

Elegance Of Past Retained In York

Homes

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YORK, S. C. — "Gunsmoke" addicts and devotees of fine homes from another era will both be intrigued by a former stage coach tavern here.

The home of Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Strong, to be shown on York's Homes Tour, has a row of columns at the side, through which stage coaches used to halt on the long journey from Union Station to Salisbury.

Built in 1820, the Greek Revival home with four great Corinthian columns is framed by a century-old magnolia tree. It has the elegance of a "Gone with the Wind" setting and was, in fact, considered for "Tara" in the movie.

"But they needed a house on a hill," Mrs. Strong said. "It was used in the movie 'Birth of a Nation'." The home was a stagecoach inn in 1845.

The 13-room house still has its original well house (now containing the furnace), massive locks, wide random-width planks in the floors, and 18-inch brick walls.

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CLOSET-LESS (as Ante-Bellum homes were) and rich in history, the home of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Marion has the original window panes from the time the house was built in 1799. An antique dealer wanted to buy the lovely panes right out of the house!

Bordered by gay daffodils and ivy, the white house with dark green shutters holds many interesting antiques. One is a large family wardrobe which Mrs. Marion converted into a sideboard.

"It was upstairs and they told me it couldn't be brought down because it was so big. I knew it would come down because it went up," Mrs. Marion says. She used one door to make the top of the distinguished sideboard.

They have a Carpetbagger Legislature desk which Mr. Marion adds quickly "definitely was not inherited!"

Mrs. Marion explained, "When Wade Hampton government came in the state, they sold everything from the Carpetbagger era. My husband's father gave it to him when he was 16 and it had been in his law office for five years before I could persuade him to bring it home."

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THESE homes will be among those open on the tour Saturday and Sunday, April 9-10. Tours will begin at 2 p.m. these days at the York County Memorial Museum, 15 Kings Mountain St.

Other homes and some highlights of the tour are:

THE HUNTER HOUSE — home of Mrs. Agnes Hunter Laughton, built about 1790, holds a number of museum furnishings including a Paul Revere teapot, early miniature portraits, trundle bed and cut-out artwork dating to the mid-1700s. Many of these items were handed down through the Winslow family of the Mayflower.

THE CODY HOUSE — home of Mr. and Mrs. George Cody, built by Robert Latta, one of South Carolina's merchant princes, 1799-1824, is a three-storied brick house built flush to the sidewalk and decorated on three sides with a wrought iron balcony.

THE THOMASSON HOUSE — home of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomasson, descendants of the builder in the 1860s, has many original pieces of furniture. It is surrounded by an old iron fence that once bordered the York courthouse. Mounting blocks for carriages remain on the lawn.

LOWRY HOUSE — home of Dr. and Mrs. S. K. Lowry, is a Greek revival home, built in 1840s, with four large columns. Special feature is an unusual basement, "Down Yonder" which is filled with Americana items the Lowrys have collected through the years.

HIGHTOWER HALL PLANTATION—built in 1859 by John Bratton, is owned by Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Draper of Charlotte. Three solid walnut stairways; tower on top of house where the plantation owner used to watch his fields. It has original outdoor kitchen and slave cabins.

BRATTONSVILLE PLANTATION — three houses: "Homestead", in semi-ruin, has mounting block with date "1820", and is a typical Southern plantation house with six columns and wings on each side; "Revolutionary House", built about 1770 out of logs, is weatherboarded; "Brickhouse" built in 1855 and scene of much action during Reconstruction era, has stuccoed brick columns and flagstone porch.

Coffee will be served here on tour.

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LOVELY COLUMNS, SPREADING MAGNOLIAS ARE FEATURES OF STRONG HOME
 ... note colonnade at side of house where stagecoaches once parked.
 Observer Photos—Walters

Tour Of York Antebellum Homes Will Begin Sunday

A peek into the past, of life in another era will be yours on a tour of some of the prominent antebellum homes in York and surrounding area.

Furnished with antiques in keeping with the period in which they were constructed, these homes will be opened Sunday. The tour will begin at 2 p.m. from the York Museum.

The York County Memorial Museum is sponsoring the tours which will include the Thomason plantation, and the Brattonville plantation.

The tours are an annual event in this area and have attracted nationwide interest. Last year, York was selected to represent the South on a series of TV educational programs, "American Values." The presentation was sponsored by the Washington University of St. Louis and produced under a Ford Foundation Plan.

Other tours are scheduled for April 9 and 10.

The Cody House of York, considered one of the finest examples of architecture in South Carolina will be open for touring on Sunday. Built in 1799 it is a three story brick home with imported marble mantles and crystal chandeliers. The brick for the construction of the home were brought over from England and hauled from Charleston by ox cart.



Ellen Sue Gettys (L) And Frances Simrill Stand Before Hightower Hall Plantation Home Near Brattonville. Built In 1859.



'CARPETBAGGER' DESK CAME FROM STATE CAPITAL
... John A. Marion got it when he was 16.



HIGHTOWER HALL PLANTATION WAS BUILT IN 1859
... owner used tower on top to watch his fields.