker Shurley was an instructor in the school.

In the 1800's while Margaret Barron Fewell and Alexander Fewell lived in the house, the family plantation extended from Ebenezer to the Oakland avenue section of Rock Hill. The plot of land surrounding the house now has three and one-half acres.

The plantation formerly lay on lands now occupied by Winthrop College, York County Hospital and part of the town of Ebenezer.

Today the two front rooms are as sound as if time had not passed. The old church door is now stored at Mrs. Salter's home.

Mrs. Belle Mickle Gwin, and Mrs. Salters have furnished much of the information for this story on another old York county landmark. Mrs. Salters has family diaries, old books, and some old furniture from the home, that have been preserved for more than a century.

* Margaret Barron married Alexander Fewell, not Alexander Faulkner Fewell.